Weekly Nugget from NY’s Climate Action Draft Scoping Plan: NY-GEO has been running pertinent quotes from the Climate Action Council’s Scoping Plan weekly in Just In! This week’s the focus isn’t a quote, but a less than 3 minute video from lohud that provides some context and overview on the Plan. The video features Todd Kaminsky, Chair of the NY Senate Environmental Conservation Committee, and Climate Action Council member Raya Salter.
Your Feedback is Welcome on NY’s Climate Action Council Scoping Plan – from Jen Metzger, former NY State Senator and New Yorkers for Clean Power Senior Policy Advisor - The public comment period opened on January 1, and has been extended through June 10, 2022. You can submit written comments through the portal on the Climate Action Council website, or email them to scopingplan@nyserda.ny.gov. Share your comments with your State legislators, as a number of Scoping Plan recommendations will require legislation. It is also important to attend and speak at one of the scheduled public hearings, and you can pre-register and find the addresses of the hearings here: https://climate.ny.gov/CAC-Meetings-and-Materials So far, the following hearings have been scheduled:

In-Person Hearings (4 pm - 7 pm)

| April 5  | Bronx         | April 26 | Syracuse |
| April 6  | Brookhaven    | April 27 | Buffalo  |
| April 12 | Binghamton    | May 3    | Brooklyn |
| April 14 | Albany        | May 10   | Tupper Lake |

Virtual Hearings
May 7 (10 am) & May 11 (4 pm)

Make your voice heard! The Scoping Plan must be finalized by the Climate Action Council and delivered to the Governor and Legislature by December 31, 2022. Let’s make sure this Plan delivers on New York’s climate goals.

Prepared by Jen Metzger, NYCP Senior Policy Advisor & former State Senator

Questions? info@nyforcleanpower.com

Other Resources on Testifying on the Climate Action Council Scoping Plan –

- Sierra Club Guide on Testifying at Climate Action Council Scoping Plan
- DEC Draft Scoping Plan Overview
- NY Renews Testimony 101 Guide
- The Sierra Club is hosting an info session on Monday, April 4th at 630pm to set people up for success at the hearings. You can register for that here. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Please note that this session was organized primarily for the Long Island Hearing next week, but it will also cover material common to all sites.

•
Clean Energy Letter in Con Edison Case – Utility rate cases in New York have been proceeding in a confusing context. It is clear that climate destabilizing emissions from the heating sector need to drop dramatically, but there is no clear adopted plan to provide guidance. This leaves parties in the rate cases arguing issues like gas expansion investments, depreciation rates and incentives for various measures with no common ground that an adopted plan could provide. Three clean energy organizations have filed a letter in the current Con Edison rate case requesting immediate action to rectify the situation. “While other state agencies are moving forward with implementation of the state climate law, the Commission cannot sit back and wait. Section 8 of the CLCPA clearly directs the Commission, along with other agencies, to develop policies to contribute to achieving the statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit and equity goals to protect disadvantaged communities. The Commission should move forward accordingly in the gas planning docket and elsewhere.”

March 31, 2022

SUBMITTED VIA DMM AND EMAIL
Chair and Commissioners of the New York Public Service Commission
Via Hon. Michelle L. Phillips, Secretary
New York State Public Service Commission
Three Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12223-1350

RE: Need for Timely Commission Action in Case 20-G-0131, Proceeding on Motion of the Commission In Regard to Gas Planning Procedures
Connecticut Moves to Hit the Brakes on Gas for Heating – Lisa Prevost - The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) said a program meant to help Connecticut residents and businesses switch from oil to natural gas has not met targets and no longer aligns with the state’s climate goals....While the gas expansion program ‘was intended to provide benefits to both ratepayers and the environment,’ regulators concluded, ‘the proffered benefits have simply failed to materialize.’....That conclusion echoes a finding by the state Office of Consumer Counsel, which has also called for an end to the program. Ratepayers ‘are now funding investments that are likely to become stranded assets in light of the state’s climate and clean energy goals,’ the consumer advocate said in testimony submitted earlier this year to PURA. Thanks to Amar Shah from RMI for this tip.  Full article here.

![Marissa Paslick Gillett – Chair, Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority](image)

PSC Order on Rates Boosts Storage – Robert Walton – Utility Dive - As the New York economy goes electric to reduce climate emissions, the structure of electric rates will become an increasingly important topic. The Public Service Commission recently adjusted some available rates that sweeten the value proposition for storage. According to Advanced Energy Economy’s Danny Waggoner “We expect that the rates that result from this methodology will have significantly reduced fixed charges that will improve the value for storage”. Because geothermal loops provide storage, these rates and others under consideration point to the possibility of lower operating costs for geothermal customers.  Full article here.
New Power Generation Quarterly: Annual Update — 2021 — Institute for Local Self Reliance “….big conclusions from our 2021 analysis:

1. Nearly half of the 37.6 gigawatts of electric generation capacity added to the grid in 2021 were from solar.
2. The number one energy generation resource built in 2021 was wind.
3. Added gas and small solar capacity were almost equal in 2021; 5.7 gigawatts worth of gas plants were built last year, while developers installed 5.4 gigawatts worth of residential and customer solar.

You can find charts and more detail about the fourth quarter of 2021 in the post.”

Annual New Power Plant Capacity — 2021

U.S. POWER PLANT CAPACITY ADDITIONS

(annual gigawatts, AC)

Sources: EIA and SEIA

March 18, 2022
Bitcoin – Good Use of Electricity? – “New York delays decision on Finger Lakes Bitcoin-mining power plant” – Rosemary Misday – Gothamist- The state Department of Environmental Conservation announced this week it still had not made up its mind about whether to renew the air permit application for Greenidge Generation, a natural gas-powered plant that supports a profitable bitcoin mining operation in the Finger Lakes region, Gothamist reports.” (from 2022 04 01 – City & State First Read)
“Washington Could Ban Internal Combustion Cars By 2030 • Washington Governor Jay Inslee has signed the Move Ahead Washington program, reducing emissions in the transportation sector in that state. The program bans private passenger vehicles powered by gasoline or diesel internal combustion engines starting with model year 2030. [CleanTechnica]” (from 2022 03 30 Green Energy News)

“The World Is Stuck Between Gas Prices and Climate Change” • The West needs more oil now. The world needs to get off oil and gas ASAP. It is an epic quandary of the oil addiction that runs the world economy. President Joe Biden announced a plan he said would address all of the above, with a large release from the strategic oil reserve. But will it work? [CNN] (from 2022 04 01 Green Energy News)
Germany issued an “early warning” of potential natural gas shortages as a payments dispute with Russia is developing. The German government said there are no supply shortages now, but it urged consumers to reduce their use as far as possible. [CNN] (from 2022 03 31 Green Energy News)
Ukrainian Climate Activists Say They Don’t Want the US’s Fracked Gas Exports – Candice Bernd – TRUTHOUT - Climate activists living under the constant blare of air raid sirens in Ukraine say they don’t want the United States’ fracked gas exports, and don’t want frontline communities along the U.S. Gulf Coast living with the impacts of so-called liquefied natural gas (LNG) infrastructure to become sacrifice zones in their name. Instead, they say, they want a dramatic, wartime mobilization for a transition to clean energy. Impacted climate and environmental justice activists in both countries are decrying the recent energy security deal President Joe Biden and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen struck Friday in Brussels, Belgium. ...

Ukrainian and U.S. Gulf Coast activists, who are living with the impacts of Russia’s invasion and the U.S. oil and gas export zone’s industrial pollution, called a U.S. fracked gas surge of 50 billion cubic meters to Europe through at least 2030 a disastrous answer to the need for independence from Russian fossil fuels amid the escalating climate emergency. Full article here.

Carbon Capture Model Reveals a Questionable Technology with Uncertain Economic Viability - from the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA). The IEEFA studied Exxon Mobil's Shute Creek carbon capture project in Wyoming and found "About half of that CO2 has been vented into the atmosphere over the facility's lifetime. Of the other half of the CO2 that has been captured, nearly all has been sold to oil companies that use it to recover more oil from depleted wells... The recovered oil is then burned, emitting CO2 to the atmosphere...Only about 3% of the captured CO2 has been sequestered underground. “ Thanks to NY-GEO Director of Operations JR Rath for this tip. Full article here.
Contractor’s Corner: Refrigerants: The Next Step - Heat Pumping Technologies magazine has devoted its first issue of 2022 to examining efforts to develop refrigerants with low global warming potential.
Climate Updates:

“Climate Change Is Turning California’s Wildfire Season Into Wildfire Year • There is no wildfire season any more. Like pay phones, typewriters, and VCRs, a wildfire “season” is a thing of the past. We are seeing serious wildfires in the West throughout the year. Earlier spring and drier weather mean that vegetation has more time to dry out. [CleanTechnica]” (from 2022 03 27 Green Energy News)

Total acres burned annually in California
“Birds Are Laying Eggs Earlier, A Study Shows. Scientists Blame The Climate Crisis• Using collections of egg samples from the modern and Victorian eras, researchers found that several bird species in the Chicago area nest and lay eggs almost a full month earlier now than they did a century ago. Their study appeared in the Journal of Animal Ecology. [CNN] ” (from 2022 03 26 Green Energy News)

“Aantarctic Ice Shelf Nearly the Size of Los Angeles Collapsed as Temperatures Soared to 40°C (70°F) Above Normal • The Conger Ice Shelf, spanning approximately 460 square miles, collapsed around March 15. It was around the time temperatures soared to -12°C (10°F), more than 40°C warmer than normal, at the Concordia research station. [CNN] ” (from 2022 03 26 Green Energy News)
“Severe Drought and Mandatory Water Cuts Are Pitting Communities Against Each Other in Arizona” - Rene Marsh - As the climate crisis intensifies, battle lines are beginning to form over water amid a decades-long megadrought. Some Arizona communities are facing the very real possibility of losing access to the precious water that remains. [CNN]” - (from 2022 03 31 Green Energy News)
You’ve Got to Be Kidding:

“And then it starts to feel like spring outside, so you’ll cast aside your puffy jackets and sweaters—only for a colder winter to reappear a few days later.”

By Sarah Kempa from the New Yorker Daily Humor email

Frequent Sources for Just In!:
Green Energy Times
City & State First Read
POLITICO Weekly NY & NJ Energy email
Bill McKibben’s weekly New Yorker Climate Crisis Column
Canary Media
National Building Electrification Network & Sunstone Strategies
The Guardian

Just in! thanks NY-GEO board member John Ciovacco of Aztech Geothermal for his frequent proofreading contributions to this publication