



# The Energy to Lead

## 2015 New York State Energy Plan

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **Q: What is the purpose of the New York State Energy Plan?**

The 2015 New York State Energy Plan is a comprehensive strategy to create economic opportunities for communities and individual customers throughout New York. It encapsulates Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's major new energy initiative, known as Reforming the Energy Vision (REV), and includes some of nation's most ambitious 2030 clean energy targets: 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels; 50% of electricity generation must come from carbon-free renewables; and 600 trillion Btu in energy efficiency gains, which equates to a 23% reduction from 2012 in energy consumption in buildings. These targets put the State on a path to achieve its longer-term goal of decreasing carbon emissions 80% by 2050.

#### **Q: How will the New York State Energy Plan support REV?**

The New York State Energy Plan is a roadmap for the REV strategy to build a clean, resilient and affordable energy system for all New Yorkers.

#### **Q: What are the New York State Energy Plan targets?**

- 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels.
- 50% generation of electricity must come from carbon-free renewables such as solar, wind, hydropower and biomass.
- 600 trillion Btu increase in energy efficiency gains, which equates to a 23% reduction from 2012 in energy consumption in buildings.

#### **Q: What do you mean by REV's "strategic pillars?"**

REV is designed to enable self-sustaining, clean energy markets that will support the State's energy infrastructure. The strategy is comprised of three action-oriented pillars:

- Public Service Commission's Reforming the Energy Vision Regulatory Docket, which considers an overhaul of New York's utility regulations to give customers greater value from and choice over their energy use, facilitate the rapid expansion and integration of distributed energy resources into the State's energy system, and transition clean energy from the periphery to the core of investor-owned utilities' business models.
- NYSERDA's Clean Energy Fund (including NY Green Bank and NY-Sun), which complements the REV Regulatory Docket to reinforce New York State's commitment to accelerate the growth of clean energy, improve its economic competitiveness, and protect the environment by reshaping the State's energy efficiency, distributed renewable energy and energy innovation programs to reflect a common objective.
- Evolution of New York Power Authority's (NYPA) operations and programs, which provide a foundation upon which New York will build a more sustainable and resilient energy grid while driving job creation. NYPA will also "lead by example" in developing innovative and transparent solutions to reduce energy demand, for which it will hold itself accountable as a model for the rest of the State.

**Q: How will ratepayers be affected by the New York State Energy Plan?**

Through new, more cost-effective approaches, energy consumers may realize many opportunities to help control energy costs. First, regulatory reform is intended to unleash new market opportunities, providing new competitive energy options from which consumers may choose to meet their needs. Further, the Clean Energy Fund, NYPA and other utility programs will continue to offer energy efficiency and clean energy options that are also proven to reduce customer energy bills.

**Q: Who developed the New York State Energy Plan?**

The New York State Energy Plan was directed by the State’s Energy Planning Board members, which include leadership from:

- NYSERDA
- New York State Public Service Commission
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- Empire State Development
- New York State Department of Transportation
- New York State Department of Health
- New York State Department of State
- New York State Department of Labor
- New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services
- New York State Agriculture and Markets
- Appointees by the Governor, Assembly and Senate
- Chief Executive of the New York Independent System Operator in an advisory, non-voting role.

In addition, the Plan takes into account comments provided throughout the process from stakeholders and members of the public.

**Q: Are the comments submitted by the public on the Draft New York State Energy Plan available?**

Yes, the comments received throughout the public hearing and comment process are available at [energyplan.ny.gov](http://energyplan.ny.gov).

**Q: What happens to the Renewable Portfolio Standard under the New York State Energy Plan?**

The New York State Energy Plan maintains a strong commitment to renewable energy. Since the beginning of the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) program in 2004, a total of \$1.9 billion has been provided through the RPS, in all tiers of the RPS program. This includes approximately \$1.1 billion for large renewable projects selected through the first nine Main Tier solicitations; a 10th Main Tier solicitation is expected to make awards in the summer of 2015, and another solicitation will take place in 2016.

Going forward, the REV large-scale renewables track will focus attention on this and provide a degree of certainty to industry. An Options Paper that includes a process for the large-scale renewables track was filed with the Public Service Commission on June 1, 2015.