



Quogue Wildlife Refuge | Quogue, New York

NEWSLETTER

May/June Edition

Long Island Power Authority's
COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Happy Spring, Community Advisory Board! As we move into the summer season, I want to take a moment to share a few thoughts and highlight some of the important work happening across LIPA. I also want to recognize and thank each of you for the critical work you do every day on behalf of our communities across Long Island and the Rockaways. Your commitment to our collective mission is deeply appreciated, and your efforts make a real difference.

As we head into storm season, NOAA is forecasting an active year, with 19 named storms, nine hurricanes, and four potentially reaching Category 3 status or stronger. On Wednesday, May 13th, many of LIPA's staff participated in PSEG Long Island's 2025 Annual Hurricane Tabletop Exercise. This critical drill tested emergency response capabilities and involved collaboration with federal, state, county, and local agencies and leaders from the utility, transportation, and labor sectors. Thank you to everyone involved in this essential work, which is vital to ensuring we are ready to respond to severe weather.

This month, Trustee Baird-Streeter and I led a Community Advisory Board subcommittee meeting focused on finding better ways to serve our low-income customers. This effort is part of a broader initiative to identify meaningful ways to address the needs of our most vulnerable customers, not just in the utility space, but more broadly, in collaboration with partners like the United Way, CDCLI, Hofstra, and others. I appreciate the ongoing commitment of everyone involved in this important work.

I also want to acknowledge this week's Board meeting, where the Trustees voted 6-0, with 1 recusal and 2 abstentions, to cancel the 2024 Request for Proposals of the Operations Services Agreement, and opted to extend the current OSA contract with PSEG Long Island, noting the importance of continuity of service while future deliberations are made. The term for the extension is still to be determined, and a committee selected by the Board will determine the next steps.

Thank you again for your dedication and commitment. Your hard work makes a real difference for the communities we serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Rhodes".

John Rhodes
Acting CEO

During our March CAB meeting, during which we had the privilege of hearing an insightful presentation on battery energy storage systems (BESS) from Camille Warner, NYSEERDA's Project Manager for Clean Energy Siting and Paul Rogers, Founding Member/Energy Storage Specialist for Energy Safety Response Group and a member of the Governor's Inter-Agency Fire Safety Working Group.

Camille provided us with the Battery Basics! She provided an overview of our CLCPA goals and policies, an explanation of the individual components that make up a BESS system, as well as the distinct types of battery systems and their levels of efficiency. She clarified the benefits of battery storage for both utilities and customers. To summarize, Camille reminded us that as energy demands increase 50-90% over the next several years, battery storage will play a critical role in providing power to customers as we move ahead with additional wind and solar initiatives in New York.

Paul Rogers then spoke about the safety concerns surrounding battery infrastructure. All too familiar with those concerns, Paul discussed how he and the Governor's Fire Inter-Agency Fire Safety Working Group has worked diligently to identify code changes that will help assuage public fear. This summer, the group will announce proactive code change proposals that will allow for 24-hour facility surveillance and cell monitoring, gas detection, fire suppressions systems and alarms, peer performance testing, required site signage and emergency contact information, the preparation of and approval by the local Fire Department of an emergency response plan, and required annual firefighter training. NYSEERDA will also do inspections throughout the life of a project.

It was encouraging to see how engaged and informed you all were throughout the session. The level of interest and the thoughtful questions posed during the presentation underscored the importance of this topic. Battery energy storage is a critical component of our transition to a cleaner energy future, and it was evident that you all value the potential benefits these systems can offer.

As we navigate the complexities of energy initiatives, particularly amidst public concerns regarding safety and unfamiliarity with new technologies, your support becomes increasingly vital. Many community members may feel apprehensive about battery storage systems due to a lack of knowledge and experience with this type of energy source. With your insights and advocacy, we can play a pivotal role in addressing these concerns and fostering a greater understanding within the community.

During our Roundtable discussion, several Community Advisory Board Members expressed an interest in facilitating a conversation about how to better streamline and drive awareness of low-income programs available to the public. CAB Members Vanessa Baird Streeter, Theresa Regnante, Jeannine Maynard, Neela Lockel, Gwen O'Shea, Dr. Jerry Kornbluth, Larry Levy, Chris Williams and Luis Vazquez volunteered to continue the conversation offline.

Important to note: It is our understanding that the New York State Fire Prevention and Building Code Council will vote on the proposed battery energy storage system code changes at their July 25th meeting.

ADVOCACY, EDUCATION, AND OUTREACH



As a result of our March meeting, the new LIPA CAB LMI Coordination Subcommittee held its first meeting on May 5, 2025. Our Customer Service Team, Erin Mullen and Suzanne Brienza kicked off the meeting with a presentation on the current state of our advocacy, education and outreach efforts. A group discussion followed that focused on strategies for simplifying enrollment in low and moderate-income programs and leveraging members' collective expertise to drive broader, systematic changes. The discussion emphasized both immediate opportunities and long-term goals for improving service delivery and access for underserved populations.

We discussed several immediate and longer-term opportunities, including pilot programs at Matinecock Court and Baldwin, standardized intake processes, and potential collaboration with DSS and other agencies to streamline program access. These efforts have the potential to make a real impact, and your expertise will be essential in driving change and easing the burden for enrollment into critical social programs.

We will keep you updated on our plans and progress!

DR. JERRY KORNBLUTH

Vice President for Community and Governmental Relations
Nassau Community College



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

One of our most exciting new initiatives is a joint partnership between our college, former NBA star Jayson Williams, and Nassau County. This collaboration brings Rebound on the Road, Williams' innovative substance abuse rehabilitation program to Long Island. Founded by Williams after overcoming his own struggles, the program supports individuals who have faced significant barriers — particularly those reentering society after incarceration — by providing the tools they need to rebuild their lives. Our goal is to create a supportive network that reduces recidivism and enhances community safety. Participants benefit from a comprehensive approach that includes CDL (Commercial Driver's License) training, access to a variety of college courses, and a strong mental health support component. Counseling services and resilience workshops are built into the program to help participants process trauma and develop coping strategies. Ultimately, we're equipping them with the skills and confidence to pursue stable employment, education, and a fresh start.

In addition, we recently launched an exciting initiative to support local small businesses. In partnership with the Long Island Chamber of Commerce, we are providing on-campus space to 49 Chambers representing 49 villages with an average of 200 businesses in each of the 49 Chambers!. Alongside this, we offer free classes in key areas like accounting, marketing, and management. By collaborating with local organizations—including the New York Dragons—we aim to empower entrepreneurs, strengthen community ties, and support long-term economic development. Small businesses are the backbone of our communities, and we're proud to play a role in helping them thrive.

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?

Reaching New York's clean energy goals will require broad community engagement — and that must include students. I believe there's a valuable opportunity for LIPA to partner with Nassau Community College to actively involve students in the state's clean energy transition. One powerful way to do this would be through integrated educational programming that explores key projects like the South Fork Wind Farm. By exposing students to the cutting-edge work happening across New York, we can inspire future leaders in sustainability and clean energy. A field trip to the South Fork Wind Farm, for example, would allow students to see the impact of renewable energy up close and better understand its role in our future. Through such partnerships, we can bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world application — preparing students not only to understand the energy challenges ahead but to be part of the solution.

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

That's a great question. For starters, I'm fortunate to have a group of friends who share my passion for physical fitness. Every morning at 5:30 a.m., seven days a week, rain or shine, we gather at the gym. I was an athlete in my early career, and that experience instilled in me a strong commitment to fitness. Fitness fosters discipline and perseverance, traits that are beneficial in all aspects of life.

I am also very proud of my work early on with the Carter administration and the redevelopment of the South Bronx. One area that gained particular attention was Bathgate Industrial Park, which was at the heart of our efforts. The Bathgate redevelopment project aimed to transform a neighborhood that had faced severe economic challenges and urban decay. Our goal was to revitalize this community by improving housing, infrastructure, and public spaces — ultimately enhancing the quality of life. It became a government-subsidized eight-block industrial complex just south of the Cross Bronx Expressway, bordered by the Claremont Parkway, Washington Avenue, and Third Avenue. To this day, Bathgate exemplifies a public-private partnership that was able to successfully attract businesses and create jobs.

CLEAN, RELIABLE, AFFORDABLE

Southampton Town Community Solar Project Unveiling

Southampton Town's new 11,000-panel array in North Sea at the former Majors Path landfill is a recent milestone in the reuse of former dumping sites on the East End.

This is the first municipally run program on Long Island and will produce 8.6 million kilowatts per year, enough to power more than 700 households.



PSEG Long Island Reliability Upgrades on the East End

As part of LIPA and PSEG Long Island's ongoing PowerOn storm hardening capital program, PSEG Long Island announced plans in April to upgrade poles, circuits, wires, and cross arms in Aquebogue, Jamesport, and Riverhead.

Stronger poles: PSEG Long Island will replace some existing utility poles with more durable poles capable of withstanding winds up to 135 mph.

Narrow profiles: To prevent falling limbs from landing on wires, PSEG Long Island will install shorter cross arms atop some of the new utility poles.

Stronger wires: Current wire will be replaced with more resilient and durable wire.



NYPA's Upgrade Plans to the Uniondale Hub Substation

The New York Power Authority is upgrading its existing Uniondale Hub substation on Stewart Avenue to support the interconnection of new transmission and facilitate the delivery of energy to address increasing demand.

Four open houses are scheduled in May to learn more about this project.

Click [here](#) to learn more.



Please join us at our open houses to learn more about upgrades to the

Uniondale Hub Substation

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NY Power Authority

Open House Dates:

Tuesday, May 27

1 p.m. – 3 p.m. & 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Uniondale Public Library

400 Uniondale Ave, Uniondale, NY 11553

Thursday, May 29

1 p.m. – 3 p.m. & 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Garden City Public Library

60 7th Street, Garden City, NY 11530

Promoting Incentives for Small Business Week on Long Island

PSEG Long Island is celebrating Small Business Week (May 4-10) by inviting LIPA's small business customers to learn how they can save money through our energy efficiency and bill credit programs, economic development grants, and clean energy incentives (EV, battery, and solar).

To date, 72 businesses have received nearly \$2 million in grants under the Main Street Revitalization program, including Zuzu, pictured right, located at 202 Main St. in Farmingdale.

In addition to the direct to business grants, local business groups such as chambers of commerce, business improvement districts and civic associations that support small businesses are eligible for improvement and beautification grants of up to \$10,000 each.

Under PSEG Long Island's Community Thrive Program, business organizations may qualify for reimbursement for items such as outdoor seating areas and tables, planters, and signage to encourage dining and commerce in downtown areas. The grant opportunity is open through September 30.



SAMMY CHU: BATTERY STORAGE IS KEY TO ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS



As a lifelong Long Islander, I've seen firsthand what happens when our energy system fails. I lived through Superstorm Sandy and helped lead recovery efforts in its aftermath — and I don't need to remind those who went weeks without power and spent hours on gas lines that grid resilience isn't just a buzzword. It's a necessity — one we must urgently prioritize.

Unfortunately, more than a decade later, the challenge not only persists, but it's more complex than ever. The surge in electric vehicles, the rise of data centers and the electrification of homes and businesses are pushing Long Island's energy demand to unprecedented levels. This isn't just about the next superstorm — it's about how we power everyday life for families and small businesses right now. Our existing grid wasn't designed for this kind of load, and without proactive investment, we risk higher costs, decreased reliability and a system stretched to its breaking point.

And the pressure is mounting. The Long Island Power Authority anticipates a steep rise in electricity demand in the coming years. Storage will be key. Planned battery storage projects in Shoreham and Hauppauge are expected to deliver 129 megawatts of capacity, enough to power 25,000 homes once they're operational in 2028. These aren't theoretical solutions; they're essential to keeping Long Islanders' lights on. And they demonstrate that the public and private sectors can work together to address infrastructure challenges with innovative solutions.

Battery energy storage systems are a smart response to this challenge. By storing excess energy during off-peak times and discharging it when demand peaks, these systems stabilize the grid without requiring massive infrastructure overhauls. They help prevent blackouts, curb price spikes, and improve efficiency. In short, they let us do more with what we already have, and that's a win for everyone.

One of BESS's most powerful features is its flexibility. It can store energy from any source — solar, wind, natural gas — and dispatch it where and when it's needed most. This ability to smooth out fluctuations in supply and demand

is crucial not just for stability, but also for affordability. And as more renewable sources come online, storage becomes even more important in ensuring that clean power doesn't go to waste.

And we don't have to look far to see BESS in action. On Long Island, Brookhaven recently approved two major battery storage projects that will add more than 300 megawatts of capacity to the grid. These facilities will store renewable energy when production is high and release it during peak usage — cutting costs, improving reliability and reducing emissions. As New York state accelerates its clean energy goals, battery storage projects like these will prove to be a critical tool for making our power system cleaner, smarter and more resilient. They also mean job creation and local investment, as the clean energy economy continues to grow.

Beyond environmental benefits, BESS has an economic upside. Without storage, rising demand can trigger price volatility, hurting working families and small business owners most. Battery storage helps keep costs predictable by reducing reliance on expensive “peaker” plants. And for high-tech industries like AI, data processing and advanced manufacturing, energy stability isn't just a bonus — it's a requirement for doing business. The long-term economic competitiveness of our region depends on getting this right.

Of course, safety must be top of mind. Modern battery storage systems are equipped with cutting-edge fire-prevention measures, modular designs and rigorous safety protocols. Proposed updates to fire codes will go even further, requiring comprehensive emergency planning and more frequent inspections. These systems aren't just high-performing —they're engineered to be safe and dependable, with oversight from both developers and local authorities.

If we want Long Island to stay competitive, battery storage must become a core part of our energy strategy. That means updating regulations to enable faster deployment, incentivizing private investment and supporting community engagement. Doing nothing is not an option. The longer we wait, the more vulnerable we become — not just to storms, but also to soaring costs and system failures.

The future of energy here doesn't hinge on simply generating more power — it depends on using the power we already have more wisely. Battery storage is the bridge between today's strained grid and tomorrow's resilient, affordable and sustainable energy future. Let's not wait for the next storm or the next blackout to act. The time is now.

Opinion piece in LIHerald by Sammy Chu, Chairman of the *U.S. Green Building Council-Long Island Chapter* and *Chief Executive Officer of Edgewise Energy*.

NYSERDA ANNOUNCES \$15 MILLION AVAILABLE FOR CLEAN, RESILIENT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Building Cleaner Communities Competition Supports Carbon Reduction Strategies for Regionally Significant Commercial Projects Across the State

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) today announced \$15 million is now available for clean, resilient economic development projects as part of Round XV of Governor Kathy Hochul's [Regional Economic Development Council \(REDC\) initiative](#). The funding will help make it more affordable to adopt carbon reduction strategies in regionally significant commercial projects across the state.

President and CEO, NYSERDA Doreen M. Harris said, "Investing in carbon-neutral design and construction not only creates healthier communities but also brings jobs to New York State. With the expansion of the Building Cleaner Communities Competition to now include funding for community and campus-scale projects, I look forward to building new partnerships that can drive innovative building solutions and help lead the way toward a sustainable, resilient future."

The [Building Cleaner Communities Competition \(BCCC\)](#), administered in partnership with Empire State Development (ESD) and the New York Department of State's Downtown Revitalization Initiative, provides funding for carbon neutral design and construction projects in new construction and existing buildings to support regional economic development goals. The program is open to all projects while prioritizing incentives for projects located within low- to moderate-income communities or [disadvantaged communities](#) (DACs), as defined by New York's Climate Justice Working Group, to reduce emissions and improve the quality of life for residents and visitors.

The deadline for applications is **July 31, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.** Interested proposers can find more information or apply to this program [here](#).

This round of the Competition reintroduces funding for community and campus-scale projects in addition to commercial, industrial, institutional, municipal, and mixed-use building projects across New York State. Applicants may apply for incentives toward new construction or existing building renovation projects that are designed to achieve carbon neutral or net zero energy performance and demonstrate how the approach is replicable and cost effective. Applicants are encouraged to incorporate resiliency strategies that minimize environmental impact and ensure long-term performance, such as creating areas of refuge within the building, connecting to thermal energy networks to ensure diversity of energy resources, and incorporating backup power. A special focus will be given to project proposals that adopt solutions to reduce energy usage during peak times and lowers the use of global warming potential refrigerants.

Empire State Development President, CEO and Commissioner Hope Knight said, "New York's regional economic development and downtown revitalization initiatives have transformed the state's economy by leveraging our the productive partnerships within communities to power local projects that have the greatest positive long-term impact. As sustainability and the effects of climate change increasingly become a local issue, regions need strong, innovative solutions such as NYSERDA's Building Cleaner Communities Competition. By investing in clean, resilient development that includes community input, we're building a healthier, more inclusive and equitable future for all New Yorkers."

Passive House Accelerator Founder Michael Ingui said, “The Building Cleaner Communities competition is another example of a highly successful NYSERDA program that empowers people to build greener, low carbon, passive house buildings – while also enabling them to share their methods so others can follow. This initiative has already accelerated the development of better buildings and positively influenced the entire industry in New York and beyond.”

Buildings are one of the most significant sources of carbon emissions in New York State. Integrating energy efficiency and electrification measures into existing buildings will help modernize and achieve healthier buildings that meet the energy demands of New Yorkers. Since its launch in 2018, NYSERDA has awarded 70 projects and nearly \$85 million in incentives through BCCC. Additionally, over half of the projects awarded through the program since 2021 have supported developments in DACs and have received more than \$38 million, of the more than \$60 million awarded, to ensure an equitable and just transition to a clean energy economy.

This competition is part of the State’s Consolidated Funding Application (CFA), enabling businesses, municipalities, not-for-profits, and the public to apply for assistance through a single application from dozens of state programs for job-creation and community development projects [here](#).

Funding for this program is through the State’s 10-year, \$6 billion [Clean Energy Fund](#) and through the [Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative](#).

May 20, 2025 Albany, New York

GOVERNOR HOCHUL SUCCEEDS: GETTING NEW YORKERS BACK TO WORK ON EMPIRE WIND 1

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- 1** Empire Wind 1 is an offshore wind project under contract with NYSERDA, located 15-20 miles south of Long Island. 54 turbines spanning 80,000 acres will deliver 810 MW of renewable energy to its point of interconnection at the Sunset Park Onshore Substation (Con Edison's electric grid) located adjacent to the project's "South Brooklyn Marine Terminal." The project has the potential to power 500,000 New York homes.
- 2** The construction phase has put more than 1,500 people to work in the US. Empire Wind 1 has a gross book value of around \$2.5 billion, with \$1.5 billion already drawn per the project's finance loan facility.
- 3** **On April 16, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Doug Bergum halted the construction of Empire Wind 1**, citing the approvals provided to the developer, Equinor by the Biden Administration in 2024, were rushed and deficient. Further review of the project approval and applications are underway by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM).
- 4** Governor Kathy Hochul vows to fight the halt work order stating, "As Governor, I will not allow this federal overreach to stand. I will fight this every step of the way to protect union jobs, affordable energy, and New York's economic future."
- 5** In an all-hands-on-deck effort, Governor Hochul worked alongside Long Island Republicans, labor unions, business groups, and the New York City's Mayor's Office. She made several in person trips to speak directly with President Trump to persuade the administration to reinstate the project to avoid the loss of more than a thousand union jobs and produce the needed capacity of 810 megawatts of clean power for New York City residents.
- 6** **On May 19, at the recommendation of President Trump, Secretary of the Interior, Doug Bergum lifts the halt work order on Empire Wind 1.** The White House sited a compromise with Governor Hochul for expanded natural gas pipeline infrastructure in New York State.



SOUTH FORK WIND BENTHIC MONITORING PROGRAM & STORY MAP

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. South Fork Wind (SFW) has a comprehensive [benthic \(seafloor\) monitoring program](#) that includes targeted visual studies that span pre-construction, construction, and post-construction time periods.
2. These SFW benthic surveys **have not detected demonstrable changes in the biological communities** or benthic functions associated with a) soft sediments surrounding offshore wind structures, b) soft sediments along the export cable, or c) boulders relocated during seafloor preparation.
3. Wind farms **add new structure to the marine environment** that marine invertebrates attach to and grow on. The new habitat and availability of food resources brings fish and shellfish to the area in what is known as a “reef effect”. These SFW benthic visual surveys documented this effect, revealing numerous commercially, recreationally, and ecologically important species such as black sea bass, lobster, and flounder near the new structures. Some other species observed include Atlantic cod, scup, cunner, barrelfish, flounder, butterfish, jack, mahi mahi, triggerfish, Bermuda chub, winter and summer flounder, sculpin, spotted and red hake, ocean pout, and Atlantic rock/Jonah crabs.
4. These results conform to expectations based on observations from other projects that add new structure to the marine environment, including other offshore energy projects and the **targeted construction of artificial reefs**.
5. Comprehensive monitoring requirements aim to protect the valuable marine resources found in offshore habitats. To meet these requirements, independent science teams are conducting extensive visual monitoring surveys. Preliminary results provide **promising support for the hypothesis that these projects will have minimal environmental impact**, based on the first surveys at South Fork.

