

Clean Energy in New York and Local Governments

Jennifer Manierre
Director, Clean Energy Siting, NYSERDA

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Clean Energy Siting Team:
www.nyserda.ny.gov/Siting

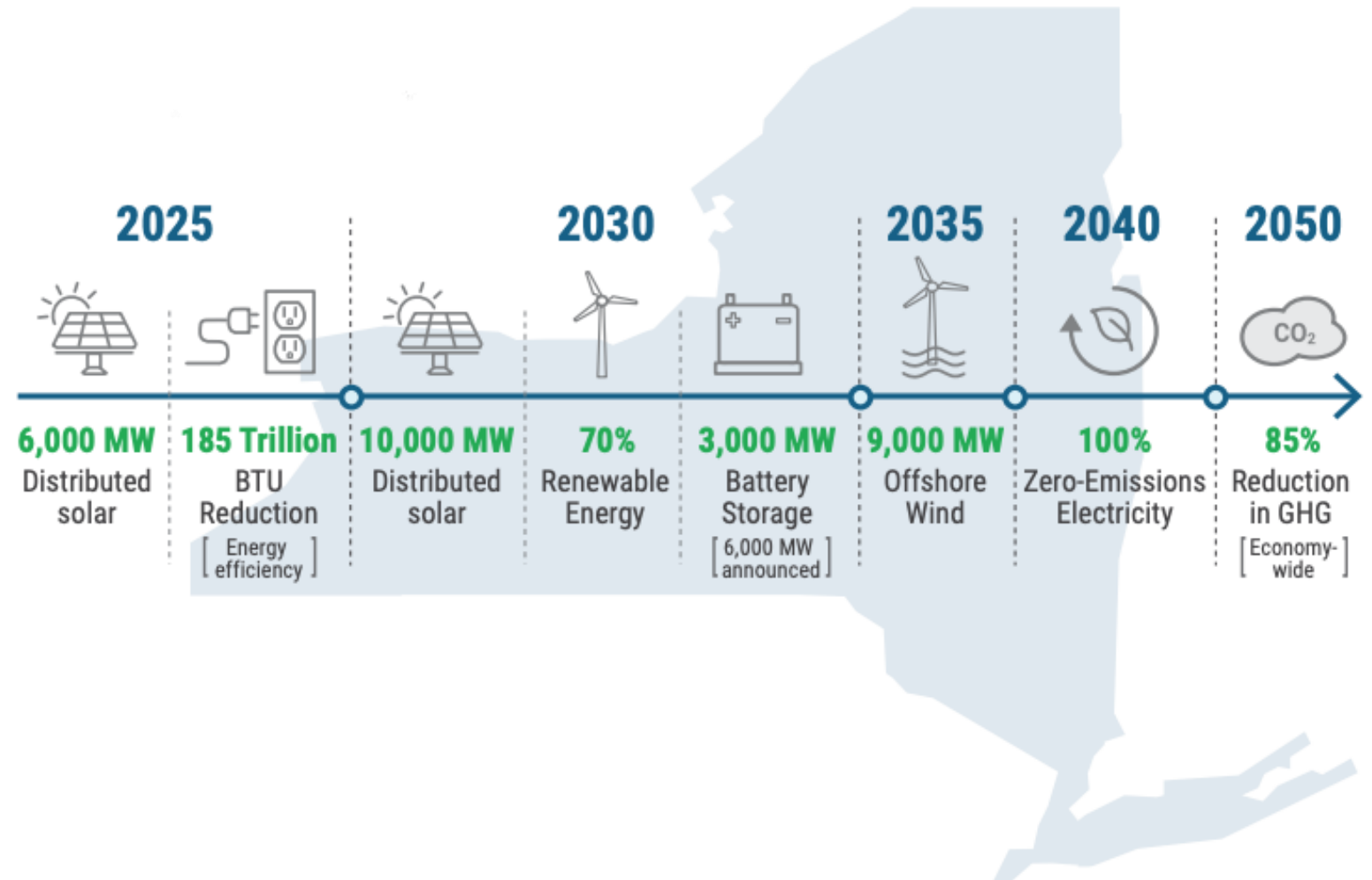


Overview: Clean Energy in NYS

NYS Clean Energy Landscape

Notable legislation & milestones:

- **2019:** Climate Leadership & Community Protection Act
- **2020:** Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth and Community Benefit Act
- **2022:** Climate Action Council Scoping Plan



Benefits of Clean Energy



Improved
public health



Increased U.S.
energy
independence



Job creation
throughout
renewable
energy
industries



Reduced
carbon
emissions and
air pollution
from energy
production



Enhanced
reliability,
security, and
resilience of
the nation's
power grid



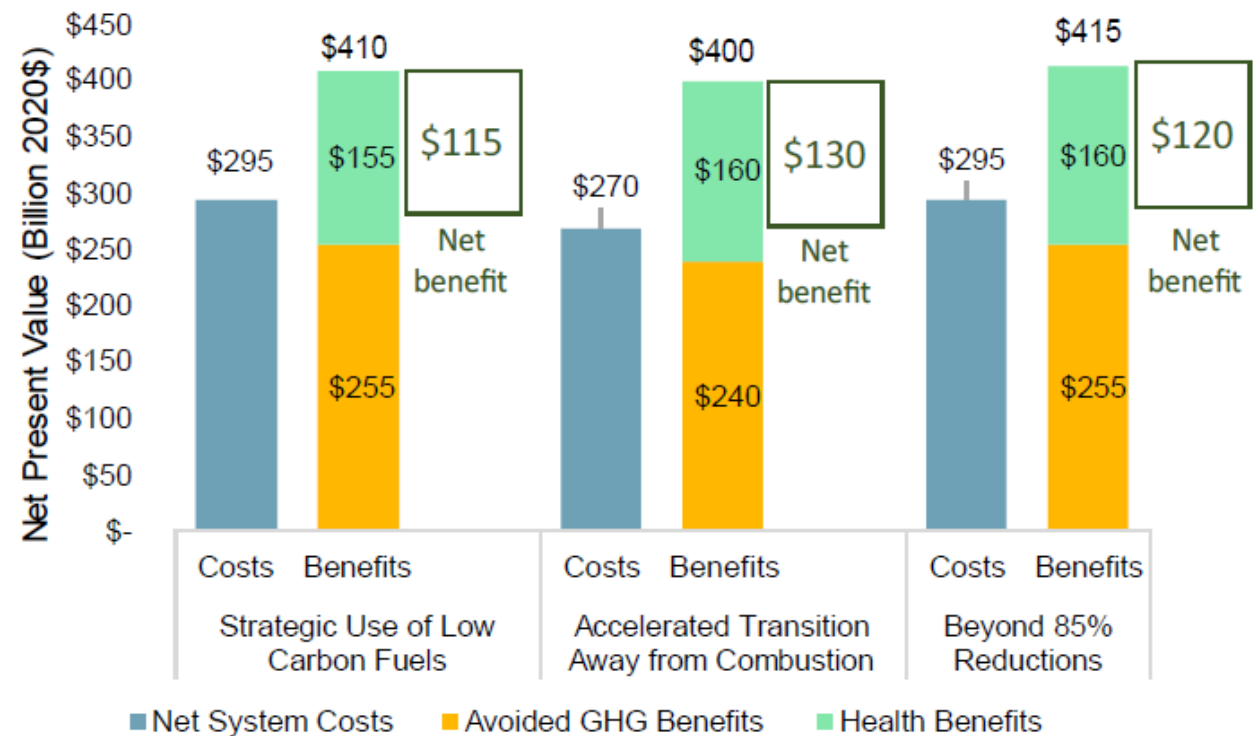
Expanded
clean energy
access for
non-grid-
connected or
remote,
coastal, or
islanded
communities

NYS Climate Action Council Scoping Plan

\$\$ Net Benefit \$\$

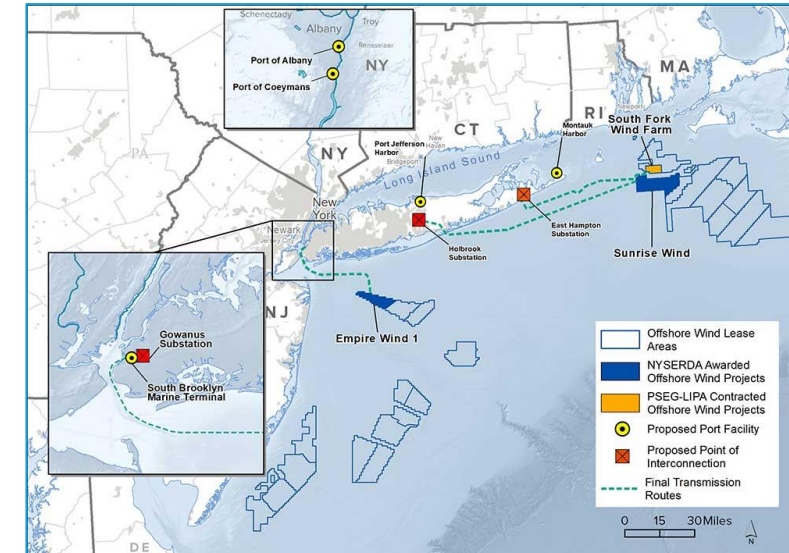
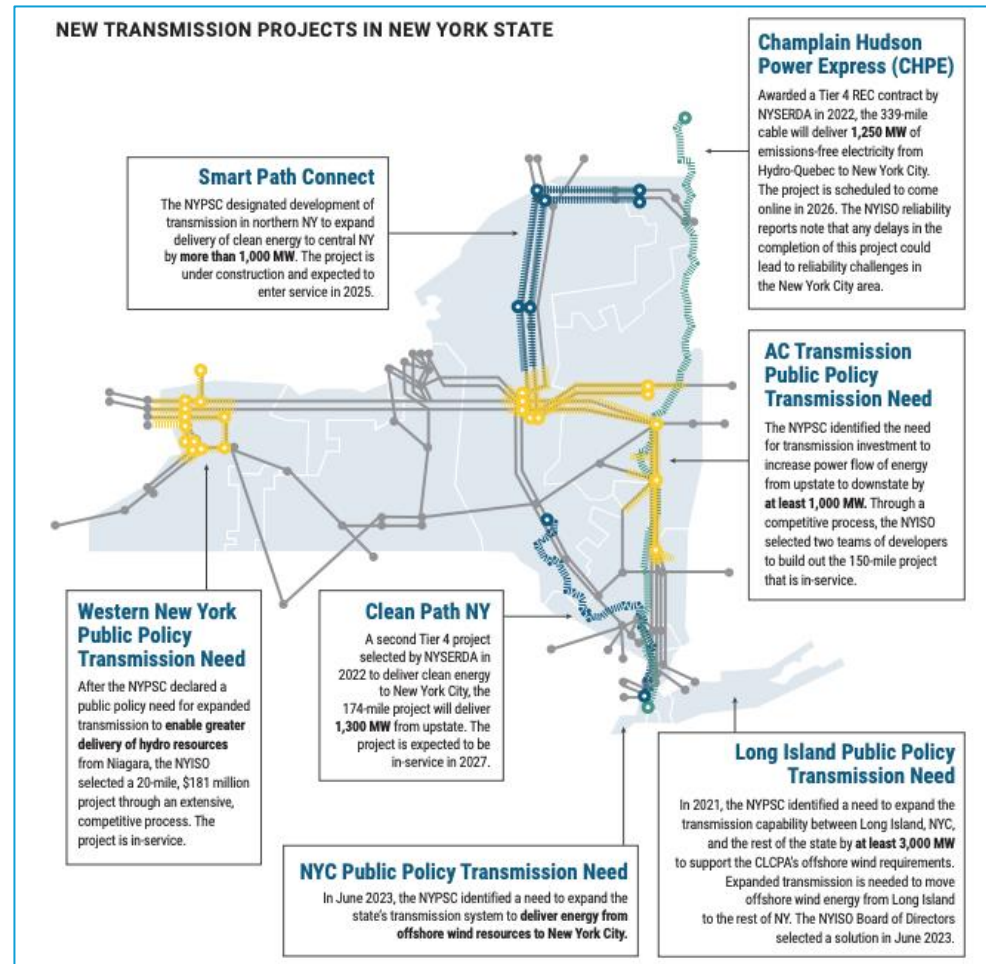
Avoided GHG Benefits and Health Benefits outweigh Costs

Figure 12. Summary of Benefits and Costs (NPV Relative to Reference Case)



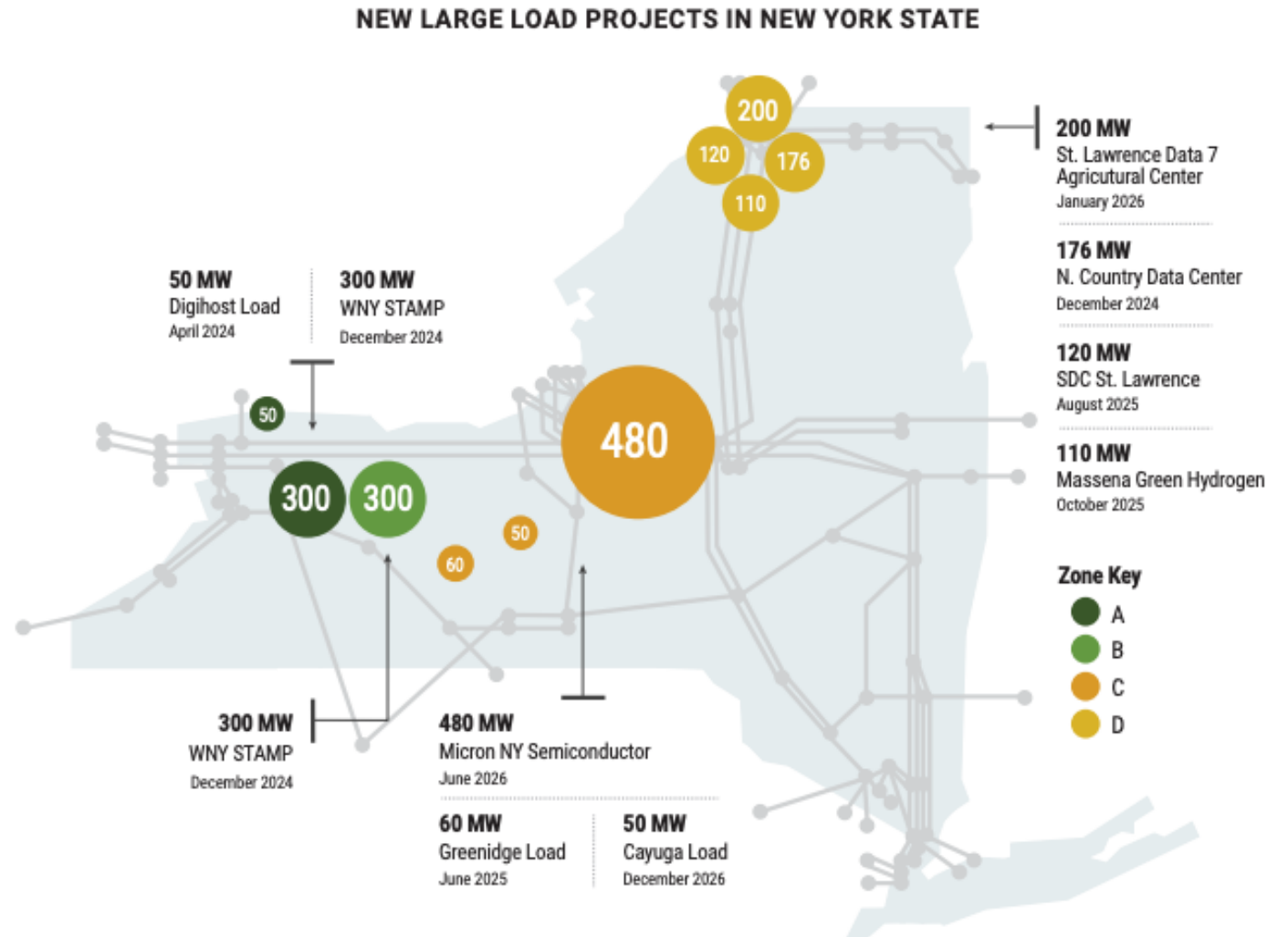
Notable efforts and investments

- Grid Infrastructure:
 - Tier 4 program
 - NYPA & IOU investments
- Renewables:
 - NY-Sun
 - Build-Ready
 - NYPA Build Public Renewables
 - Offshore Wind
- Energy storage
- 100% x 2040 activities
- Energy efficiency, electrification, and weatherization programs
- And many others!



Clean Energy in Context

Meaningful driver of economic development and job creation!



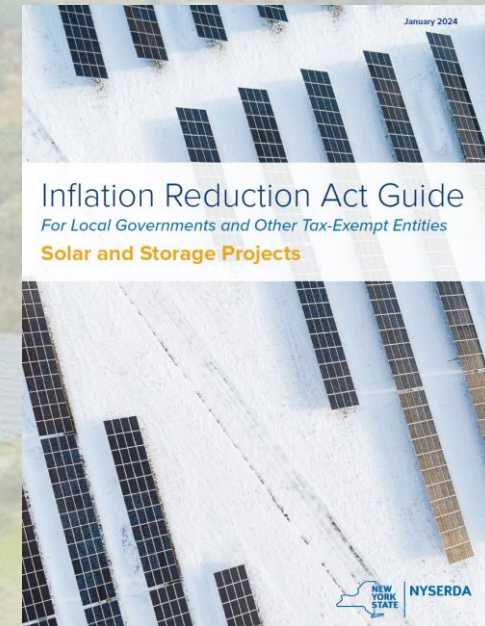
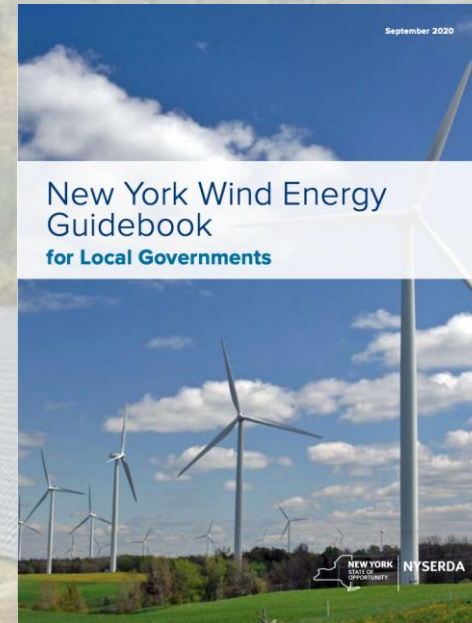
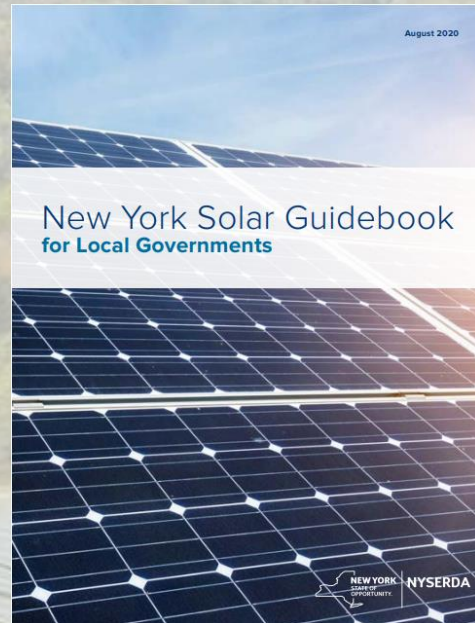
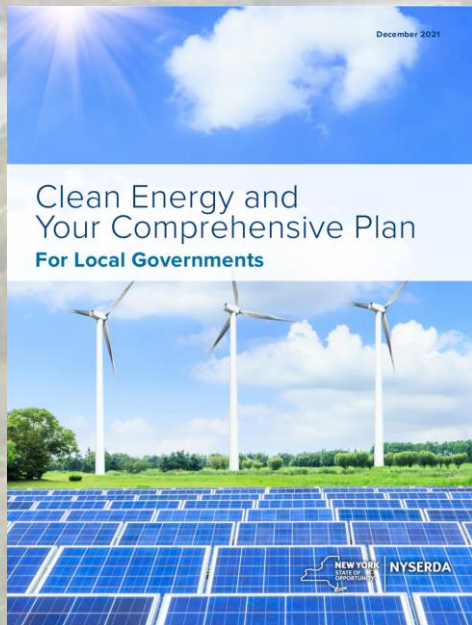
Capital District Large-Scale Solar Projects

https://data.ny.gov/Energy-Environment/Large-scale-Renewable-Projects-Reported-by-NYSERDA/dprp-55ye/about_data

County	Current or Pipeline Projects	Total MWs
Albany	1	20
Greene	3	130
Saratoga	1	19.99
Schenectady	1	19.99
Washington	2	39.98
Grand Total	8	229.96

County	Currently Canceled Projects	Total MWs
Columbia	2	79.99
Greene	3	72.38
Rensselaer	3	59.97
Saratoga	1	19.99
Schenectady	2	39.99
Washington	5	179.97
Grand Total	16	452.29

Free Technical Assistance for Local Governments



cleanenergyhelp@nyserda.ny.gov
www.nyserda.ny.gov/Siting

Permitting Clean Energy in NYS

Processes for regulating/permitting clean energy development will **vary based on size and type of the installation.**

For solar/wind:

- **Projects < 25 MW:** Permitted at local level (SEQR, municipal requirements)
- **Projects > 25 MW:** Permitted at State level (Article 10, Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission [ORES])

For energy storage:

- **Projects paired (or “co-located”) with large-scale renewable generators:** Permitted at State level
- **Projects not paired with large-scale generators:** Permitted at local level



Roles

Developers:

- Site selection/landowner leases
- Community engagement/negotiating benefits
- Completing environmental studies
- Navigating permitting
- Build/Operate/Maintain/Decommission

ORES:

- Reviewing and issuing permits > 25MW
- Ensuring Compliance

Local Governments:

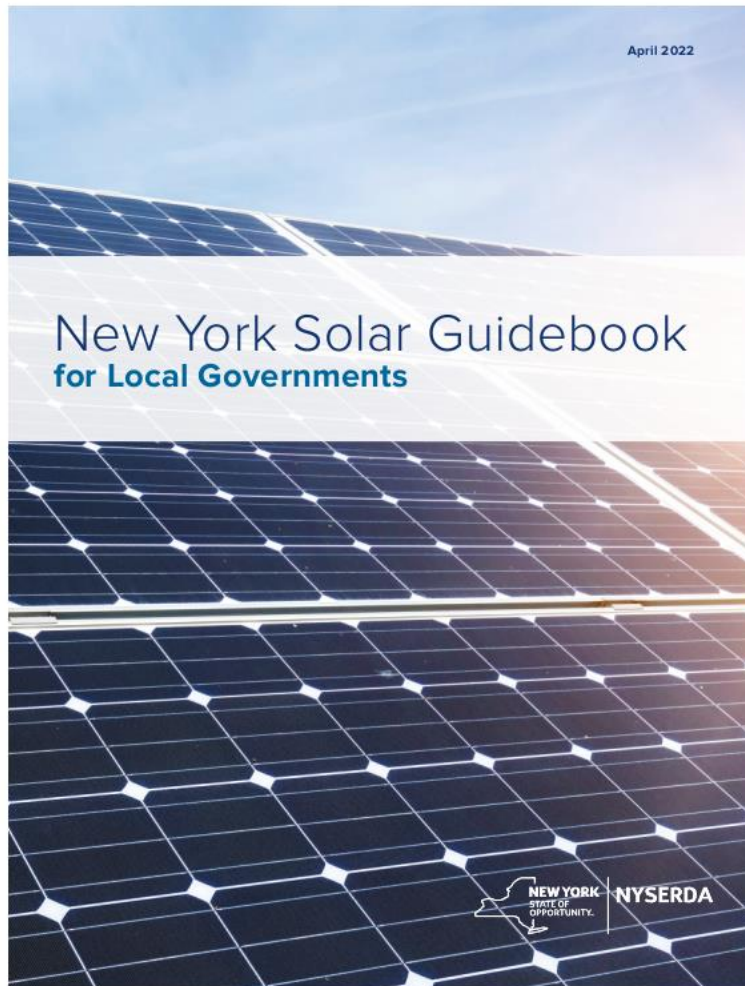
- Comprehensive planning and zoning
- Reviewing and issuing permits < 25MW and all stand-alone storage
- Negotiating community benefits
- Participating in ORES process (intervenor funding available)

NYSERDA teams:

- **Large-Scale Renewables:** Competitively select projects, contract to purchase Renewable Energy Certificates when operational
- **NY-Sun:** funding residential → 5MW Community Solar
- **Clean Energy Siting:** Technical assistance, education, and resources for local governments
- **Build-Ready:** Develop projects on underutilized land, de-risking and proving feasibility



Solar Guidebook for Local Governments



Chapter 1 - Solar PV Permitting and Inspecting in NYS

Chapter 2 - Roof Top Access and Ventilation Requirements

Chapter 3 - State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR)

Chapter 4 - NYS's Real Property Tax Law § 487

Chapter 5 - Solar Payment-In-Lieu-of-Taxes Toolkit

Chapter 6 - Using Special Use Permits and Site Plan Regulations

Chapter 7 - Solar Installations in Agricultural Districts

Chapter 8 - Landowner Considerations for Solar Land Leases

Chapter 9 - Decommissioning Solar Panel Systems

Chapter 10 - Model Solar Energy Local Law

Chapter 11 – Municipal Solar Procurement Toolkit

Model Law Contents

Section 1: Authority

Section 2: Statement of Purpose

Section 3: Definitions

Section 4: Applicability

Section 5: General Requirements

Section 6: Permitting Requirements for Tier 1 Solar Energy Systems

Section 7: Permitting Requirements for Tier 2 Solar Energy Systems

Section 8: Permitting Requirements for Tier 3 Solar Energy Systems

Section 9: Permitting Requirements for Tier 4 Solar Energy Systems

Section 10: Safety

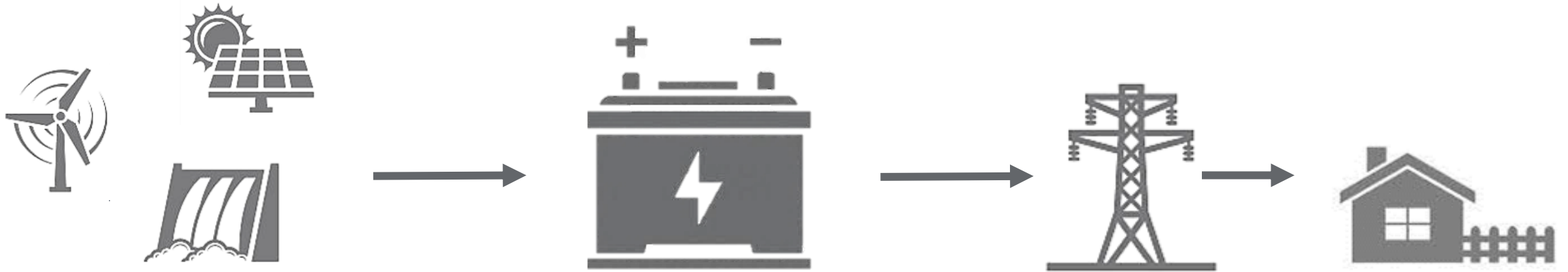
Section 11: Permit Time Frame and Abandonment

Section 12: Enforcement

Section 13: Severability

Why are we talking about batteries?

As New York State transitions to renewable energy technologies like wind and solar, energy storage will play a critical role by providing power when the wind isn't blowing, or the sun isn't shining.



Fire Safety

- > **All electric infrastructure and devices have associated fire hazards**
 - > Underwriters Laboratories (UL) has developed over 1,700 safety standards since 1903
- > **Lithium-ion cells can experience thermal runaway**
 - UL 9540A test is designed to provide data for code officials to understand the effects of thermal runaway in a particular product
 - Peer Reviewers can interpret UL 9540A test results on behalf of AHJs
- > **There are both proactive and reactive measures to address thermal runaway**

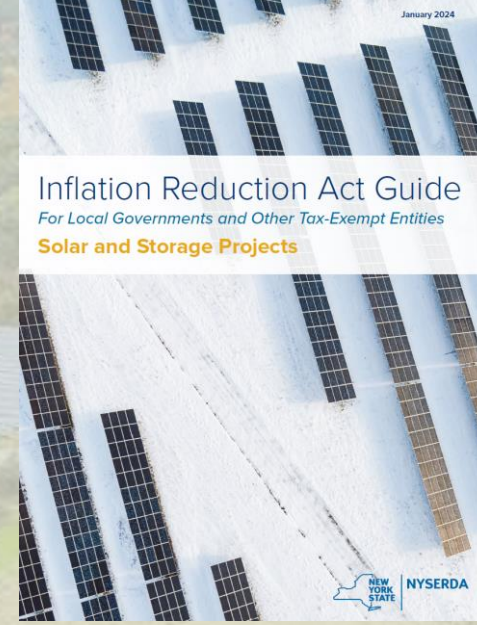
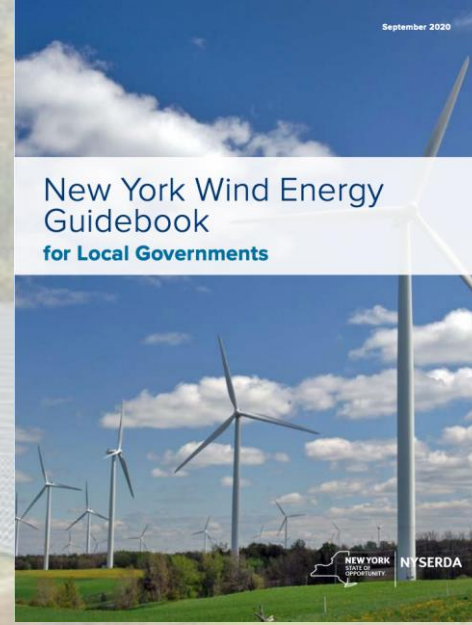
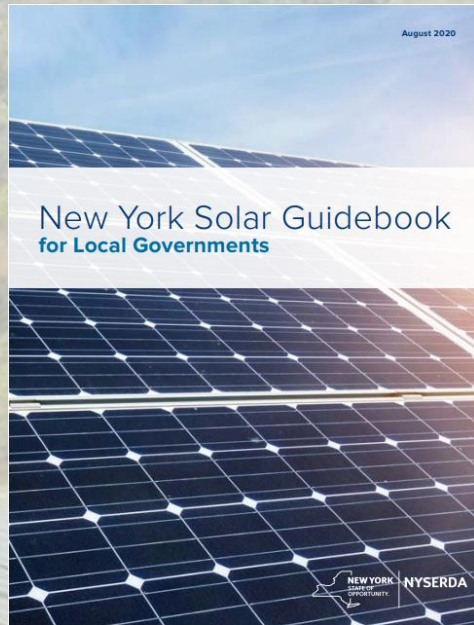
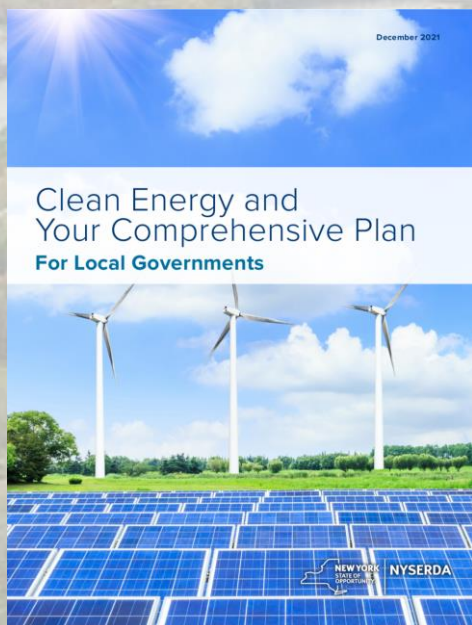


Fire Safety – What you can do now

- > Adopt a well-considered energy storage law
- > Require peer review
- > Require owner-dispatched fire mitigation personnel
- > As part of Site Plan Review:
 - > Require enhanced signage
 - > Require emergency response plans/training
- > Follow Governor Hochul's [Inter-agency Fire Safety Working Group](#)



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