



Cold Spring Harbor, New York

NEWSLETTER



November Edition

Long Island Power Authority's
COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

I hope this message finds you well. I wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude for your attendance at our last meeting. It was really great to see so many engaged participants. Your ongoing involvement is invaluable to us as we continue to discuss the future of energy for Long Island and the Rockaways.

The meeting proved to be highly productive, and due to the Community Advisory Board's discussion, staff at LIPA and PSEG Long Island have begun renaming LIPA's East Garden City substation to Stewart Avenue – Uniondale HUB. This name better reflects the history of this area while addressing the social justice issue that member Jeanine Maynard articulated so well. This level of engagement is precisely what we strive for—a collaborative atmosphere where ideas can flow, and our community can thrive together. I am excited to continue this approach as we move forward.

Also, a special thanks to those who stayed to join the tour of the Northport Power Station. We will continue to provide opportunities for education around the LIPA grid and how the grid on Long Island and the Rockaways is designed and operated.

Thank you once again for your time and commitment. I'm looking forward to talking with you more and working together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Rhodes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Rhodes
Acting CEO

As stated previously, the September CAB meeting was very productive. A majority of our members were in attendance. LIPA BOT Chairwoman Tracey Edwards and Acting CEO John Rhodes were on hand to make opening remarks. They also welcomed new CAB members Adrienne Esposito, Jason Cofield, Luis Vazquez, Phil Andrews, Jeannine Maynard, James Hodge, and Ann Emrick.

National Grid Ventures and PSEG Long Island provided educational and operational updates to CAB members. Many thanks to Dave Lyons, Interim President and Chief Operating Officer for PSEG Long Island, and Jim Flannery, Chief Operating Officer/Northeast for National Grid.

Jim Flannery provided an overview of National Grid's diverse portfolio of low-carbon and renewable energy businesses across the US Northeast, including traditional power generation, wind, solar, transmission modernization, LNG, and battery storage. National Grid's generation on behalf of LIPA was also discussed. National Grid generates 30% of LIPA's energy needs, 3,800 MW across 10 sites with 8 steam generation units and 42 gas turbine units. Before closing, Jim explained the economic benefits of NG's current offshore wind proposals.

Veronica Issac, Manager of Customer and Community Partnerships, PSEG Long Island, then provided a presentation centered around PSEG's Economic Development Programs, Community Partnership Program, Power to Feed Long Island Program, and Making Strides Against Breast Cancer efforts. Veronica highlighted the Main Street Revitalization Program, which offers financial incentive awards for projects in a local business district that are expected to improve the economic stability and growth of a municipality.

She also mentioned PSEG's Vacant Space Revival Program designed to encourage occupancy of commercial space in a business district or in an area of existing commercial businesses that has been vacant for a period of one year or more. Finally, PSEG discussed their Thrive Program Grants, designed to foster economic viability, vibrancy, and support of local businesses while increasing economic growth and business in downtown areas. The program provides funding to the following types of 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(6) organizations: Chamber of Commerce, Business Improvement District, Civic Association, or not-for-profits.

During the last portion of our meeting, the Roundtable Discussion, CAB member and long-time civic advocate Jeannine Maynard took time to educate us on the need to rename LIPA's East Garden City substation. Jeannine explained, and I think the rest of us agreed, that a new name would better reflect the area's history while addressing the social justice issue that member Jeanine articulated so well. Based on our discussion, the LIPA Board of Trustees made the decision to change the substation's name to Stewart Avenue – Uniondale HUB. There will be an unveiling in the near future! Stay tuned.

RIDECIRCUIT ELECTRIC SHUTTLES

In September, LIPA and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) announced the launch of two all-electric shuttle services in Brentwood and the Rockaways "BrentwoodGo" and "Rockaway Rides." RideCircuit, a leading provider of electric vehicles (EV) mobility solutions, and one of ten winners of the New York State Clean Transportation prizes announced in November 2022, is now providing clean, accessible, and affordable transportation services to two underserved communities in LIPA's service territory. LIPA supplemented the funding administered by NYSERDA with a \$7 million contribution, in keeping with its mission and objectives set by its Board of Trustees.

This milestone accomplishment aimed at closing the last-mile gap - will also provide local jobs, reduce carbon emissions, and provide economic and educational access to these historically marginalized communities.

In October, Gary Stephenson, LIPA's Senior Vice President of Power Supply along with members of the LIPA team celebrated the launch of BrentwoodGo at a ribbon-cutting ceremony. On-demand rides are now available at no cost before a flat fare of \$2.50 is introduced to the coverage area. For more information visit NYSERDA's [website](#).



Affordable, eco-friendly rides coming to Brentwood!

Circuit will be offering eco-friendly rides at just \$2.50. We'll take you to run errands, medical appointments, and more. Just download the app and select your pick-up location to ride!

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Hours of operation
Monday - Friday, 6 AM - 6 PM
Saturday - Sunday, CLOSED

FREE TO START

How it Works

- 1 Download the Ride Circuit App
- 2 Driver confirms they are on the way
- 3 Enjoy your ride!

#ridecircuit



MEET GWEN O'SHEA



Tell us a little about your organization. What's the most exciting project or initiative you're working on right now?

CDLI is a community influencer and housing innovator that empowers families, individuals and communities to change their lives in ways they couldn't image. Long Island has a housing inventory crisis and we're working hard to address it. We are really excited about the diversity of new housing opportunities that we are actively engaged in creating: accessory dwellings units, new multi-family rentals and new single family opportunities. The Long Island Zoning Atlas has been a catalyst for moving these opportunities forward.

As a leader on LIPA's Community Advisory Board, what opportunities or initiatives do you believe are critical to reaching New York's clean energy goals?

First and foremost, engaging with individuals and communities to identify those opportunities and the advisory board is a great place for those conversations to start. Additionally, accessing and leveraging the capital that is currently available (both public and private) to finance clean components (ideally net zero) in new single and multi-family construction and green initiatives in existing properties.

What's something about you that might surprise people—any unique hobbies or hidden talents?

With a 3 year old at home, I can belt out almost any Sesame Street song on request.

LIPA INITIATIVES FOR LOW-TO MODERATE INCOME CUSTOMERS

Financial Assistance on Electric Bills for Low-to Moderate-Income Customers

LIPA offers electricity bill discounts to low-to moderate-income customers with the goal that energy bills should be no greater than 6% of household income. For 2024, LIPA added an additional \$4 million of funding, bringing the total to nearly \$25 million in financial support for our low-to moderate-income customers. LIPA requested the Board expand the eligibility of the program and has set a goal of expanding participation to 50,000 participants by the end of 2024. An additional priority is to automate the enrollment process to ensure customers on federal or state assistance programs are also enrolled in LIPA's bill discount programs. As part of its 2024 performance metrics, LIPA has implemented this goal for PSEG Long Island to meet the target of 50,000 enrollees in the Household Assistance Rate (HAR), while ensuring customer records are updated and automated file matching with federal and state agency records was executed.

To learn more about these and others low-income assistance programs, please visit PSEG Long Island's [website](#).

LIPA also offers enhanced heat pump incentives of up to \$11,000 for low-income households. These enhanced rebates are complemented by new point-of-sale federal tax credits of up to \$8,000 for low-income households installing heat pumps. Additionally, LIPA offers support for home efficiency improvements. This includes free personalized energy audits (home energy assessments) and discounted energy-efficient appliances. LIPA's 2024 budget included \$5.5 million to support weatherization projects for low-income households.

Long Island Clean Energy Hub

New York State is embarking on a transition to an inclusive clean energy-powered economy. All residents, businesses, and communities across the state will have access to new opportunities to benefit from this transition, including clean energy careers, home improvements, and even rebates for businesses and personal transportation.

Hubs help and provide information to individuals, small businesses, and affordable housing owners about the benefits of the clean energy economy, ways to reduce energy use and costs, and how to make more informed energy decisions.



To help New Yorkers access and navigate these opportunities, NYSERDA has established 12 regional clean energy hubs across the state to connect people to the clean energy economy.

Collectively, these hubs build upon previous community engagement and outreach efforts by enhancing local capacity to ensure disadvantaged communities can actively participate in and benefit from the clean energy economy. Each clean energy hub serves as a team of trusted, knowledgeable, community-based organizations in and from each associated region. They have experience with clean energy, energy efficiency, workforce and economic development, education, health, and housing.

LIPA is committing up to \$2 million over the next two years to support the Long Island Clean Energy Hub. This hub is operated by the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Nassau County in collaboration with Molloy College, Hofstra University, United Way of Long Island, Renewable Energy Long Island, and the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County. The Clean Energy Hub is currently completing a Regional Barriers and Analysis (RABA) to identify and address obstacles, develop strategies for engaging DACs, and enhance access to energy efficiency technologies, clean energy solutions, and affordable energy.

To learn more about the Long Island Clean Energy Hub, visit lismartenergychoices.org.



BIGGEST CHALLENGES FACING LI MINORITY-OWNED FIRMS AND POTENTIAL REMEDIES



Sonya Smith, state director of the Small Business Development Centers, and Phil Andrews, president of the Long Island African American Chamber of Commerce, both said there are plenty of programs to help minority business owners. Credit: John Roca

Financing, hiring and training employees, and government regulations.

Those are the top challenges facing small businesses that are owned by members of minority groups, according to the head of a group of university-based centers that provide free counseling to entrepreneurs.

“Access to capital is the No. 1 challenge for minority-owned businesses,” said Sonya Smith, statewide director of the New York Small Business Development Centers, or SBDCs. “Cash flow, paying the bills is a concern — and without financing it’s difficult to build and grow your business.”

She said SBDC counselors at Farmingdale State College, Stony Brook University and elsewhere in the state can help entrepreneurs manage cash flow and develop a productive relationship with a bank.

More information about the Farmingdale center may be found at farmingdale.edu/small-business-development-center/ and the Stony Brook Center, stonybrook.edu/commcms/sbdc/.

Smith, who was named SBDC chief in January 2022, was the keynote speaker for a Minority Enterprise Development Week event at Hempstead Town Hall Pavilion on Wednesday. Additional events have been planned for later this month by the Long Island African American Chamber of Commerce.

“Another big challenge is that it’s hard to find qualified workers,” Smith said in an interview last week. “So, businesses often need to develop [employees’] professional skills as well as their interpersonal skills.”

But some minority entrepreneurs assume they must pay the cost of employee training because they are unfamiliar with the availability of apprenticeships and community college courses. “These free resources mean you don’t have to take money from your business,” she said.

Smith also said keeping up with government regulations poses a challenge. She advised tracking the expiration dates of licenses and permits needed to operate in the state, and when taxes are due.

“It’s easy to feel overwhelmed,” said Smith, who is the first woman and first Black person to lead the state’s SBDCs.

Besides the SBDCs, the audience of about 40 people heard presentations about doing business with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, JPMorganChase, Bank of America and PSEG Long Island.

Phil Andrews, the chamber’s president, said its website — Liaacc.org — would become an information clearinghouse for minority business owners.

“We aren’t doing our job if you aren’t growing,” he said.

Rose Ward, chamber vice president, agreed, saying the Hempstead Town event and others this month are designed to “reconnect small businesses with the resources they need. These events make it possible so people who have the skills, drive and determination to succeed will have a greater opportunity,” said Ward, CEO and founder of the Uniondale-based consulting firm NFocus Management Group LLC.

Jordan Isaac, owner of Cornucopia Business Consulting in Yaphank, said he attended the three-hour event “to continue my education on programs available to small businesses and minority business enterprises to grow ... I can pass [the information] along to owners that I interact with all year who have either forgotten what they heard at the workshops or have been too busy to implement them,” said Isaac, who serves as the chamber’s Suffolk County director.

More information about future MED Week events may be found at liaacc.org/events-list/#!event-list.

By James T. Madore, Newsday

October 2024 | Albany, New York

\$24 MILLION AWARDED FOR INNOVATION PROJECTS IN MULTIPLE CLEAN ENERGY SECTORS

26 Projects Advance Long Duration Energy Storage, Clean Hydrogen, Grid Modernization, Geothermal and Building Electrification and Efficiency Technologies

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced more than \$24 million in awarded contracts for 26 innovation projects in multiple clean energy sectors. The awarded projects join the New York State Energy and Research Development Authority's (NYSERDA) growing portfolio of more than 200 innovation projects that are advancing new technologies in the sectors of long duration energy storage, clean hydrogen production and storage, grid modernization, geothermal, and building electrification and efficiency. Today's announcement underscores the State's commitment to investing in and scaling up a variety of clean energy technologies to improve affordability, reliability, and resiliency of energy consumption and distribution across the state.

"The innovations we invest in today are the solutions of tomorrow, and New York is at the forefront of turning clean energy ideas into reality," Governor Hochul said. "As a world-class hub for clean energy innovation, we will not rest on our laurels. Instead, we will build upon each breakthrough to ensure our growing green economy continues to thrive through the kind of outside-the-box thinking demonstrated by each of the selected projects."

The projects were selected by NYSERDA through its [Innovation program](#), which is dedicated to accelerating the development and deployment of cutting-edge clean energy technologies in support of the state's transition to a sustainable and resilient clean energy economy. Programs that these contracts were awarded under include renewable optimization and energy storage innovation, hydrogen and clean fuels, grid modernization, advanced buildings and commercialization.

New York State Energy and Research Development Authority President and CEO Doreen M. Harris said, "By supporting a variety of innovation initiatives and technologies, NYSERDA aims to foster new and improved ways to reduce emissions, integrate renewables, enhance energy efficiency, and contribute to a modernized grid. Partnerships with forward-thinking individuals and companies like those awarded, are critical to the advancement of clean energy technologies and demonstration of possible solutions that can be scaled for deployment."

The [awards](#) by program include:

\$2.4 Million for Renewable Optimization and Energy Storage Innovation

The four projects selected for a total of \$2.4 million in awards through NYSERDA's [Renewable Optimization and Energy Storage program](#) aim to support renewable energy integration and grid reliability by advancing long-duration energy storage (LDES) technologies. Projects include developing a supply chain and workforce for 3D printed concrete subsea LDES; building, installing, and operating a battery energy storage system using zinc-manganese dioxide (Zn-MnO₂) batteries, and developing electrolyte additives for zinc air batteries.

\$8.1 Million for Hydrogen and Clean Fuels

The eight projects selected through the [Hydrogen and Clean Fuels program](#) for a total of nearly \$8.1 million in awards will support clean hydrogen innovation to decarbonize industrial process heat,

facilitate the integration of clean hydrogen production with renewable energy, and demonstrate hydrogen-based generation systems for grid support services. The clean hydrogen innovation projects include developing and scaling up production of electrolysis technologies that can support renewable load following, a microchannel ammonia reforming system to provide carbon-free industrial heat, a pilot-scale clean hydrogen production facility to upcycle sulfur waste, and a hydrogen-based generation system to support a community-scale microgrid and electric city bus charging.

\$7.3 Million for Grid Modernization

The 11 projects selected through the [Grid Modernization program](#) for a total of more than \$7.3 million in awards focus on enhancing grid management and integration and improving distributed energy resource (DER) coordination. Projects aim to increase grid efficiency, reduce costs, and support the transition to a sustainable and resilient energy system.

\$1.8 Million for Advanced Buildings

The two projects selected through the [Advanced Buildings program](#) for a total of more than \$1.8 million in awards focus on developing advanced energy solutions. Projects aim to advance efficient heating and cooling systems, intelligent load management, renewable energy integration, innovative insulation products, and occupant-centric controls to reduce energy costs, improve building efficiency, and support the transition to sustainable energy practices.

\$4.5 Million for Commercialization

One project for a total of \$4.5 million was selected through the [Commercialization Program](#) to provide advisory support to climate technology-focused startups.

Department of Public Service CEO Rory M. Christian said, “These awards to invest in much-needed clean energy projects that will help spur economic growth and opportunity in New York State and help us continue our national-leading push to create a clean energy economy.”

State Senator Kevin Parker said, “As we continue to make progress toward the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act goals, New York State is stepping up to support innovative technologies and systems that will provide benefits to our neighborhoods. By investing in innovative technologies that will provide solutions of the future, we are ensuring that New Yorkers have job opportunities and support to grow our economy and protect our environment. I applaud Governor Hochul and NYSERDA for continuing to support research that will achieve our clean energy transition.”

Assemblymember Didi Barrett said, “Our clean energy transition will require employing all the tools in our toolbox, particularly planning for and exploring emerging technologies. Today’s announcement is a critical long-term investment in our renewable energy future. I thank Governor Kathy Hochul and NYSERDA President Doreen Harris for their leadership and support of these projects, and look forward to seeing their development.”

New York State’s investments in research, development, and commercialization support innovators accelerating the clean energy transition to meet the State’s goal for economy-wide carbon neutrality. NYSERDA’s [Innovation and Research \(I&R\) program](#) is deploying approximately \$1.2 billion over 15 years as direct research investments and commercialization support. To date, more than \$700 million in private investments and \$200 million in project finance capital have been enabled, and more than 450 innovative clean energy products have been commercialized as a result of NYSERDA’s technology and business development investments in energy use energy innovation, grid modernization, clean power generation and storage, and advanced fuels and thermal energy systems.

Today’s awarded contracts are funded through the State’s 10-year, \$6 billion [Clean Energy Fund](#).

