Just In!

Please be sure to check out the Events and Career Opportunities section below and here on our website. Several interesting new webinars coming up!

Draft NY Climate Action Council Scoping Plan Uploaded – Under NY’s Climate Law (CLCPA - Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act) the 22-member Climate Action Council is tasked with adopting a Scoping Plan by year’s end designed to meet the mandates of a 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and an 85% reduction by 2050 in ways that will boost employment and investments in New York’s disadvantaged communities. For the Council’s December 20th meeting a 340-page draft of the scoping plan was filed. Once the Scoping Plan is adopted by the Council it will go out for a series of public hearings. The 30-page Buildings section includes the following recommendation, among others, that are of interest to the geothermal industry:

- 2024: Adopt all-electric State codes that prohibit gas/oil equipment for space conditioning, hot water, cooking, and appliances for new construction of single family and low-rise residential buildings (and additions and alterations as applicable).
- 2027: Adopt all-electric State codes that prohibit gas/oil equipment for space conditioning, hot water, cooking, and appliances for new construction of multifamily buildings over 4 stories and commercial buildings (and additions and alterations as applicable).

From page 126 of the 2021 12 20 Climate Action Council Draft Scoping Plan

Looking for Workers? - The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority is inviting clean energy employers to participate in the New York Community College Energy Equity Consortium, which will expand your access to job candidates with training in building electrification. This initiative is being developed as part of NYSERDA’s application for the US EDA’s American Rescue Plan Good Jobs Challenge. Industry partners will support the initiative by signaling interest in providing opportunities to trainees in one or more of the following ways:

- Skills Training Program
- Registered Apprenticeship/Pre-Apprenticeship
- Applied Learning Model (Work and Learn)
- Certification and Credentialing

If interested, please contact NYCCEE@asc-pr.com or call Pat Courtney Strong, 914/388-7412.

100+ Local Elected Officials Are Calling On @Govkathyhochul With a New Year’s Resolution for the NY State of the State: 2 million all-electric homes by 2030 - by Renee Vogelsang, “Days after New York City passed historic legislation to end gas hook ups in new construction, 110 local elected officials from across the state sent a letter to Governor Kathy Hochul calling on her to make key commitments to transition away from fossil fuels in homes and buildings. The local elected officials called on the
Governor to set a statewide target of 2 million efficient, all electric homes by 2030 and to commit the funding needed to make this transition affordable through a Green Affordable Housing Fund. Wondering if any of your local electeds signed?” Check out the link to the letter and the Renewable Heat Now press release here

IGSHPA Conference Highlight: GEO Exchange Panel: State/Provincial Policies, Advocacy, Associations - Ryan Dougherty of the GEO Exchange moderated panel of experts on state/provincial policies, advocacy, trends, state/provincial geo associations, federal/local programs, new legislation, and other topics of interest to our industry. It was good to hear about some of the common themes of the need to get more drillers / loop installers into the industry to support growth. Stan Reitsma from Ontario talked about how shifting government policy has stagnated growth in his area after years of very promising progress. Larry Lessard showed how the incentives in Massachusetts have rebounded with the help of NEGPA and coordination with other stakeholders. Jason Cullum commented about the significant contribution of Thermal Renewable Energy Credits in Maryland – which have been a big help but require controls to dampen market volatility. John Ciovacco talked about the many facets of NY-GEO’s direct involvement and communication mechanisms with utilities, regulators, agencies, politicians and legislators impacting the present and future grown of building electrification. Bob Wyman discussed the history and mechanisms of strategies used to accelerate carbon reduction and air quality in NYC and throughout the state.

From left to right; John Ciovacco (NY), Jason Cullum (MD), Stan Reitsma (Ontario), Tom Rutkowski (IA), Bob Wyman (NYC), Ryan Dougherty (GEO). [Photo credit Zach Fink & Larry Lessard]
Con Edison: Non-Pipe Alternatives and Gas Benefit-Cost Analysis – “Under an MRP NPA (Main Replacement Program Non-Pipeline Alternative), customers currently connected to the main would convert all of their gas uses to electricity, eliminating the need to replace the main… the Company has identified an initial set of 21 mains that are candidates for an MRP NPA and developed indicative portfolios of potential NPA solutions. This filing also includes a 39 page Draft Gas Benefit-Cost Analysis Handbook which “…lays out a framework for calculating the benefits and costs of projects and investments associated with the reduction, deferment, or elimination of expenditures related to the procurement and delivery of natural gas to CECONY customers.” This filing is available as Item 302 here

**Figure 1-2: CECONY Gas Distribution System**

*Source: CECONY 2019-2038 Gas Long Range Plan, Figure 2-1*

*Con Edison Company of NY Gas System Map from the Draft Gas Benefit-Cost Handbook*
HEAP $ Available for GSHP Repair or Maintenance – On October 1, 2021, HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program) introduced 2 new benefits – Clean and Tune and Heating Equipment Repair or Replacement. Eligible households can receive clean and tune funds of up to $400, repair funds up to $3,000 and replacement funds up to $6,500. Thanks to Frank Cowles of the Building Performance Contractors Association (BPCA) who has reported these funds apply to heat pumps, including ground source heat pumps, as well as fossil fuel heating systems. Information on these benefits is available by scrolling down this page.

NY - $263 million for beneficial electrification solutions in NYCHA Buildings – 2021 12 21 – “The Clean Heat for All Challenge … identifies a list of product specifications that manufacturers will be challenged to meet. To incentivize participation, NYCHA will commit to purchasing the first 24,000 units from the awarded vendor(s), which will be installed at six developments currently slated for heating plant replacement over the next five years…NYSERDA will provide assistance drafting the product specifications and performing commissioning as well as measurement and verification for the demonstration units. NYCHA will invest $250 million, in addition to the NYSERDA grant, to purchase and install the new equipment as well as provide additional improvements to the building envelopes and hot water systems. Full release here
Salt Lake City Agency Adopts All-Electric Construction - On Tuesday December 14th, the Redevelopment Agency of Salt Lake City (RDA) Board adopted a new Sustainable Development Policy that advances energy efficiency, electrification, and net zero energy in commercial and multifamily buildings that receive funding/incentives from the RDA. In brief, the policy:

1. Requires highly efficient building design (Designed to Earth ENERGY STAR Score of 90),
2. Requires all-electric construction (via NBI's Decarbonization Code or comparable standard), and

Thanks to Ralph DeNola of the National Building Electrification Network for this tip.

The Social Cost of Carbon: Going Nowhere But Up – “The social cost of carbon (SCC) translates the future harm inflicted by the release of one additional ton of carbon dioxide into a present monetary value (e.g., $50 per ton of carbon dioxide emissions). It answers the questions: How much damage will a ton of carbon dioxide emissions released today cause in the future? And how can those damages be weighed against the costs and benefits of actions taken today? “ Thanks to NY-GEO Director of Operations JR Rath for leading us to this piece that helps simplify an often confusing topic. Blog post here
Seattle – Fossil Free Hot Water – From NY-GEO member Bob Wyman – “NYC isn’t the only city with a City Council willing to do what needs to be done. Earlier this year, Seattle’s City Council passed a new construction code which restricted the use of fossil fuels and electric resistance for space heating in new construction after May, 2021 and, effective Jan 1, 2022, required heat pump water heaters in multifamily buildings and hotels. Earlier this month, they expanded the scope of the heat pump water heater requirement to include all buildings with water heating capacity over 15kW (including commercial buildings.)” Bill text here.

Seattle hot water electrification bill sponsor Andrew J. Lewis

“Democrats Scramble To Salvage Climate Provisions After Manchin Sinks Build Back Better • With Senator Joe Manchin confirming he’s a “no” on President Joe Biden’s social spending package, the fate of the bill’s $550 bill worth of climate and energy provisions – and the President’s climate agenda – are now on the line. [CNN] " (from 2021 12 21 Green Energy News)

“Coal miners want Joe Manchin to reverse opposition to Build Back Better - New York (CNN Business) Senator Joe Manchin is facing calls from a powerful group close to his heart to reconsider his opposition to the Build Back Better Act: Coal miners. A day after the West Virginia Democrat appeared to kill Build Back Better, America’s largest coal mining union put out a statement lauding the legislation’s provisions and pushing Manchin to take a do-over. ‘We are disappointed that the bill will not pass,’ Cecil Roberts, president of the United Mine Workers of America, said in the statement on Monday. ‘We urge Senator Manchin to revisit his opposition to this legislation and work with his colleagues to pass something that will help keep coal miners working, and have a meaningful impact on our members, their families and their communities.’” Full article here.
Energy & Environment Power 100 - * City & State’s Energy & Environment Power 100 identifies many of the public officials, energy executives, environmentalists, activists, academics and others who are reinventing how New Yorkers get their energy. Several of NY-GEO’s amazing allies are profiled.
Vox Analysis of NYC Gas Ban - *Is This the Beginning Of The End Of Gas Stoves and Dirty Heat in Buildings?* - “…the ban is necessary for transitioning off of fossil fuels: Without it, the city’s building sector would be a main source of climate pollution for decades to come. And the bill’s advocates see it as a potential turning point in one of the most fraught national battles with the fossil fuel industry over the fate of the nation’s 70 million gas-powered buildings.” (Tip from Chloe Zilliac at the National Building Electrification Network and Sunstone Strategies) Full article by Rebecca Leber here

**How the New York City Steam System Works** - … an inventor and engineer named Birdsill Holly discovered in 1877 that he could “generate steam in his basement to heat his home. When he tested some things out, and when he saw it was successful, he actually started heating his neighbors’ homes. And they started their own little distribution system in Lockport, New York…His invention got some of the investors and developers in New York City [interested], and they went to visit him. And one in particular, Wallace Andrews, took the idea and brought it to New York City.” Full article here. Thanks to Jim Thomas of Thomas Geothermal for this tip. Click here for Con Edison’s Long Range Steam Plan..

Forbes: Top 5 U.S. Electrification Policy Wins Of 2021: *Federal Investment, Electric Vehicles, Building Electrification* — “New York State became the epicenter of building decarbonization this year. New York City phased out gas hookups in all new buildings, with any building smaller than seven stories required to be all-electric by 2023 and buildings larger than seven stories required to go all-electric by 2027. Ithaca became the first U.S. city to mandate all existing buildings be electrified, aiming to decarbonize all 6,000 public and private buildings by 2030 with the help of $100 million from private investors.” (Tip from Chloe Zilliac at the National Building Electrification Network and Sunstone Strategies) Full article here
2021: The Year Clean Energy Consolidated Its Political Power in Washington - A chat with Heather Zichal, the new top lobbyist for big clean energy, on how the industry is honing its powers of persuasion. From Canary Media – “In January, a new trade group launched to unify clean-energy advocacy in Washington. The American Clean Power Association (ACP) grew out of the main wind trade group, the American Wind Energy Association, and added solar, transmission and energy storage companies, as well as corporate buyers of carbon-free power. For the role of CEO, the new group chose Heather Zichal, who coordinated climate policy in the Obama administration as deputy assistant to the president for energy and climate change…The group now claims more than 800 member companies. Its 39 board members hail from old-school utilities, upstart renewables developers, clean-power equipment suppliers, and the wind power subsidiaries of oil giants like Equinor and BP. Full article here.

“Heath Zichal (American Clean Power)

“Koch Industries Invests $150 Million Into Tracking Company GameChange Solar, Pair To Explore Strategic Partnerships • Koch Strategic Platforms, a subsidiary of Koch Investments Group, has made a $150 million investment in racking and tracking company GameChange Solar to support its strategic development goals. [PV Tech] " (from 2021 12 23 Green Energy News) “…GameChange Solar will explore “the opportunity to provide mutually beneficial alignment with several Koch Industries businesses”. It pointed to improvements in its global supply chain, advances in energy management software and increased market visibility as areas that Koch Industries could assist on. Koch Industries is best known for its background in fossil fuels. It has previously said that its entry into the renewables sector was down to the “cost-competitiveness of utility-scale solar on an unsubsidised basis”, which meant it was becoming an “increasingly significant part of the generation mix”.

“Koch Strategic Platforms, a subsidiary of Koch Investments Group, has made a $150 million investment in racking and tracking company GameChange Solar to support its strategic development goals. [PV Tech] " (from 2021 12 23 Green Energy News) “…GameChange Solar will explore “the opportunity to provide mutually beneficial alignment with several Koch Industries businesses”. It pointed to improvements in its global supply chain, advances in energy management software and increased market visibility as areas that Koch Industries could assist on. Koch Industries is best known for its background in fossil fuels. It has previously said that its entry into the renewables sector was down to the “cost-competitiveness of utility-scale solar on an unsubsidised basis”, which meant it was becoming an “increasingly significant part of the generation mix”.

“Heath Zichal (American Clean Power)
GameChange Solar provides racking, tracking and software services to utility-scale projects. Image: GameChange Solar

AWESome EarthKind podcast: Community Solar is one of the fastest growing clean energy sectors, allowing everyone (even renters!) who pays an electric bill to save money and have a positive environmental impact simply by subscribing to a local solar farm. This week’s AWESome EarthKind podcast explains how Community Solar works and provides a limited time opportunity for customers of Central Hudson to subscribe to a local solar farm and save 10% on their electricity bills. Listen to this week’s episode via your favorite podcast playing app (Apple, Spotify, Google Podcast) or here
Climate Updates:

“The Arctic Should Never Feel Like the Mediterranean • A warming Arctic should alarm all of us. The BBC has reported that it’s been seeing Mediterranean-like temperatures in the summer. The UN’s World Meteorological Organization recently verified the record that was set on June 20, 2020, in the Siberian town of Verkhoyansk. [CleanTechnica]” (from 2021 12 20 Green Energy News)

In the Arctic Ocean, sea ice reached its minimum extent of 1.44 million square miles on September 15, 2020 – the second lowest extent since modern record-keeping began. Credit: NASA’s Scientific Visualization Studio

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