

STATE OF NEW YORK
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CASE 15-E-0082 - Proceeding on Motion of the Commission as to
the Policies, Requirements and Conditions for
Implementing a Community Net Metering Program.

NOTICE OF
COLLABORATIVE MEETING CONCERNING COMMUNITY DISTRIBUTED
GENERATION FOR LOW-INCOME CUSTOMERS

(Issued September 3, 2015)

A notice issued on August 19, 2015 advised that Staff will convene a collaborative meeting with interested parties to investigate and evaluate low-income customer participation in community distributed generation, including removing potential barriers to their participation and devising possible demonstration projects to encourage broad participation.

The collaborative meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 9, 2015, beginning at 10:30 A.M. at the New York State Department of Public Service's Albany Office, 19th Floor Boardroom, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, New York. Video conferencing will be available from the New York City and Buffalo Offices.¹

Participation by teleconferencing will also be available. The toll-free dial-in number is (866)394-2346; the conference code is 8467991713#.

¹ Parties planning to attend the collaborative meeting at the Buffalo or New York City locations should e-mail Laurie Fahrenkopf at Laurie.Fahrenkopf@dps.ny.gov by no later than September 4, 2015 in order to comply with security arrangements.

Locations of the offices: New York City Office, 90 Church Street, 4th Floor Video Conference Room, New York, New York; and Buffalo Office, Ellicott Square Building, 295 Main Street, 10th Floor Video Conference Room, Buffalo, New York.

The meeting agenda will include an overview on the key components of the Commission's July 17, 2015 Order and the objectives of the collaborative. The following questions will be discussed.

1. What are the barriers and technical constraints to low-income customer participation in Community Distributed Generation (DG)? What mechanisms may be employed to remove such barriers?
2. Should there be a statewide standardized contract for all customers, including low-income, participating in Community DG? What components should such contracts contain, including customer disclosure information?
3. How can other existing weatherization and energy efficiency programs be incorporated with Community DG for low-income customers? Should energy-efficiency measures be required for all low-income members?
4. What information is needed to inform low-income customers of Community DG opportunities and benefits? How should it be disseminated to potential customers?
5. Should other participation criteria be considered for low-income customers besides the participation in utility-administered low-income discount programs? If so, what participation criteria should be allowed and what verification process should be established? Should participants have to recertify and, if so, what happens to customers who are no longer eligible?
6. Should a standardized statewide uniform process be established for sharing information, including credits, between utilities and project sponsors? If so, what would that process entail?
7. What consumer protections should be in place for low-income customers who participate in Community DG projects?
8. What kinds of Community DG business and/or finance models would be expected (or should be encouraged) to serve low-income customers?

- a. Should specific grant programs and technical assistance be established for non-profit developers and/or organizations? What types of programs should be made available?
 - b. How can the NY-SUN and/or Green Bank programs provide additional incentives for low-income customer participation? Should a portion of the 2016-2023 NY-SUN Operating Plan provide financial support for pilot demonstration projects?
9. Should incentives be established to ensure low-income participation goals? If so, how?
 10. Should other utility customers and/or subscribers subsidize, in whole or part, low-income customer participation in Community DG?
 11. If a Community DG project sponsor/developer receives additional benefits based on low-income membership at the time of project development, should there also be the reporting requirements over some or all of the life of the project? Should there be a requirement to maintain the level of low-income participation over the life of the project?
 12. What requirements or guidelines should Community DG products (and/or the marketing of these products) for low-income members be subject to? Should these requirements differ from those for "market rate" customers?

Questions may be directed to Honor Kennedy, Office of Consumer Services, at (518)474-0479 or Honor.Kennedy@dps.ny.gov; or Chelsea Kruger at (518)474-2501 or Chelsea.Kruger@dps.ny.us.

(SIGNED)

KATHLEEN H. BURGESS
Secretary