

STATE OF NEW YORK

Public Service Commission

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LOW-INCOME ENERGY FORUMS ANNOUNCED

— Focus on Helping Financially Struggling Families Improve Energy Awareness —

Albany, NY—05/05/11—The New York State Public Service Commission (Commission) and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) announced today that the Low-Income Forum on Energy (LIFE) will hold a series of meetings across the State to help address the issues that may confront low-income consumers in the evolving energy landscape.

“LIFE provides a critical path for community leaders and service providers to share essential information that can help low-income New Yorkers maintain their utility service during these challenging economic times,” said Commission Chairman Garry Brown. “The LIFE regional meetings will provide valuable information on utility consumer protections and programs, as well as timely information on available energy efficiency programs and services. Energy efficiency is likely to be the most cost-effective, and more immediate, means to reduce the burden of rising energy costs not only for low-income customers, but for other customers as well.”

Francis J. Murray, Jr., President and CEO of NYSERDA, said, “Energy usage is a much higher percentage of family income for low-income families than for the general population. NYSERDA is committed to assisting low-income New York families in their struggles to deal with today’s energy issues; LIFE services that purpose. The six planned regional meetings focus on assuring that New Yorkers in need will receive help in a timely manner.”

The six LIFE regional meetings provide an opportunity for frontline workers, advocates, and policy makers to meet and network with those who share the same commitment to helping low-income energy customers.

The schedule for this year's regional meeting series is as follows:

May 11	SUNY New Paltz, New Paltz
May 12	Pines Inn, Lake Placid
May 13	HVCC TEC-Smart Facility, Malta
May 16	Faculty House, Columbia University, NYC
May 18	Holiday Inn Riverview, Elmira
May 19	Monroe Community College, Rochester

LIFE is the nation's longest running statewide dialogue on the energy needs of low-income customers and has built a reputation as an interactive exchange of ideas and resources. This year's regional meetings will build on lessons learned in prior LIFE conferences and will feature sessions on low cost or no cost energy savings actions, options for financing energy efficiency improvements, and information on some of the resource programs that assist low-income energy customers.

The registration fee for this year's meetings is \$35 for all registrants and includes all conference materials, lunch, and breaks. For information about LIFE and the 2011 Regional Meetings, including an agenda and registration information, please visit www.lifenynews.org or call 1-877-NY-SMART.