

## **Request for Application To Make Voluntary Contributions to the Renewable Energy Access and Community Help Program**

### **Section 1: Introduction**

This Request for Application (“RFA”) is intended to provide a simple mechanism for renewable energy developers, battery storage developers, and other interested entities (“Applicants”) to make voluntary contributions towards the Renewable Energy Access and Community Help Program (“REACH”) to provide utility bill relief to low-income New Yorkers in disadvantaged communities.

Applicants are encouraged to respond to this RFA, which is non-binding, to learn more about the program and, if interested in participating and eligible, enter into a [Voluntary Contribution Agreement](#).

The New York Power Authority (“NYPA”) anticipates that renewable energy and energy storage developers may elect to enter into one or more Voluntary Contribution Agreements with NYPA to contribute funding to REACH and to help satisfy disadvantaged community commitments under their renewable energy certificate or indexed storage credit agreements with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (“NYSERDA”). NYSERDA has traditionally scored proposals favorably that include specific disadvantaged community commitments, such as voluntary contributions to REACH; e.g., see Section 5.6.3 *Disadvantaged Communities Economic Benefit Commitments* of NYSERDA’s [ISCRFP25-1](#); and see Section 2.6.4, *Disadvantaged Communities Economic Benefit Commitments* of NYSERDA’s [RESRFP25-1](#) (stating: “NYSERDA will allow Incremental Economic Benefits claims to include commitments to the Renewable Energy Access and Community Help program (“REACH”), which funds electric utility bill credits for low-income ratepayers in disadvantaged communities.”)

**Responding to this RFA is optional, and failure to respond will not affect an Applicant’s ability to respond to future sourcing requests or opportunities with NYPA.**

### **Section 2: Background**

NYPA is the largest state public power organization in the U.S., operating 16 generating facilities and more than 1,550 circuit-miles of transmission lines. More than 70 percent of the electricity NYPA produces is clean renewable hydropower. NYPA uses no tax money or state credit. It finances its operations through the sale of bonds and revenues earned in large part through sales of electricity. NYPA provides the lowest-cost electricity in New York State and is the only statewide electricity supplier. State and federal regulations determine NYPA’s customer base, which includes large and small businesses, not-for-profit organizations, community-owned electric systems and rural electric cooperatives and government entities.

In July 2019, the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act<sup>1</sup> (“Climate Act”) was signed into law, mandating the nation-leading clean energy targets, as enhanced since enactment: 70% renewable energy by 2030, 100% zero emissions grid by 2040, 9 GW of offshore wind by 2035, 6 GW of distributed solar by 2025, 10 GW of distributed solar by 2030, and 6 GW of energy storage by 2030. The Climate Act

---

<sup>1</sup> [NY State Senate Bill S6599 \(nysenate.gov\)](https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2019/6599)

also underscored the importance of bringing benefits to disadvantaged communities in the State's achievement of these goals.

On May 3, 2023, Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2023 was enacted as a part of the 2023-2024 Enacted State Budget ("Enhanced Authority"). Among other things, the Enhanced Authority amended the Power Authority Act to give NYPA the ability to, among other things, establish and support the Renewable Energy Access and Community Help (REACH) Program to provide bill credits to low-income or moderate-income end-use electricity consumers in disadvantaged communities.

On January 31, 2024, NYPA filed a petition ("REACH Petition") with the Public Service Commission ("Commission") to establish REACH in cooperation with the Joint Utilities.<sup>2</sup> On October 16, 2024, after public notice and comment, the Commission issued an "Order Implementing Renewable Energy Access and Community Help Program," in Commission Case No. 24-E-0084, approving the REACH Petition with modifications ("REACH Order").<sup>3</sup> The REACH Order incorporated NYPA's proposal, as set forth in the REACH Petition, to receive voluntary contributions from third parties, such as private developers, seeking to benefit disadvantaged communities by supporting REACH.<sup>4</sup>

NYPA is now seeking such voluntary contributions from private developers to provide REACH Bill Credits to disadvantaged community members in New York. NYPA proposes to list such developers on the Authority's website as REACH Program Participants. As set forth in the REACH Petition, NYPA anticipates that renewable energy developers may elect to enter into one or more Voluntary Contribution Agreements with NYPA to contribute funding to the REACH and to help satisfy disadvantaged community commitments under their renewable energy certificate or indexed storage credit agreements with NYSERDA. NYSERDA has traditionally scored proposals favorably that include specific disadvantaged community commitments, such as voluntary contributions to REACH. Accepting such funding will provide project developers with a simplified approach to making direct contributions to REACH, and in turn disadvantaged communities, to advance the CLCPA requirement that at least 35% with a goal of 40% of program benefits be allocated to disadvantaged communities.

---

<sup>2</sup> Petition of the Power Authority of the State of New York to Establish the Renewable Energy Access and Community Help Program, Commission Case 24-E-0084 (filed January 31, 2024), available at: <https://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/Common/ViewDoc.aspx?DocRefId={303B608D-0000-C11B-B9C4-7C814F8092F1}>.

<sup>3</sup> Case 24-E-0084, Petition of New York Power Authority to Establish the Renewable Energy Access and Community Help Program, Order Implementing Renewable Energy Access and Community Help Program (Issued October 16, 2024), available at: <https://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/Common/ViewDoc.aspx?DocRefId={301D9692-0000-CD1D-9C85-F65414C77CA5}>.

<sup>4</sup> See PAL § 1005 (27-b)(c)(iv), which authorizes and directs NYPA, as deemed feasible and advisable by its Trustees, to "enter into contracts for purposes of implementing REACH, including but not limited to agreements with developers, owners and operators of renewable energy systems ... to provide for bill credits to end-use electricity consumers in disadvantaged communities for renewable energy produced by renewable energy systems, upon terms and conditions approved by the [C]ommission...."

### Section 3: Application, Suitability, and Agreement Terms

To apply, please fill out the [\*\*NYPA REACH RFA Web Form\*\*](#).

Once received by NYPA, the application will be reviewed to ensure the Applicant is suitable to contract with NYPA through a review of the information provided in Section B of the Application – Applicant Suitability.

When NYPA has completed its review of the Application, the Applicant and NYPA will work together, using the form Voluntary Contribution Agreement, to customize the agreement to the confines of the contribution amount and the Applicant's needs.

### Section 4: Schedule

RFA issued: October 7, 2025

RFA responses due: Open window until closed by NYPA. Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis.

### Section 5: Conditions & Disclaimers

To request that your Application remain confidential please mark it "Confidential" or "Proprietary." Information labeled as such will be kept confidential to the extent allowed by Public Officers Law, Section 89(5). All information provided by any Applicant pursuant to this RFA shall become the property of NYPA upon receipt and without restriction or limitation on its use. Any subsequent actions recommended by NYPA will be subject to all applicable laws and regulations.

This RFA is neither a contract offer nor a request for proposals and does not commit NYPA to award a contract or pay any costs incurred by a party in the preparation of a response to this RFA. This RFA is not a procurement action, and will not result in a pre-qualification of bidders for a future procurement action, nor will it result in a procurement contract or services contract.

Potential Applicants are encouraged to respond to this RFA; however, failure to submit a response will not impact a potential Applicant's ability to participate in or respond to any future competitive solicitation process (if any) for projects. NYPA reserves the right to discontinue or modify this RFA process at any time, and makes no commitments, implied or otherwise, that this process will result in any future solicitations.