15. Local, Regional, and Federal Government Collaboration

Draft New York State Energy Plan

July 2025

Key Findings

- **The State's steadfast commitment to its energy policy and climate goals has promoted coordinated energy planning and development across all levels of government, spurred innovation, and created resources and tools that enable New Yorkers to better plan for the future.** While there have been delays and challenges in meeting certain energy milestones and current federal uncertainty, the advancements made to-date would not have been possible without landmark, coordinated State-level actions and clear policy priorities.

- **Local governments play a critical role in comprehensive energy planning and enhancing community resilience.** Local governments and municipal land use planning play vital roles in New York's ability to achieve a clean energy future through their authority to conduct comprehensive planning and land use policies. Earlier chapters, including Climate Change, Adaptation, and Resiliency; Buildings; and Environmental and Climate Justice, highlight ways to more effectively integrate renewable energy into local land use planning and zoning, equitably equip local leaders across the State to explore energy efficient strategies, and provide the tools and support to encourage informed and responsible energy development. The success of the State's energy transition requires active collaboration and partnership with local governments to understand and support their unique local and regional considerations and community needs.

- **Holistic, State-led planning is essential to guiding regional clean energy investments.** Programs such as NYSERDA's Build Ready initiative and the Department of Public Service (DPS) proposed Clean Energy Zones are designed to unlock economic growth and lower the overall cost of New York's clean energy transition. Since the electric grid is interconnected and spans multiple localities, infrastructure must be planned as part of an integrated system. New York is working to encourage the development of regional concentrations of clean energy generation alongside the transmission needed to deliver power reliably. These efforts also create opportunities for early, more meaningful engagement between those supporting and developing energy infrastructure and potential host communities.

- **New York State has built strong regional partnerships that are necessary to advancing a just transition.** Continued collaboration across local municipalities allows partnerships between developers, government officials, and stakeholders to pursue shared clean energy goals, amplify impact, and support benefits directed towards disadvantaged communities. As federal policy remains uncertain and key programs face potential cuts, New York must remain diligent, seeking new opportunities for progress through cooperation, innovation, and targeted investment.

  New York must remain actively engaged in federal energy policymaking to ensure its unique interests, needs and priorities are represented and that its sovereignty in energy decision-making is retained. The State's distinct energy infrastructure, governance structures, and decarbonization policies require a tailored approach, not a "one size fits all" model. Without meaningful and consistent consideration from the federal government level, New York will face

increased costs, implementation inefficiencies, and potential conflicts and confusion between state and federal jurisdictions.

Key Terms

A **Regional Planning Commission** (also referred to as a committee, board, or council) is a quasi-governmental body that supports municipalities within a defined region by providing planning, coordination, and technical assistance. These organizations help local governments, often facing capacity constraints, address issues that cross jurisdictional boundaries, including transportation, land use, environmental sustainability, economic development, and regional infrastructure.[1]

Indigenous knowledge is a body of observations, oral and written knowledge, innovations, practices, and beliefs developed by Indigenous peoples through interaction and experience with the environment. It is applied to phenomena across biological, physical, social, cultural, and spiritual systems. Indigenous knowledge can be developed over millennia, continues to develop, and includes understanding based on evidence acquired through direct contact with the environment and long-term experiences, as well as extensive observations, lessons, and skills passed from generation to generation.[2] Coordination with Indigenous Nations, and the respectful incorporation of Indigenous knowledge should honor Indigenous Nation sovereignty.

[1] A list of Regional Planning Commissions within New York State can be found at https://dos.ny.gov/planning-organizations

[2] U.S. National Park Service, Overview - Indigenous Knowledge and Traditional Ecological Knowledge, https://www.nps.gov/subjects/tek/description.htm

1. Overview

A core principle of this Plan is that every New Yorker deserves access to safe, reliable, and affordable energy. The success of New York's clean energy transition depends on the robust, coordinated collaboration across all levels of government. From local municipalities to regional planning bodies, Indigenous Nations, and the federal government, consistent and transparent communication strengthens collective understanding and enables effective collaboration.

Collectively, partnerships among local, regional, Indigenous Nation, State, and Federal entities are critical to the successful implementation of the State Energy Plan. A coordinated approach streamlines energy and climate planning and enables decision-making that appropriately considers economic growth, local planning, long-term resilience, and benefits to disadvantaged communities (DACs).

This plan incorporates and reflects local and regional energy strategies, including municipal zoning, policies, programs, the development of local clean energy resources, and major statewide initiatives to further climate and energy. It also examines the roles of local, state, and federal governments in areas such as siting and permitting of energy infrastructure, transportation networks and building stock, and development of clean energy supply chains. Leveraging available state and federal funding remains a central priority across these efforts.

The plan recognizes that local governments are essential partners in achieving this goal and are actively engaged in energy planning and decision-making processes, particularly in ensuring future planning incorporates the priorities of disadvantaged communities (DACs) and facilitates access to Just Transition resources.

Regional variabilities and characteristics within the State must also be acknowledged. The downstate and upstate regions have considerably different resources, populations, infrastructure and needs with regard to energy planning.[3] The downstate region, particularly New York City and Long Island, has a high population density and greater grid demands that have been predominantly met with decades-old fossil fuel-fired generation resources, yet the region has greater access to public transportation, compact development, and opportunities to inject large amounts of renewable energy loads. Upstate, the population and development patterns are more dispersed, there is greater land availability, the grid is supported by primarily carbon-free resources, and personal vehicles are utilized more frequently. These regional differences can cause differences in priorities as decarbonization objectives are applied across economic sectors. Therefore, it is important for energy planning to consider these differences and recognize that strategies for achieving those objectives and the overall state goals will necessarily vary across regions and their access to particular resources.

[3] Article 6 of the Energy Law defines the downstate region (comprised of New York City and Dutchess, Nassau, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Suffolk, Ulster and Westchester counties) and the upstate region (comprised of Albany, Allegany, Broome, Cattaraugus, Cayuga, Chautauqua, Chemung, Chenango, Clinton, Columbia, Cortland, Delaware, Erie, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Genesee, Greene, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Livingston, Madison, Monroe, Montgomery, Niagara, Oneida, Onondaga, Ontario, Orleans, Oswego, Otsego, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Schuyler, Seneca, St. Lawrence, Steuben, Sullivan, Tioga, Tompkins, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Wyoming and Yates counties)

2. Local Government Roles in Advancing State Energy Goals

Local governments are critical partners that contribute to the overall success of the New York State Energy Plan. They are often the first point of contact for community members engaging with energy-related decisions and projects, and they hold key responsibilities in land use, building codes, and infrastructure planning. Municipalities that successfully engage residents and stakeholders can help them coordinate across groups and address concerns and understand priorities.

2.1. Land Use Planning and Zoning

Municipalities have authority over local land use decisions through zoning regulations, which can affect the development of energy projects. These regulations determine where and what types of development may occur. Coordination between state and local governments can support land use strategies related to renewable energy and energy efficiency. The New York State Department of State (DOS) offers land use resources and training programs for local officials, and various state agencies provide discretionary grants and incentive programs that can influence local planning decisions.

2.1.1. Facility Siting and Permitting

The energy facility siting process in New York State can occur through more than one pathway, depending on the technology, locality, size, and complexity of a proposed facility.

Local governments have a role in permitting energy infrastructure such as solar, energy storage, and wind. Across the more than 1,600 municipalities in the State, many local governments have adopted local laws outlining clear pathways for permitting energy projects in accordance with local land use constraints, priorities, and future plans for their communities. Local governments may also serve as lead agency under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) requirements for many of the smaller projects.[4] In these ways, local governments can determine permitted uses, locations, site requirements, and more through zoning ordinances and other mechanisms. For renewable energy generators, such as wind and solar, local governments retain sole permitting authority for projects under 25MW in size. Local governments are also responsible for permitting stand-alone energy storage systems of all sizes. For larger projects, including larger projects that include energy storage, the State takes on the responsibility of permitting but local governments remain important partners in the process.

The Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission (ORES) situated within the DPS is authorized to permit most new transmission and major renewable energy projects greater than 25MW. ORES regulations recognize that public participation is a critical part of the siting process. The regulations require applicants to share information with the public at multiple points in the process to ensure both transparency and accessibility to communities and local government representatives. ORES regulations require applicants to meet with the chief executive officer of any municipality within which a proposed facility would be located, as well as any local agencies identified by the chief executive officer. ORES regulations also stipulate that projects must comply with all applicable local laws, except for portions of those laws that are deemed unreasonably burdensome. While the regulations also set forth the

[4] NYSERDA. 2023. New York Solar Guidebook for Local Governments. Available at https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Clean-Energy-Siting-Resources/Solar-Guidebook

minimum required engagement, applicants are strongly encouraged to conduct additional engagement to identify and address the concerns of local agencies and communities.

Intentional and proactive land use planning and zoning help local governments and developers plan for and coordinate on energy infrastructure development. Using programs like Smart Growth and other agency resources and technical assistance, including those for comprehensive planning, local governments are often better equipped to meaningfully engage with developers and inform facility designs to be protective of public spaces, natural resources, and agricultural lands, while also providing local benefits.

2.1.2. Building and Energy Codes

DOS Division of Building Standards and Codes provides a variety of services related to the development, administration, and enforcement of the Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code (Uniform Code) and the State Energy Conservation Construction Code (Energy Code) in New York State. The Uniform Code and Energy Code, which sets a minimum building standard for energy efficiency in NYS, are typically enforced by municipalities through their local building or code enforcement departments. The Uniform Code is applicable in all local governments in New York State except New York City, which has its own construction codes and administrative procedures. The Energy Code is applicable throughout the State. NYS Executive Law §379 provide a process for local governments (cities, towns, and villages) and Nassau County to adopt more restrictive standards than the Uniform Code, and NYS Energy Law §11-109 provides a process for municipalities (counties, cities, towns, villages, school districts, or district corporations) to adopt local energy conservation construction codes more stringent than the State's Energy Code.

DOS works with local governments by providing technical support, training, and resources for municipal and local code enforcement officials on the Uniform Code and Energy Code, including dedicated training sessions when new versions of the codes are released. The Public Service Commission (PSC) is responsible for determining whether the electric grid can reasonably accommodate requests for new or expanded electric service under the proposed zero-emission requirement in the proposed State Energy Code for new construction.

2.1.3. Local Transportation Planning

Local governments, including cities, towns, villages, and counties, own and maintain the vast majority of New York's roadway network. As a result, transportation investments made at the local level play a critical role in shaping statewide energy use and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the transportation sector. Given the interconnected nature of the transportation network across municipal and jurisdictional boundaries, coordination between New York State and local governments is essential to advancing energy-efficient transportation technologies and practices. Local transportation projects typically receive a combination of state and federal funding, with the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) representing the largest source of state aid. In localities with less than 50,000 residents, local governments consult directly with the NYS Department of Transportation (DOT) to propose projects for inclusion in the 4-year Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

2.1.4. Local Government Energy Leadership

Local governments play a unique and highly visible role in advancing the State's clean energy and climate goals. Because municipalities are often the first point of contract for residents and businesses, their actions can shape public understanding and acceptance of clean energy solutions in tangible ways.

Local governments can lead by example through the use of their own facilities and properties to demonstrate clean energy and electrification projects that directly benefit the community. They also engage residents more frequently than state or federal entities, providing valuable opportunities to encourage local participation and adapt clean energy initiatives to local needs.

Many local governments across New York State have proactively advanced clean energy in a way that considers unique local contexts by developing their own Climate Action plans and clean energy strategies, as well as participating in programs like NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities program, NYS DEC's Climate Smart Communities program, NYS DOS' Smart Growth, Community Planning programs, and other State sponsored programs.

> *Local governments can advance equitable clean energy initiatives by aligning their non-energy functions with sustainability goals. Erie County launched the Erie County Low Income Program for Sustainable Energy (ECLIPSE), which brings together the Departments of Environment and Planning, Social Services, and Public Works—alongside a community solar provider—to integrate utility bill discounts into existing low-income assistance programs such as Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) and Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP). This creative use of clean energy can support the development of new community solar in Western New York, while also channeling the benefits to those who stand to benefit the most.*

2.2. Strategies to Support Local Energy Policies and Climate Action

The State has long provided resources and recognition for local governments that implement climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives. Through the NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities (CEC) Program, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Program, the DOS Smart Growth program, and others, local governments have been able to demonstrate leadership, receive grants to advance clean energy objectives, and receive technical support to prioritize, plan, and execute projects. Several of these initiatives are further described below to illustrate how local governments are advancing clean energy goals through targeted support and cross-agency collaboration.

2.2.1. Clean Energy Communities

Beginning in 2016, the NYSERDA CEC program has assisted municipalities with reducing energy use and advancing clean energy. The program has three main components: 1) a menu of High Impact Actions, or proven actions that reduce emissions from energy systems, are within municipal jurisdiction, and have clear, achievable implementation steps; 2) support from regionally embedded technical assistance providers; 3) recognition through Clean Energy Community designation, and 4) grants to implement

clean energy projects. When a community completes enough high impact actions, they unlock the ability to achieve designation and grants.

The CEC program has demonstrated broad success, with over 900 municipalities representing more than 90 percent of New York State's population. The program effectively serves the full diversity of communities across the State, from small rural towns to large cities. The median population of participating communities is approximately 3,500, underscoring the program's success in engaging smaller, often under-resourced communities to elevate clean energy as a local priority. The program is also designed to include communities for whom climate change may be a sensitive subject, promoting cost-saving actions that allow municipalities to reinvest in clean energy or other community needs.

2.2.2. Climate Smart Communities

Since its launch in 2009, the interagency CSC Program, led by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), has offered recognition and capacity building for local governments engaged in climate change mitigation and adaptation. Starting as a 10-point climate pledge, the program has grown to include the CSC Certification program, CSC grants, and a network of statewide coordinators providing direct technical assistance to municipalities.

There are currently over 435 municipalities that have pledged to become registered Climate Smart Communities. The certification program was launched in 2014 and provides an extensive resource library and roadmap to success for local government climate action. At present there are more than 165 communities which have demonstrated significant progress to become certified Climate Smart Communities. In total, there are over 9.6 million New York residents living in a registered or certified community.

Since 2016, the DEC Office of Climate Change has offered funding through its Municipal Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Program and the CSC Grants Program. CSC grants support planning and implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation projects. More than 230 grants have been awarded totaling over $87 million. Since 2022, the DEC has also provided funded CSC coordinators who offer free technical assistance to communities across all 10 regions of New York, facilitating local action to reduce GHG emissions and adaption to climate change through outreach, planning, education, and capacity building.

2.2.3. Smart Growth and Community Planning Programs

Beginning in 2021, DOS began providing grant funding to local governments to develop or update comprehensive plans, area plans, or zoning ordinances that align with ten Smart Growth principles. The Smart Growth initiative complements several long-standing, flagship programs administered by DOS, including the Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) Program, the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP), the Downtown Revitalization Initiative, and NY Forward.

These planning programs provide tools for intentional community action. For example, the Town of East Hampton on Long Island who finalized their LWRP in 2007[5] ultimately became the Nation's first community to host a utility-scale offshore wind farm, the South Fork Wind Project.[6] Additionally, East Hampton is also participating in NYSERDA's Build Ready Program to explore developing new parking lot and ground-mount solar projects on underutilized lands.[7] The BOA program has similarly supported communities with energy projects, such as the development of solar farms on landfills and prepared a community to host a major offshore wind hub. In collaboration with the State, these programs ensure coordinated and well-planned development and invite ample public participation in the community planning process.

The state designated Sunset Park BOA positioned UPROSE to partner with key government and private sector players in New York's emerging offshore wind industry. The BOA, consisting of the industrial area of the Sunset Park neighborhood in Brooklyn, included the goal to "brand the area as a green business cluster" by supporting businesses in the growing green economy and Just Transition from an extractive to a regenerative economy. Since that plan was finalized, UPROSE has focused on keeping industrial uses along the Sunset Park waterfront, advancing their Green Resilient Industrial District (GRID) plan, and utilizing BOA pre-development funding to develop a supply chain feasibility analysis, a real estate and contextual analysis, and an offshore wind landscape analysis in collaboration with the DOS, NYC Economic Development Corporation, the Mayor's Office of Environmental Remediation, the City Council, the Brooklyn Borough President's Office, and other relevant governmental and private industry to ensure best outcomes. UPROSE's success lies in its consistent forward-thinking, community-based planning, as well as leveraging relationships such as its long-term partnerships with New York State and others.

[5] New York State Department of State, *Town of East Hampton Local Waterfront Revitalization Program*, accessed July 3, 2025, https://dos.ny.gov/location/town-east-hampton-local-waterfront-revitalization-program.

[6] Orsted South Fork Wind Project Website, accessed July 3, 2025, https://southforkwind.com/.

[7] New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), Build-Ready Program: Town of East Hampton, Suffolk County, accessed July 3, 2025, https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Build-Ready-Program/Build-Ready-Project-Sites/Town-of-East-Hampton.

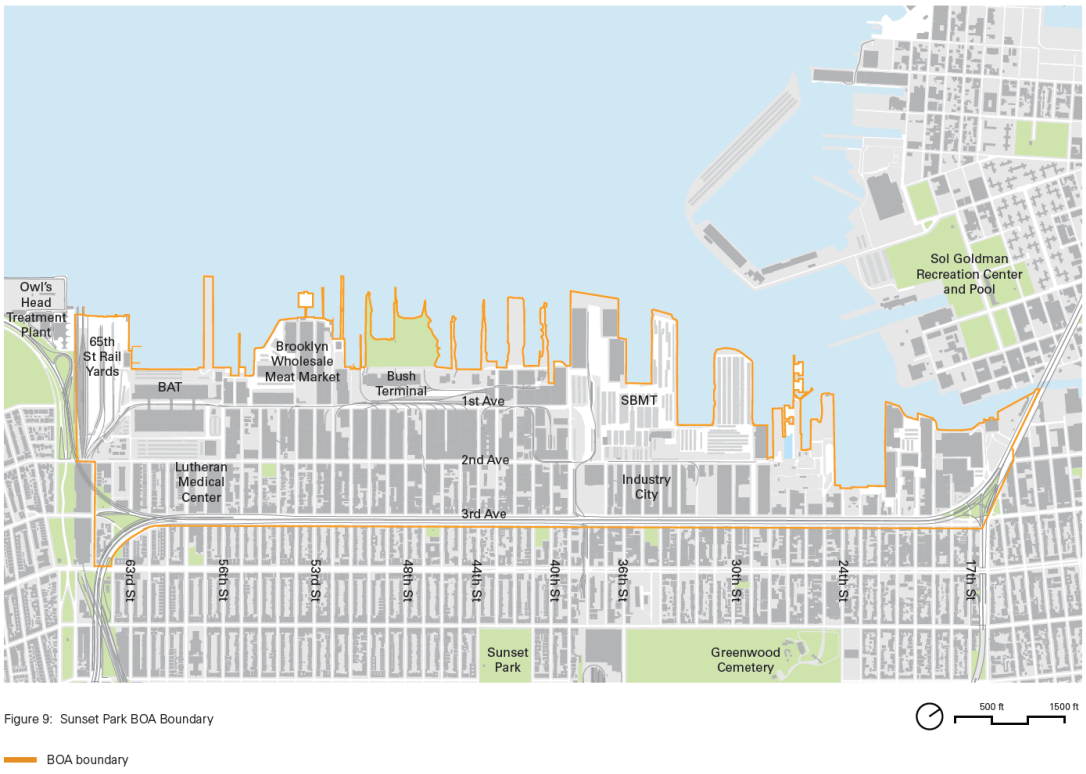

Figure 1. Sunset Park BOA boundary with Major Landmarks, from the Sunset Park Brownfield Opportunity Area Nomination Study Report (March 2013).[8]

2.2.4. NYSERDA Build Ready

NYSERDA's Build-Ready program partners with local communities across New York State to identify and advance underused properties, including brownfields, landfills, existing or former commercial and industrial sites, and dormant electric generating properties for renewable energy projects.[9] Sites are identified through a top-down desktop analysis or through site nominations from entities such as local governments. NYSERDA then prepares these challenging sites for development, advancing them to a "build-ready" stage, so that private renewable energy developers can ultimately construct and operate clean energy projects.

2.2.5. NYSERDA Just Transition Site Reuse program

The Just Transition Site Reuse Planning Program is designed to provide communities with planning and technical support services to inform future decision making at the local level to help mitigate negative impacts of pending or future fossil fuel power plant closures. NYSERDA takes proactive steps to assist municipalities with site reuse planning to help communities spur diversified economic development and thrive in the transition to a clean energy economy. This program does not play a role in the identification of specific power plant closures, but rather aims to provide communities, at no cost to them, resources to evaluate options. To date, communities across New York have developed or are actively developing

[8] See p.21, Figure 9 from Sunset Park BOA Step 2 Nomination Study, accessed July 3, 2025, https://dos.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/05/sunsetpark_boa_part2_part1.pdf

[9] NYSERDA, Build-Ready Program, accessed July 3, 2025, https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Build-Ready-Program.

reuse plans for approximately 15 power plants sites. The Just Transition and Site Reuse program supports these efforts by enabling municipalities to perform technical feasibility studies, engage local stakeholders to ensure that plans reflect community needs and priorities, and assess the potential impact of power plant closures, including effects on tax revenues, employment, and local economies.

2.2.6. Local Hazard Mitigation Planning

Comprehensive plans often address vulnerabilities specific to a community's locale, but there are other planning processes like Local Hazard Mitigation Plans[10] that can also reflect local consideration of climate risk. DHSES supports the development of FEMA-approvable local hazard mitigation plans by administering grants and by providing technical assistance. All counties in the State are developing or have approved Local Hazard Mitigation Plans. These plans form the foundation of a community's long-term strategy to identify hazards, assess risks and vulnerabilities, and develop mitigation strategies that can be funded using a wide range of resources. By reducing disaster losses and breaking the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repetitive damage, local governments will be better equipped to reduce risks to people, property, economies, and natural environments.

2.3. Local Government Outlook

Local governments serve critical functions for their constituents but have faced resource challenges. Overall, local government employment has been declining in New York State since the 2007 financial crisis, straining the capacity of current employees. This is at odds with national trends of increased local government employment. COVID-19 lockdowns and the subsequent economic recovery amplified these trends, as many municipal employees either left the workforce entirely or pursued higher-paying opportunities in a competitive job market. Some governments experienced funding shortfalls due to decreased tax revenue resulting from reduced economic activity. Additionally, local governments will continue to face climate-related emergencies, including localized heat stresses, severe weather events, and flooding driven by climate change. These affect businesses, residents, essential services (such as water, sewer, and transportation), and both the natural and built environments.

Ongoing financial and human resource constraints are expected to persist, limiting the capacity of municipalities to effectively respond to energy and emergency challenges. These trends highlight the continued need for State support in helping municipalities exercise their local leadership in advancing coordinated, strategic energy and climate policies.

Recommended Actions with Local Governments

Local governments have the ability to effectuate change and improve the quality of life in their communities. This is because local leaders are often best positioned to identify the unique opportunities and challenges of the areas they serve and then galvanize community action. New York State is poised to help its local governments achieve more.

- **Empower local governments to make informed decisions by increasing accessibility to climate & energy data.** Local governments would benefit from having streamlined processes for

[10] MitigateNY, *Local Hazard Mitigation*, accessed July 3, 2025 https://mitigateny.org/local_mitigation.

accessing resources and support data collection and analysis. There are a range of mapping and data portals available at the state, regional, and national levels, as well as interactive dashboards that are becoming more accessible and prevalent. Additionally, many chapters in the State Energy Plan identify new tools for advancing the State's energy priorities. Centralized, user-friendly data resources can help to inform planning and investments and allow local governments to visualize and assess socioeconomic information, environmental conditions, vulnerability and impacts, infrastructure, energy impacts, and clean energy development opportunities. Improving accessibility to these resources and making good, actionable information readily available will enhance decision-making. Finally, the State should assess how to seamlessly integrate data refinements into these tools, from coordinated scientific research and monitoring programs to socioeconomic analyses and more, so that the latest information is always available to constituents, especially as federal resources – such as the National Climate Assessments and various environmental screening or mapping tools – have recently been taken offline.

- **Encourage adoption of municipal clean energy policies attuned to local conditions.** By supporting and incentivizing comprehensive and smart growth planning and zoning, the State will help prepare local governments for their clean energy future and participate in facility project reviews and development, and support smart growth principles and outcomes. A sound comprehensive plan that assesses various locations and energy development scenarios can help ensure that a community's zoning regulations, environmental review, alternatives, and findings are informed by all relevant factors. Effective, intentional planning and zoning also facilitate the development of renewable energy options by having transparent rules and regulations. Where appropriate, expanding smart growth planning programs to assist local governments with developing and adopting area plans, zoning, and impact statements that consider smart growth principles can help accelerate compatible development.

- **Increase local capacity by providing State support and guidance for energy planning.** The State should provide additional training and educational opportunities for municipal officials, stakeholders, and residents to fully understand benefits of clean energy facilities, including employment opportunities that support a just transition. These trainings should provide clear instructions for the types of actions municipalities can take to contribute to State energy goals, including implementing baseline practices (before best practices) and enacting resiliency and adaptation programs. Each program, including newly created initiatives, should make training, guidance documents, technical support, and educational resources for local governments available to encourage early adoption and improve local success rates. This can also include training the local government workforce through initiatives such as the NYS Association of Towns and SUNY partnership to provide microcredentials for municipal employees.[11] Knowledge sharing is also a key element of capacity building, particularly in small, rural communities. By

[11] New York Association of Towns (NYAOT), *Workforce Development: SUNY Partnerships*, https://www.nytowns.org/Towns/Towns/Training/Workforce-Development---Microcredential-Progams/SUNY-Partnerships.aspx?hkey=2f5ee002-f871-46c2-b194-eff8a4c7d888.

increasing support for municipalities to learn from one another and building a network of local practitioners, communities will be empowered to advance clean energy policies at the local level. For federal programs and funding, the State should be positioned to assist municipalities by serving as an intermediary between the local and federal levels of government.

3. Regional Coordination to Advance State Energy Goals

Collaboration and coordination can be multi-municipal and across multiple levels of government. There are two generalized types of regional coordination for the purposes of this section. Within the State, intrastate partnerships and cohorts are formed to develop programs, streamline decision-making, and solicit community feedback. The State also seeks intergovernmental coalitions where there are shared goals with neighboring States or nations to expand access, innovate, and create efficiencies. In each instance, these partnerships are bespoke and evolve to meet the needs of participating jurisdictions.

3.1. Regional Coordination Roles

Regional coordination occurring within New York as well as through intergovernmental partnerships can serve multiple purposes, such as influence-boosting coalition building, improved government efficiencies, and providing signals and incentives for energy markets and researchers.

3.1.1. Coalition Building

Coalition building is one of the primary reasons for seeking out regional partnerships. Municipal-based Regional Planning Commissions and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) support energy planning by ensuring that economic development and transportation investments are coordinated and meet regional needs, both present and future. Multi-state and national coalitions demonstration the power of collective action. For example, organizations like the Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative (RWSC) and Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) have enabled coastal states like New York to more effectively partner on shared ocean priorities, including addressing research needs and enhancing data accessibility for better decision-making. Whether formal or informal and regardless of size, organizations play a crucial role in addressing shared interests, challenges, or opportunities, leading to better decision-making. By collaborating, regional partnerships can amplify their influence, raise public awareness and support common goals, and drive more impactful policy changes than organizations operating independently.

3.1.2. Increasing Efficiencies, Equities, and Knowledge Exchange

Regional coordination also brings together experts from various fields to tackle complex issues more effectively. New York State has formed or participated in various planning bodies and technical working groups to achieve greater efficiencies and equities. Examples include the CAC, Climate Justice Working Group, and renewable energy Technical Working Groups (TWGs) to address regional solar and offshore wind development challenges. One hallmark of coordinating bodies like these is creating tangible, high-quality products that address inequities in current frameworks, such as establishing the State's DAC criteria or coordinating across the East Coast to create a fisheries Regional Fund Administrator to distribute direct resources to local stakeholders. These and other efforts help uncover data and

information gaps, prioritize research needs, and provide critical forums to ensure decision-making is based upon the best available science and considers the needs of those most affected.

3.1.3. Market-driven Change & Innovation

Cross-governmental policies focused on affordability, improving community health, and strengthening the energy workforce and supply chain can serve as powerful incentives driving regional collaboration. Initiatives are diverse and may encompass advancing research and innovation in energy efficiency or clean energy technologies, exploring incentives to promote wider adoption, providing financial support to improve affordability, and supporting market development to grow the clean energy workforce, strengthen regional supply chains, and foster a sustainable circular economy for clean energy solutions. In some instances, collaborations involve public-private partnerships or formal financing agreements, which can enhance project longevity but may also create challenges for intergovernmental cooperation.

Table 1: Regional Organizations that Assist in Advancing New York State Energy Policy

Regional Organizations	Coalition Building	Knowledge Exchange	Markets & Innovation
Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs)	X	X	
Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)	X	X	
Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO)	X	X	
Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC)	X	X	
U.S. Climate Alliance (USCA)	X	X	
NYS Climate Action Council (CAC)	X	X	X
NYS Climate Justice Working Group		X	
Offshore Wind Technical Working Groups (TWGs)		X	
Regional Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA)	X	X	
Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative (RWSC)	X	X	
Northeast States Interregional Transmission Collaborative	X	X	X
National Offshore Wind Research & Development Consortium (NOWRDC)		X	X
11-State Initiative for a Regional Fisheries Administrator	X	X	
Emergency preparedness planning (ad hoc)		X	
Centers of Excellence / Centers for Advanced Technology		X	X
New York Green Bank		X	X
New York Battery and Energy Storage Consortium (NY BEST)			

3.2. Intrastate Strategies to Support Energy Policies & Climate Action

New York State encourages progress by spearheading regional and statewide planning efforts that provide policy direction for long-range planning by industries, investors, municipalities, and other sectors. Holistic and inclusive State-led planning efforts can also encourage knowledge exchange and coalition building, which are essential for energy planning. As outlined in the chapters on Buildings, Climate Change, Adaptation and Resiliency, Electricity, Low-Carbon Alternative Fuels, Energy Affordability Impacts, Transportation, and Environmental Impacts, New York is promoting strategic regional coordination to grow local knowledge, tackle industry lifecycle challenges such as waste management, and advance regional energy and economic development. Several of these initiatives are highlighted in greater detail below.

3.2.1. Regional Economic Development Councils

The Regional Economic Development Councils (REDCs) support the State's innovative approach by empowering regional stakeholders to create pathways to prosperity, which are outlined in regional strategic plans. Through the REDCs, community leaders, business and academic experts, and members of the public in each region of the State apply their unique knowledge of local priorities and assets to guide

State investments that support job creation and economic growth. Each Regional Council has become the voice of the region, advising agencies on the programs and projects most valuable to the region. Having awarded over $8 billion in NYS funding to more than 10,000 projects, the REDCs play a critical role in advancing NY's economic development priorities needed to drive a clean energy future.

3.2.2. Metropolitan Planning Organizations

As required by 23 CFR 450.310, an MPO is the policy board of an organization created and designated to carry out the metropolitan transportation planning process. MPOs play an important role in energy-related initiatives by administering federal funds and integrating energy-efficient transportation practices and renewable energy into transportation planning. MPOs are required to represent localities in all urbanized areas (UZAs) with populations over 50,000, as determined by the U.S. Census. They play a heightened role in urbanized areas with populations over 200,000, which are designated as "Transportation Management Areas" (TMAs). New York State's 14 MPOs represent local governments in Statewide Transportation Improvement Program consultation, helping to promote a coordinated approach to transportation planning amongst multiple municipalities. This coordinated approach helps support the advancement of transportation projects that promote emission reductions and serves the needs of all New York State residents and visitors.

3.2.3. Clean Energy Zones

As announced in the 2025 State of the State address, Governor Hochul directed State agencies to unlock economic growth and reduce the cost of the State's clean energy transition by identifying Clean Energy Zones (CEZs). In May 2025, the PSC acknowledged that coordinating transmission and large-scale renewable generation development in specific areas of the State could reduce costs and risks. The PSC directed the Department of Public Service (DPS) to establish a process for defining and identifying these zones for integration into the Commission's existing planning processes and renewable energy procurements. The Commission further directed DPS to evaluate how a CEZ designation could foster greater community engagement and economic development.[12] This is an example of holistic, State-led planning efforts designed to provide a pathway for earlier engagement between the State's power sectors and potential host communities.

3.3. Intergovernmental Strategies to Support Energy Policies & Climate Action

States also collaborate with other governments where large-scale challenges on priority energy and climate issues persist. As identified in earlier chapters on Electricity, Nuclear, Affordability, Environmental Impacts, and Environmental Justice and Climate Justice, among others, New York's leadership and consistent policies have paved the way for interstate and national collaboration. Several of these initiatives are highlighted in more detail below.

[12] Case 15-E-0302, Order Adopting Clean Energy Standard Biennial Review as Final (issued May 15, 2025), pp 67-68.

3.3.1. Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

RGGI is a 10-state[13] cooperative effort to reduce GHG emissions from the electric power plants greater than 25 MW through a market-based cap-and-trade program. Since its establishment as the nation's first mandatory market-based emissions reduction program in 2009, RGGI has helped reduce New York's electric sector carbon dioxide emissions by 50 percent. Proceeds generated through RGGI's quarterly allowance auctions have yielded over $2 billion for New York.[14] The State directs these funds into complementary strategies that increase renewable energy, energy efficiency, and carbon abatement, through an approved operating plan. RGGI is a successful state-led model that could be replicated where other regional energy challenges and associated cost impacts are faced.

3.3.2. Northeast States Collaborative on Interregional Transmission

Launched in June 2023, the Northeast States Collaborative on Interregional Transmission brings together representatives from 10 states to enhance coordination in interregional transmission planning.[15] The initiative aims to reduce costs for ratepayers, enhance system reliability, and support state energy policies. On July 9, 2024, the member states formalized their partnership by signing a memorandum of understanding. Since then, the Collaborative has released a white paper on *Equipment Standardization and Supply Chain Considerations for Offshore Wind Transmission* (October 2024) and a *Strategic Action Plan* (April 2025).[16] The plan outlines actionable steps for state, regional, and federal policymakers to advance interregional transmission solutions. Key near-term actions include issuing a Request for Information ("RFI") for potential interregional transmission projects that provide reliability benefits and cost savings for consumers. The plan also identifies transmission equipment standardization efforts to support a unified and comprehensive approach to transmission investments.

3.3.3. Regional Coordination Emergency Preparedness Coordination

As noted in the Emergency Preparedness chapter, New York State Agencies routinely engage in multistate and regional collaboration regarding energy assurance planning and response. This collaboration occurs regularly throughout the year and is enhanced during potential energy disruptions, including ahead of major storms or other conditions which could affect energy markets in New York State as well as neighboring states.

3.3.4. Advanced Nuclear First Mover Initiative

New York is co-leading a 10-state consortium to explore innovative advanced nuclear technologies, consider and mitigate potential risks, and drive down costs. In partnership with the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO), the consortium will bring together market actors to accelerate advanced nuclear projects by formulating supportive adoption strategies, identifying supply chain needs,

[13] The participating states include Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Pennsylvania's RGGI regulation is under ongoing litigation which prevents the state from fully participating in RGGI at this time.

[14] NYSERDA, New York's Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Operating Plan Amendment for 2025, accessed July 3, 2025, https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/-/media/Project/Nyserda/Files/EE/RGGI/2025-RGGI-Op-Plan-Amendment.pdf.

[15] Northeast States Collaborative on Interregional Transmission: https://energyinstitute.jhu.edu/northeast-states-collaborative-on-interregional-transmission/

[16] Northeast States Collaborative on Interregional Transmission Strategic Action Plan https://energyinstitute.jhu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Strategic-Action-Plan-Final.pdf

streamlining the permitting process, developing effective financing structures, and creating public-private partnerships.

3.3.5. Indigenous Nations

Indigenous Nations can bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to energy and resilience planning. New York is working to collaborate with Indigenous Nations regarding shared climate and energy priorities while respecting different approaches according to each Nation's policies, processes, and protocols. The nine recognized Indigenous Nations within the State's borders include: Cayuga Nation, Oneida Indian Nation, Onondaga Nation, Poospatuck or Unkechaug Nation, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, Seneca Nation of Indians, Shinnecock Indian Nation, Tonawanda Band of Seneca, and Tuscarora Nation.[17]

Energy and climate issues are deeply intertwined, and Indigenous communities acutely understand this. Current challenges include access to energy infrastructure, food and water security, land contamination, as well as impacts to culturally significant resources including loss of use, degradation of quality, and altered visual landscapes. In addition to seeking improved processes and resolution on these issues, some Indigenous Nations have identified opportunities for collaboration with New York State and its partners to increase energy affordability, reduce energy cost burdens, and pursue clean energy development. These opportunities include large-scale land-based wind and solar projects, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, building decarbonization through energy efficiency and electrification including related health and safety retrofits needed to make housing ready for weatherization, flooding, and other hazards, distributed solar generation, and the deployment of solar-plus-storage to support climate resilience. The State recognizes the importance of advancing energy resilience and climate adaptation through inclusive collaboration with Indigenous Nations to create forward-looking, sustainable solutions and long-lasting partnerships.

New York State agencies and authorities currently engage with Indigenous Nations on a range of energy-related issues, and there remain opportunities to strengthen and expand this collaboration. DEC's Office of Indian Nation Affairs engages with Indigenous Nations to address environmental and cultural resource issues of mutual concern through government-to-government consultation and coordination. NYSERDA has engaged with Indigenous Nations on a range of clean energy topics, including offshore wind development, support through Regional Clean Energy Hubs, siting of large-scale solar and wind projects, solar-plus-storage resources, grid interconnection, electric vehicles, workforce development and building electrification, among others. DOT's Office of Government and Community Relations coordinates with Indigenous Nations throughout transportation planning efforts. Recognizing the need for greater focus, Governor Hochul appointed the State's first Deputy Secretary for First Nations in 2023 with the goal of strengthening nation-to-nation relationships with Indigenous Nations in New York. The State and its respective agencies have made progress and are working to increase opportunities for meaningful collaboration with Indigenous Nations.

[17] NYS Indian Law § 2.

Increasing collaboration has many benefits. Indigenous communities have place-based experiences and relationships with the land and water that can provide a comprehensive outlook on the interconnectedness across systems.[18] These foundational concepts of cultural preservation, environmental stewardship, and adapting and innovating to a changing environment can offer valuable insights in energy planning and development, so long as Indigenous communities retain their individual knowledge and their cultural heritage is protected and respected.[19]

Energy and resilience planning spans jurisdictions and should be cognizant of the need for Indigenous Nation self-determination and sovereignty.[20] Some Indigenous communities have sought out renewable energy development as a means to achieving energy sovereignty and creating local economic opportunities.[21,22] Indigenous Nations have also received NYSERDA funding through various programs to develop clean energy projects. In 2017, the Seneca Nation of Indians utilized funding from NYSERDA's Land-Based Wind Incentive Program, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), and additional sources to develop a 1.5 MW Vensys wind turbine.[23, 24] The St. Regis Akwesasne Housing Authority used NYSERDA funding through the Affordable Solar Predevelopment and Technical Assistance program, DOE funding along with other funding sources to develop a 1.2 MW solar farm that has been providing affordable energy to Nation members since 2020. In 2021, the Shinnecock Nation, SUNation and the Long Island Progressive Coalition, completed the installation of solar panels on a Tribal government preschool building. Between 2010 and 2024, more than 240 Tribal energy projects have received federal funding, with estimated lifetime savings totaling nearly $530 million.[25] Additional resources are available that may assist Indigenous Nations in adaptation planning.[26] These resources identify existing tools, frameworks, and needs for enabling sovereignty and equitable distribution of benefits through climate and energy planning.

In acknowledgment of environmental disparities faced by Indigenous Nations, federally-designated reservation territories and state-recognized Nation-Owned Lands are included by the Climate Justice Working Group as DACs. To learn more about how New York State applies these criteria to prioritize

[18] National Park Service, *Indigenous Knowledge and Traditional Ecological Knowledge*, June 26, 2024, https://www.nps.gov/subjects/tek/description.htm.

[19] Sustainability Directory, *Traditional Ecological Knowledge*, accessed July 3, 2025, https://energy.sustainability-directory.com/area/traditional-ecological-knowledge/.

[20] *Tribal Climate Change Principles: Responding To Federal Policies And Actions To Address Climate Change*, September 2015 https://tribalclimate.uoregon.edu/files/2010/11/Tribal-Climate-Change-Principles_2015-148jghk.pdf

[21] Karonhiowanen Barberstock, Rye, *Renewable Energy Projects in Indigenous Communities: Balancing Tradition and Innovation*, Indigenous Cliamte Hub, October 1, 2024, https://indigenousclimatehub.ca/2024/10/renewable-energy-projects-in-indigenous-communities-balancing-tradition-and-innovation.

[22] Schilling, Vincent, "Powered by Nature: Native Nations Are Leading on the Path to Renewable Energy," American Indian, Spring 2022, https://www.americanindianmagazine.org/story/renewable-energy

[23] U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), "Seneca Nation Celebrates Commissioning of 1.7-MW Wind Turbine with DOE Support," April 28, 2017, https://www.energy.gov/indianenergy/articles/seneca-nation-celebrates-commissioning-17-mw-wind-turbine-doe-support.

[24] Seneca Nation of Indians, *Seneca Energy & Solar*, accessed July 3, 2025, https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2022-07/2_Giacobbe_1.pdf.

[25] DOE, *Tribal Energy Project Successes*, accessed July 3, 2025, https://www.energy.gov/indianenergy/tribal-energy-project-successes.

[26] Pacific Northwest Tribal Climate Change Project, *Tribal Climate Guide*, accessed July 3, 2025 https://tribalclimateguide.uoregon.edu/.

clean energy investments—ensuring that Indigenous Nations benefit from the transition to a clean energy economy—please refer to the Environmental Justice and Climate Justice chapter.

3.4. Regional Outlook

New York State has long worked with its government partners and will continue to build on successful regional initiatives to help maintain momentum, particularly amid changes in federal policies. The State Energy Plan Pathways Analysis shows that additional governmental and private action will help lower energy usage and support gradual market penetration of clean energy technologies. The Pathways Analysis assumes existing policies, incentives, and financial assistance remains intact, though as described in this chapter and elsewhere in this Plan, the current federal and global economic context is one of great uncertainty which impacts long-term planning, investment decisions, and the pace of transition. As a result, New York is expected to increasingly seek out regional partnerships to ensure a reliable energy supply and delivery and progress toward state energy goals.

The shifting federal landscape has also reinforced the importance of regional coordination on a range of topics. Recent federal energy policy and research priorities and adjusted regulatory processes have placed greater emphasis on intrastate coordination and regional alliances with other states, industrial partners, and non-government organizations. In many cases, New York is a founding member or already participates in such partnerships formed over the past 5-10 years. Access to federal data and information has also been affected, with an estimated 47 energy websites, 94 governance and partnership sites, 175 climate or conservation and 123 environmental justice websites changing since the start of 2025.[27] Fostering regional partnerships will allow New York State to leverage regional expertise, potential cost savings, and identify mechanisms to provide critical energy tools and programs that New Yorkers need.

Recommended Actions through Regional Coordination

New York State has built strong regional and interstate partnerships that are necessary to reinforce a just transition to its clean energy work. New York State has found from previous partnerships that enhancing resilience of communities and infrastructure requires mainstreaming climate change considerations into energy standards, planning decisions, and regulatory programs.

- **The State should continue to explore intrastate and intergovernmental partnerships to advance energy and adaptation solutions.** The State should be nimble and continue fostering cooperation to seek out opportunities for progress and uplifting disadvantaged communities, particularly given near-term federal policy uncertainties and unprecedented reductions in federal programs and resources. The State can address vulnerabilities in the State's energy system to climate hazards and extreme weather events through regional partnerships, building from lessons learned and resource sharing.
- **Develop State capacity and engagement strategies that specifically support cross-border issues of climate and energy planning.** NYSERDA is in the process of developing an Indigenous Nation partnership and engagement strategy and more internal capacity to build mutually beneficial

[27] Environmental Data and Governance Initiative, accessed 7/11/2025, https://envirodatagov.org/enviro-fed-web-tracker/

relationships with Indigenous Nations and Indigenous People's Organizations to achieve the mutual energy and climate goals of New York State and Indigenous Nations. Other agencies should explore similar approaches, including clearly articulating when and how government-to-government consultation and engagement should occur. Government-to-government consultation and collaboration should address capacity building to remove barriers to accessing programs and support Indigenous Nations and Indigenous Peoples to participate in energy and climate sector planning.

- **With federal shifts in policy and resources, the State should continue collaborating with external partners to provide transparent data and reporting on health, environmental, and economic outcomes of the clean energy transition.** These tools and resources will inform future planning efforts to address affordability concerns and provide opportunities for improving outcomes, which are particularly important considering the anticipated economic-development driven load growth and long-term electrification of transportation and buildings. Data informed feedback loops will also be important for climate resilience, informing adaptation measures and future emergency preparedness responses.
- **The State should continue to leverage regional partnerships to promote strategic investment, innovative technologies, accelerate adoption, and expand clean energy workforce opportunities.** These are common themes across sectors (e.g., buildings, electric, transportation, nuclear, etc.). By supporting renewable energy manufacturing and renewable energy facilities, workforce development programs and intergovernmental partnerships the State can address impacts faced by disadvantaged communities. These partnerships and related actions will help improve the health, economic, and environmental well-being of these communities.

4. Federal Coordination to Advance State Energy Goals

The federal government plays a role in providing the broader policy and market context for energy planning within which the states operate, and it can leverage this role to help shape markets. The federal government's size and influence enable it to shape and drive national and global energy technology markets in ways that individual states cannot. Generally, the federal government establishes national energy policy, provides funding and investments, and regulates interstate transmission of energy, while protecting national interests. States have autonomy in determining the characteristics of the energy supply, regulating the distribution of energy, setting retail rates, and implementing their own energy strategies within the limits of State jurisdiction.

Recent changes in energy policy at the federal level have created a level of uncertainty, stressing the need for continued coordination and collaboration for the benefit of New Yorkers. For instance, in early 2025 the President signed a series of executive orders aimed at reversing course on key energy policies, including calling to eliminate appliance standards and climate policies, withdrawing consideration of any area in the Outer Continental Shelf for wind energy leasing, and expediting oil and gas permitting and leasing. Government reorganization efforts have reduced the federal workforce, including at agencies critically tied to energy planning, siting, and, permitting. Moves are also underway to eliminate or privatize federal research and data programs, restructure federal decision-making processes, and

implement emergency regulatory procedures which could create new vulnerabilities for certain energy projects. Additionally, information has been suppressed or deleted about environmental justice, climate change, and the health impacts associated with these factors. The ultimate impact of these executive actions remains to be seen; however, in and of themselves have caused considerable speculation and uncertainty in the markets that are influenced by these federal policies.

4.1. Federal Government Roles

4.1.1. Regulations, Standards, and Permitting

Energy is regulated at the federal level via several primary agencies.

- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) – Regulates interstate transmission of electricity, natural gas, and oil, and is responsible for hydropower plant licensing. Has backstop authority to permit certain electric transmission facilities.
- Department of Energy (DOE) – Responsible for establishing energy efficiency standards and policies for appliances and equipment.
- Department of Interior (DOI) – Responsible for development of resources on the outer continental shelf, including offshore wind planning and leasing through the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and enforcement of regulated activities through the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)
- Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) – Regulates the nuclear power industry and oversees the storage and disposal of nuclear waste.

These agencies can play important roles in establishing national rules, programs, and standards that provide guidance to states, energy market participants, and stakeholders. FERC's regulatory efforts include a recent rulemaking that would establish standards for long term electricity transmission planning across the country, including New York. This is key to the successful and efficient rollout of grid modernization technologies, ensuring better communication across and within systems, particularly as operators seek to identify disturbances and respond to them (e.g., cyber security). However, recent Executive Orders under the current federal administration have challenged the independence of some regulatory bodies, causing uncertainty. Given the interrelationship between FERC and the PSC's statutory responsibilities, FERC's determinations will affect the State's energy objectives.

U.S. DOE has authority to designate areas as National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors (NIETC), where the agency determines that new transmission is necessary to reduce congestion that adversely impacts ratepayers, among other factors. DOE makes these determinations on the basis of system studies and stakeholder consultations that include States. As of this date, DOE has proposed to designate a Lake Erie -- Canada Corridor, which would provide interregional connections between Canada and the PJM Interconnection region. DOE will continue to conduct studies and may announce additional designations in the future. DOE also has the authority to permit transmission in an NIETC over the objections of States.

National energy efficiency standards resulting from the DOE's Appliance and Equipment Standards Program have historically offered a uniform set of requirements across the nation, providing manufacturers relief from having to navigate a patchwork of standards. With few exceptions, states are prevented from setting standards for products that are already regulated by the U.S. DOE, which is referred to as federal preemption. However, states can set standards for products and appliances that are not regulated by the DOE as New York has done under the requirements of the Advanced Building Codes, Appliance and Equipment Efficiency Standards Act of 2022.

The federal government also plays a role in permitting specific energy projects when they are on federal lands. Coastal state waters extend out to three nautical miles from the coastline; the federal government has primary jurisdiction over waters beyond that point. Therefore, when it comes to developing resources like offshore wind that largely fall within federal jurisdiction, BOEM is the lead federal agency with responsibility for siting and leasing offshore wind areas, overseeing permitting processes, and enforcing compliance with all applicable safety, environmental, and conservation laws and regulations. BOEM coordinates these activities with other federal permitting agencies and coastal states.

BOEM generally schedules oil and gas lease sales within the framework of a five-year national program and applies a similar five-year planning horizon for offshore wind leasing. Following the issuance of revised offshore wind regulations in 2024, BOEM is now required to establish a five-year offshore wind leasing schedule. Additionally, the agency has incorporated permitting efficiencies designed to shorten project review times while maintaining high standards for environmental protection and safety.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) undertakes federal civil works projects and regulates activities in the nation's waters, many of which can have implications on energy projects operating in or near the waterways. The USACE mission is broad and includes undertaking coastal storm damage reduction projects, maintaining federally authorized navigation channels and structures, and undertaking environmental restoration. A major component of the USACE regulatory program is protecting waters from irresponsible and unregulated discharges of dredged or fill material.

4.1.2. Coordination and Partnerships

Where states and the federal government have shared goals, purposeful collaboration can be key to advancing common interests. The federal government can play a role either via formal partnerships or informal coordination to strengthen cooperation across authorities having jurisdiction or to define new processes for emerging technologies that may not fit well into existing processes. Strategic partnerships and collaborations can accelerate the development of emerging industries that were not anticipated when existing rules, regulations, and processes were originally established.

NYSERDA also collaborates with the DOE to manage the West Valley Demonstration Project, which includes demolition and decommissioning of the buildings and support structures at the former spent nuclear fuel reprocessing facility. DOE provides funding to support the State's responsibilities at the site, and a cost-share is provided through the New York State budget.

To meet statutory obligations, the President of NYSERDA serves as the Governor's designated State Liaison Officer (SLO)[28] to the U.S. NRC, acting as the primary communication link between the State and the NRC—a role that exists in all 50 states. NYSERDA also regularly coordinates with the DOE.

Under Section 7-101 of the New York State Energy Law, NYSERDA is responsible for coordinating state programs related to atomic energy, advising and assisting the Governor and Legislature on such matters, and recommending policies that promote the peaceful use of atomic energy while protecting public health, safety, and the broader public interest. NYSERDA is also tasked with aligning New York State's atomic energy initiatives with those of the federal government and other states.

Regional Ocean Partnerships (ROPs) are organizations voluntarily convened by governors working in collaboration with federal and Indigenous governments to address ocean and coastal issues of common concern in that region, including offshore wind planning and development. New York State is a founding member of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) which coordinates with federal and non-federal partners through the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Planning Committee (OPC). New York is also an ex-officio member of the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC). The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) establishes funding to implement these shared regional ocean priorities, which include ocean energy development and maintaining ocean data that is useful in offshore spatial planning for energy facilities.

4.1.3. Funding

The federal government plays a significant role in energy planning and policy development via its use of funding and financing programs. Support can come in a variety of forms, from grants to tax credits to loan guarantees, and often the effectiveness of the support mechanism is tied closely to how durable they are over time.

DOE's State Energy Program provides New York State with formula funding annually for use in improving energy efficiency, developing renewables, promoting economic development, delivering emergency planning and response, and reducing imported oil reliance. NYSERDA leverages this funding to develop and synthesize data and coordinate planning activities through its State Energy Plan, Climate Action Council Scoping Plan, and Clean Energy Industry Report as well as State Energy Emergency Planning. Similarly, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is responsible for distributing the majority of New York's federal transportation funding, which is then administered by DOT. This funding includes support for emissions reduction initiatives such as the Congestion Management Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ), the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), and the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP). Effective distribution of these funds requires close collaboration among the FHWA, DOT, MPOs, and local governments. In 2023, DOT worked with FHWA to develop a Carbon Reduction Strategy, which describes the state's plan for reducing transportation emissions. The consistency of annual funding for these programs has improved state planning around the appropriate use of those funds.

The federal government also uses funding to advance energy research and development, often seeking to lower the cost of emerging technologies and reduce financial risks to the private sector. Long-standing

[28] U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, *About the State Liaison Officer (SLO) Program*, accessed July 20, 2025, https://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/state-tribal/fst-liaison.html#about.

federal efforts around new technology development and early market support have successfully advanced technologies and supported long-term economic growth of markets. There is also a national security play in investing in technology development. Owning energy technologies and controlling the development of them is key to successfully competing with other nations and ensuring domestic resource diversity. Without control over the full range of potential technologies, a nation becomes vulnerable to others gaining the upper hand. If a deliberately narrowed set of technologies begins to fail, there will be limited capacity to build resilience into the system.

Over the last five years, U.S. Congress passed landmark legislation directing historic investments that have aligned with New York State's climate goals and bolster renewable energy, electric vehicles, energy efficiency, and economic development, including the BIL, Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), and CHIPS and Science Act. These significant pieces of legislation represent support for demonstration of infrastructure investments that are necessary for grid modernization, resiliency, and reliability. This legislation has recently been targeted by the current Congress and federal administration and the recent 2025 Federal Budget Reconciliation Bill repealed authority and unobligated funding for several significant federal energy and environmental programs supported by the legislation. The New York State Governor's Office and relevant state agencies have worked closely with federal partners to administer funding made available through these initiatives. They continue to actively engage with New York's Congressional Delegation—both in the Senate and the House—to ensure that this and future funding, as well as related efforts, benefit all New Yorkers, particularly the most vulnerable communities.

In July 2024, the Accelerating Deployment of Versatile, Advanced Nuclear for Clean Energy (ADVANCE) Act was passed with bipartisan support, easing regulations to accelerate the development and deployment of advanced nuclear technologies and strengthen U.S. leadership in this space. The law directs the NRC to streamline its licensing and permitting processes, including authorizing combined licenses for reactors at existing sites, facilitating licensing at brownfield locations, and supporting the licensing of small modular reactors (SMRS). New York State is working with DOE, other "first mover" states, and private industry to better understand the potential landscape for nuclear project development in New York, including launching a Master Plan for Responsible Advanced Nuclear Development to develop recommendations for implementation.

However, the long-term durability of some of these historic investments remains uncertain. The recent change in federal administration has prompted a reassessment of various policies and programs, with efforts underway to scale back or eliminate some of them. This sheds light on a key challenge of federal stimulus initiatives; they often arrive in short bursts, offering only temporary boosts rather than sustained support. In contrast, long-term measures—such as consistent tax policy—provide greater stability and predictability, allowing markets and investors to plan more effectively. While grants can stimulate market activity in the short term, they alone are rarely sufficient to drive lasting change. Tax policy, on the other hand, has proven more effective in catalyzing meaningful and sustained investments, especially in sectors like energy infrastructure. Unfortunately, the 2025 Federal Budget Reconciliation Bill that was signed into law in July 2025, also made changes to the longer-term tax credit policies for specific technologies, including wind and solar projects, providing a rapid phase down of credits

compared to other technologies and adding strict supply chain requirements to be eligible for the credits. These actions will provide additional headwinds for achievement of New York's energy goals.

While the future of this funding is uncertain under the current federal administration, New York will continue to collaborate with its Congressional delegation and federal counterparts to advance clean energy policy where possible.

BIL/IIJA/IRA/CHIPS and Science Act

- **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)/Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) -** Passed in 2021 the IIJA authorized $1.2 trillion (including $550 billion in new spending) through FY 2026 for investments in energy, transportation, water, and broadband, with many funding programs supporting emissions reduction projects. Funds are distributed to the states via both formula and competitive grant programs, thus collaboration between NYS agencies and federal agency partners is necessary to ensure their effective and efficient implementation.
- **IRA -** IRA, passed by Congress in 2022, provided $370 billion in funding for clean energy and environmental justice initiatives nationwide, representing the largest investment in climate action by the U.S. government. It also included expanded tax credits to incentivize investments in clean energy.
- **CHIPS and Science Act -** Passed in 2022, the CHIPS and Science Act provided over $50 billion to strengthen our country's position in semiconductor research, development, and manufacturing while investing in American workers. With congressional support, New York State was able to obtain significant federal funding and attract numerous semiconductor companies including Micron, GlobalFoundries, and Wolfspeed. New York has enacted its own Green CHIPS law, offering up to $10 billion in economic incentives for environmentally friendly semiconductor manufacturing and supply chain projects operating within the State. These State incentives, in combination with federal support and private investments, are attracting thousands of jobs and billions of dollars to solidify New York as the nation's leader in the domestic reshoring of semiconductor manufacturing.

4.2. Federal Outlook

Governments, markets, and businesses like certainty and predictability. It allows for more measured decision-making, action, and longer-term planning. Yet, while federal energy policy tends to remain relatively consistent within a single four-year presidential term, it is reasonable to expect shifts in priorities and goals as administrations change—especially over the 15-year timeframe addressed by this State Energy Plan. At the present time, there are significant shifts in federal energy policy with the aforementioned Executive Orders, budget reconciliation bill, and rescission of funding and tax credits for wind and solar technologies. Therefore, monitoring and engaging with federal energy agencies and policy makers will be crucial to ensure New York's interests are well represented and that the State retains sovereignty in energy decision-making. Given New York's unique energy infrastructure, needs, institutional frameworks, and processes, the State should advocate for federal policies that reflect a tailored approach rather than a one-size-fits-all solution. Without such consideration, New York risks

facing higher costs, inefficiencies in implementation, and potential conflicts between state and federal jurisdictions.

New York must remain diligent in its participation in federal energy policy dialogue and seek areas of common goals and opportunities for collaboration (including technology development and pursuing federal funding opportunities) that can be leveraged for maximum benefits to New Yorkers. In the near term, there are potential synergies in new tech development and early market support (including for nuclear, long duration storage, hydrogen, and possibly fuels and carbon management technologies), reshoring of manufacturing/domestic manufacturing, and expansion of the electric grid to meet growing energy needs.

Recommended Actions with the Federal Government

Recognizing this Plan projects out to a 15-year horizon, the State should proactively prepare for evolving federal landscapes—positioning itself to capitalize on opportunities when interests align, while also remaining ready to address federal actions that may hinder its progress.

- **New York State should actively seek opportunities for federal partnerships and collaboration across all levels of government and industry.** Given the pace of change needed, the state must be prepared to harness federal opportunities as they arise by pursuing partnerships, while not relying solely on them to drive progress. Continued coalition-building alongside industries and the federal government can be used to identify additional opportunities for public-private partnerships and provide a range of benefits (e.g., efficiencies, economic growth, sustainability, service delivery). Areas ripe for near-term engagement include nuclear energy advancement, such as rulemaking, siting, risk-sharing, and bulk purchasing, as well as innovation efforts that are likely to favor dispatchable emissions-free resources including hydrogen, long-duration energy storage, and grid solutions.
- **The State should advocate for its interests at the federal level** by seeking flexibility in policies that preserve state sovereignty in energy decision-making and take into account New York's unique structures, processes, and needs. Additionally, the State should explore mechanisms to improve regulatory efficiency and coordination across federal, state, and local processes.