

FOR CONSIDERATION

March 27, 2024

TO: The Board of Trustees

FROM: Thomas Falcone

SUBJECT: Authorization to Execute a Memorandum of Agreement with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority for Funding for the Clean Energy Hub Program in the Long Island Power Authority Electric Service Territory

Requested Action

The Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of the Long Island Power Authority (“LIPA”) is being requested to authorize the Chief Executive Officer or his designee to execute a memorandum of agreement (“MOA”) with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (“NYSERDA”) for funding the Clean Energy Hub (the “Hub”) program in the Long Island Power Authority electric service territory on Long Island and the Rockaways (“LIPA Service Territory”).

Background

New York State, through NYSERDA, has established twelve (12) Regional Clean Energy Hubs across the State, which are intended to build on previous community engagement and outreach initiatives by increasing capacity at the local level to position disadvantaged communities (“DACs”) to participate in and benefit from the clean energy economy.

NYSERDA has allocated \$52.6 million over four years to establish and fund activities for these Regional Clean Energy Hubs to serve as centers of outreach, awareness, and education across the State to help foster residents’ participation in the clean energy transition, with a primary focus on advancing the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (“CLCPA”) with regional-place-based investments associated with DAC benefits from clean energy and energy efficiency programs.

Of the \$52.6 million allocated statewide, NYSERDA has allocated \$4 million over four years for funding the Clean Energy Hub in the LIPA Service Territory. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Nassau County (“CCE Nassau”) has been competitively selected by NYSERDA and contracted to serve as the prime contractor for the Long Island Hub.

LIPA is providing a financial commitment in the amount of up to \$2,000,000 over calendar years 2024 and 2025 as the parties cooperate, coordinate and collaborate to extend the outreach and support of the Hub to advance the clean energy transition through a local cooperative, coordinated and collaborative approach to increase existing staff capacity and new partnerships to make clean energy services, technologies, and jobs more accessible to residents and small businesses throughout the LIPA Service Territory, and thus advance the State’s goals for DACs under the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

Discussion

As identified in NYSERDA's contract with CCE Nassau the following are expected outcomes of Hub work to be supported by NYSERDA and LIPA's funding:

- Increase in consumer awareness of and access to and uptake of clean energy technologies and opportunities.
- Advance the local capacity to engage with community residents, including those located in DACs and/or who are or likely to be disproportionately affected by the climate crisis, about clean energy technologies and opportunities.
- Support for career pathways for populations in DACs through partnerships with training, education, and clean energy businesses for employment opportunities in the clean energy workforce.
- Improve the coordination of services and increase in partnerships with clean energy industries, affordable housing providers, human services providers, local governments, utilities, unions, third-party funding providers, colleges and universities, philanthropic organizations, etc. to assist residents and increase participation in clean energy technologies and opportunities.

In addition to the above outcomes, it is expected through this MOA that the Hub shall:

- Assist with and advise on the development and implementation of Community Benefits Plans that may be submitted for state and federal grant opportunities.
- Develop and provide quarterly and annual updates and reports as to the progress being made to achieve the expected outcomes.
- Coordinate with the statewide network of Regional Clean Energy Hubs to share best practices for the benefit of the LIPA Service Territory.
- Establish strategic partnerships across the clean energy ecosystem throughout the LIPA Service Territory to benefit DACs.
- Prepare an annual *Plan of Work*.
- Develop a *Regional Assessment and Barriers Analysis*.
- Prepare an *Outreach and Equitable Engagement Plan* that will focus on the estimated expenditures, timeframe, and steps for how and to what extent the Hub will:
 - a) Deliver community-based engagement, outreach, and cause increased consumer awareness of clean energy technologies and opportunities.
 - b) Coordinate with LIPA on utility programs and resources to increase participation in clean energy technologies and opportunities and conduct education campaigns and other outreach to increase adoption of clean energy solutions (e.g., home energy audits, heat pump installations and incentives).
 - c) Conduct stakeholder engagement to incorporate community perspectives and increase public input into LIPA's and NYSERDA's clean energy technologies and opportunities, programs, and policies.
 - d) Increase local capacity to improve engagement of community residents and stakeholders with programs and policies fostering clean energy technologies and opportunities.

- e) Advance diversity in the clean energy workforce by working with unions, universities, colleges, trade schools, and clean energy industries to help educate, connect, and provide opportunities for individuals from DACs, and increase the number and diversity of participating contractors in the clean energy sector.
- f) Advance local projects that address barriers in DACs to participation in or benefiting from the clean energy technologies and opportunities.
- g) Increase the number of participants that take advantage of government and utility credits, rebates, and incentives in energy efficiency and clean energy solutions for energy and financial savings and increase the diversity of organizations and firms participating in the clean energy sector.

Recognizing that cooperation and coordination with NYSERDA and CCE Nassau will further LIPA's, NYSERDA's, and the State's goals of efficiently and effectively achieving the State's clean and affordable energy goals, engaging residents and businesses in DACs, and workforce development, LIPA Staff proposes that LIPA enter into an MOU with NYSERDA to fund LIPA's share of the Clean Energy Hub for the LIPA service territory at a maximum amount of \$2 million.

Recommendation

Based on the foregoing, I recommend that the Trustees authorize the Chief Executive Officer or his designee to take all actions, including, without limitation, executing the MOA with NYSERDA as described above.

Attachment

Exhibit "A" Resolution

AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (“MOA”) WITH NEW YORK STATE ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (“NYSERDA”) FOR FUNDING FOR THE CLEAN ENERGY HUB PROGRAM

WHEREAS, LIPA and NYSERDA are in the process of negotiating the MOA relating to funding for the Clean Energy Hub program; and

WHEREAS, the total cost of the contribution by LIPA is calculated to be up to \$2,000,000 over two years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chief Executive Officer or his designee be and hereby is authorized to execute and effect an MOA with NYSERDA consistent with the terms of the accompanying memorandum, and to perform such other acts and deeds as may be necessary, convenient or appropriate, in the judgment of the Chief Executive Officer or his designee, to implement LIPA’s participation in the Clean Energy Hub program.

Dated: March 27, 2024