



**Public Service
Commission**

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Rory M. Christian, Chair

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PSC Authorizes Utilities' Regional Residential Weatherization Program Proposals

Standardized Regional Plans Will Maximize Use of Ratepayer Funds for Non-Low-to-Moderate Income Programs

Actions Reinforce Residential Weatherization as Foundational to Enabling Decarbonization and Electrification

ALBANY – The Public Service Commission (Commission) today approved the proposals, budgets, and energy savings targets for the Non-Low-to-Moderate-Income (Non-LMI) Regional Residential Weatherization Program (RRWP) proposals by New York's major investor-owned utilities, with modifications, for the period of 2027 through 2030. The RRWP approach promotes standardization of market rate weatherization programs, serving the single-family residential sector (one- to four- unit buildings) across the state; helping to reduce market confusion, lower administrative costs, and maximize the use of ratepayer funds that directly support program offerings.

The Commission considers weatherization as a key strategy to help reduce energy consumption, lower energy bills, and reduce demand on the overall energy system. The Commission must balance the pursuit of greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions aligned with Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) decarbonization policy objectives with affordability concerns. Weatherization is a key energy efficiency strategy which, regardless of the fuel type, can reduce energy usage, thereby reducing energy costs and saving customers money. Weatherization can also ensure that residential customers who choose to pursue electrification of their space heating in the future do so in the most efficient manner. Efficient building electrification is essential to mitigate anticipated future winter electric demand and lower total future energy system costs for all ratepayers.

Public Service Commission Chair and CEO Rory Christian said, "There is a direct and strong relationship between weatherization measures and affordability. Efficiency enabled by weatherization can reduce the amount of energy customers pay for on a permanent basis."

The Order contains numerous directives to ensure coherent and effective program implementation, including required annual report filings, convening of contractor roundtables, continuous coordination

efforts between the utilities, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), Department of Public Service (DPS) Staff and stakeholders, alignment of contractor requirements, alignment of Quality Assurance/Quality Control requirements, and working with NYSERDA to leverage existing NYSERDA-administered financing programs.

The Commission's actions establish a program oversight and management framework that includes annual RRWP Implementation Plan filings to present detailed budgets, incentive structures, and plans to reduce barriers to participation in Disadvantaged Communities, and annual report filings to detail the performance and progress of the programs. These actions reinforce a core objective to shift energy efficiency efforts in the residential sector towards comprehensive building weatherization as a foundational step for building decarbonization and efficient electrification.

The RRWP proposals set forth a plan to use a single Implementation Contractor to administer the RRWPs within each respective region (Upstate and Downstate). The Upstate Utilities propose a single, combined target and budget of \$368 million (approximately \$260 million for electric and \$107 million for gas) for the entire region. The Downstate Utilities propose a single, combined target and budget of \$629 million (approximately \$342 million for electric and \$287 million for gas) for Con Edison and KEDNY that would address all activity in New York City and Westchester County, while KEDLI would manage a mirroring program using the same Implementation Contractor, but with its own budget and target for its service territory. The Upstate utilities include Central Hudson, National Fuel Gas (NFG), Niagara Mohawk (National Grid), NYSEG, Orange & Rockland (O&R), and RG&E. The Downstate utilities include Con Edison, KEDLI (National Grid), and KEDNY (National Grid).

The utilities were allocated minimum budgets and directed to file Non-LMI RRWP proposals to serve Non-LMI small residential homes statewide and Non-LMI multifamily residential buildings in the Downstate region as part of the Commission's May 2025 Order approving NYSERDA and the utilities' energy efficiency and building electrification (EE/BE) proposals and authorized budgets for the Non-LMI EE/BE portfolios for the 2026-2030 period. As part of that Order, the Commission directed the utilities to commence operation of the respective RRWPs no later than January 1, 2027. The utilities filed initial RRWP proposals in August 2025, and subsequently filed multiple updates for Commission review.

As part of today's Order, the utilities are directed to convene a meeting for interested stakeholders within 45 days to discuss barriers to participation in Disadvantaged Communities and articulate actions to be included in the RRWP Implementation Plans to address these barriers. The utilities are also directed to convene a roundtable within 45 days for interested installation contractors in both the Upstate and Downstate regions so that feedback from the interested installation contractors may be incorporated into the final Upstate and Downstate RRWP Implementation Plans.

Today's Order directs the utilities to file their first RRWP Implementation Plans for DPS Staff approval by November 1, 2026. Annual RRWP Implementation Plans for the calendar years 2028-2030 shall be filed by November 1 of the prior year. The utilities are directed to file RRWP Annual Reports, contemporaneously with the Non-LMI comprehensive EE/BE annual report filing, including a detailed accounting of total expenditures, each utility's contribution towards the total expenditures, forecasted and actual energy savings, forecasted and actual number of projects completed within each utility's territory, and lessons learned. A portion of the utilities' RRWP program budgets will be reserved for DPS Staff to conduct RRWP evaluation studies.

Within 60 days of the close out date for the Comfort Home program, NYSERDA is directed to file a detailed report of the remaining Comfort Home program funds encumbered to be spent, which were

authorized by the Commission as part of the May 2025 Order to be utilized until January 1, 2027, or until the RRWPs became active. Any remaining balance shall be reprogrammed, in consultation with DPS Staff, through a refiling of the NYSERDA Non-LMI EE/BE Implementation Plan.

Documents regarding this proceeding may be obtained by going to the Search section of the Commission's Web site at www.dps.ny.gov, under 'Commission Files', and entering Case Number 25-M-0248 in the input box labeled "Search by Case Number". Many libraries offer free Internet access. Commission documents may also be obtained from the Commission's Files Office, 14th floor, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223 (518-474-2500). If you have difficulty understanding English, please call us at 1-800-342-3377 for free language assistance services regarding this press release. For more information, you may also visit your service provider's website.