NYSERDA Clean Energy Support for Local Governments

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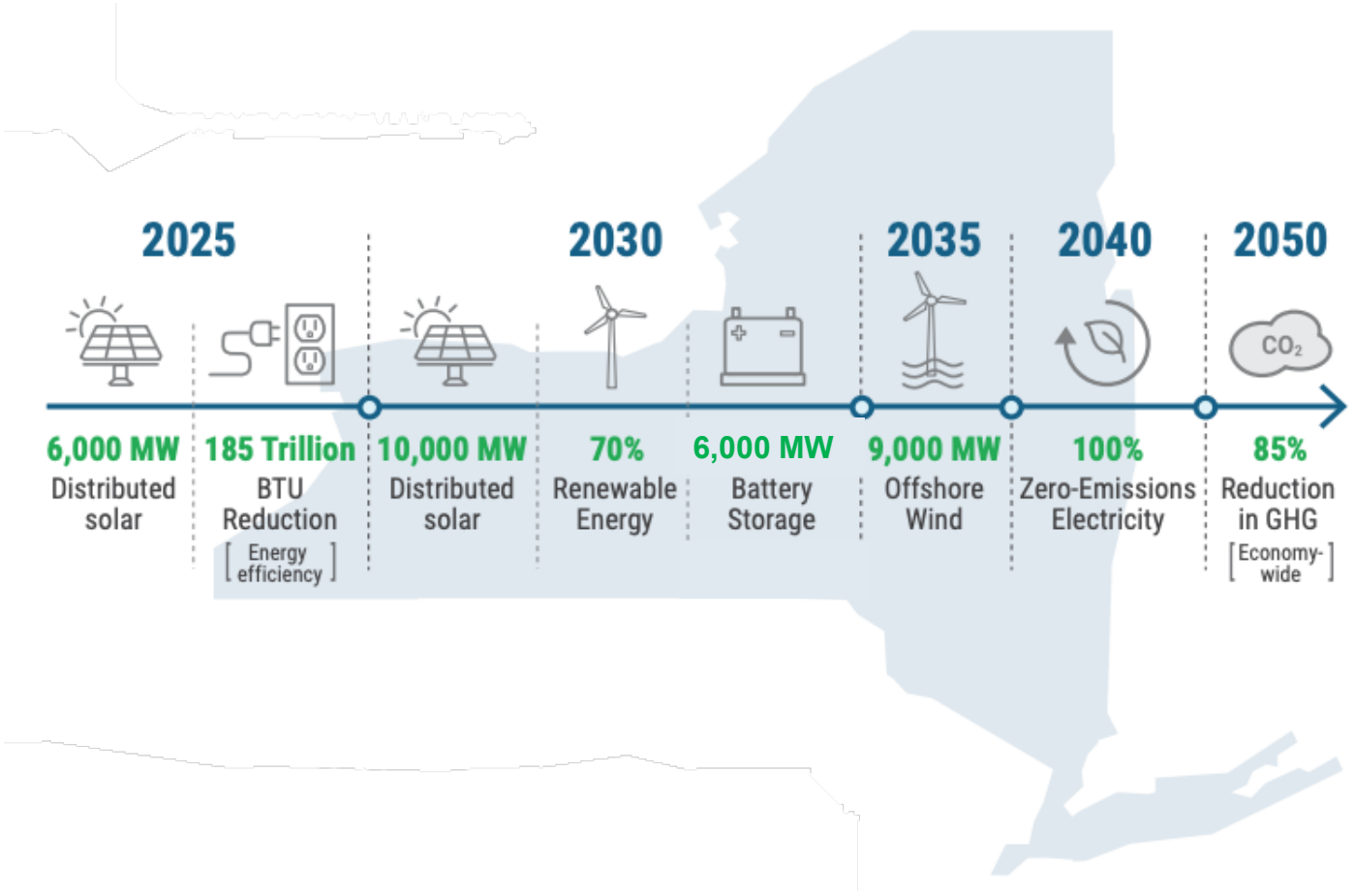
NYS Clean Energy Landscape

Notable legislation & milestones:

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

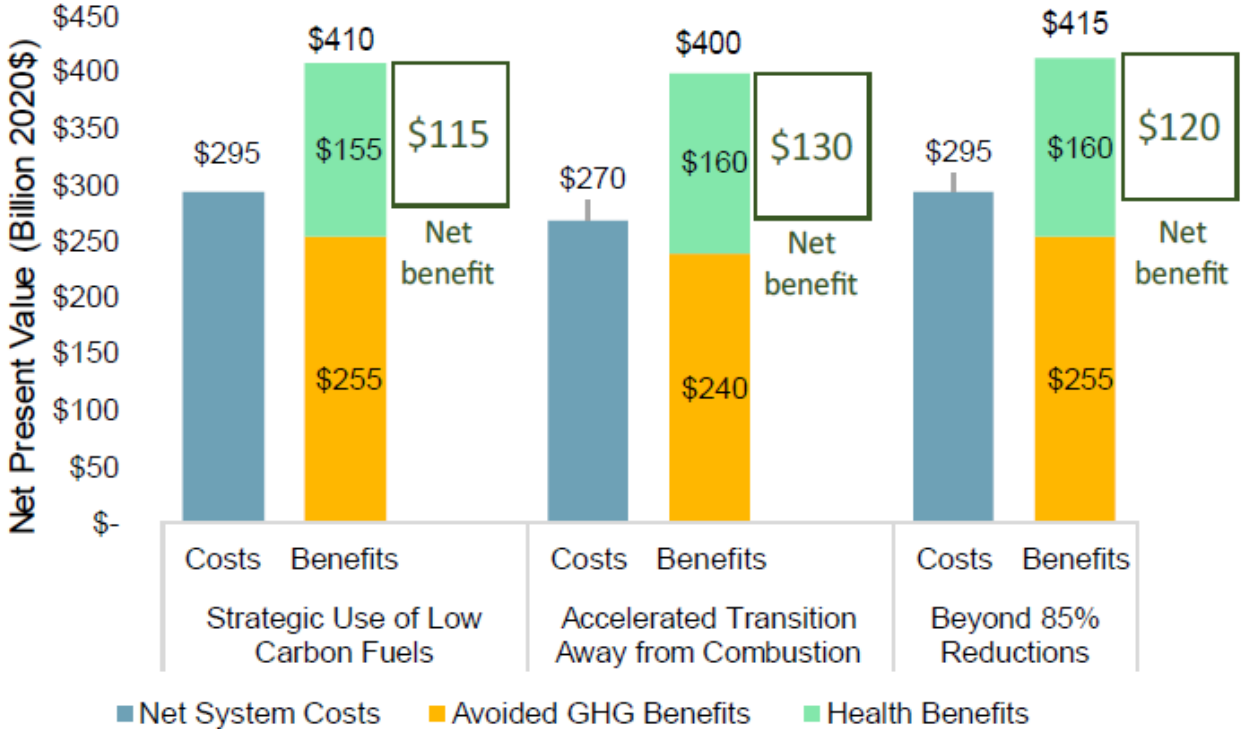


NYS Climate Action Council Scoping Plan

$$ Net Benefit $$

Avoided GHG Benefits and Health Benefits outweigh Costs

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

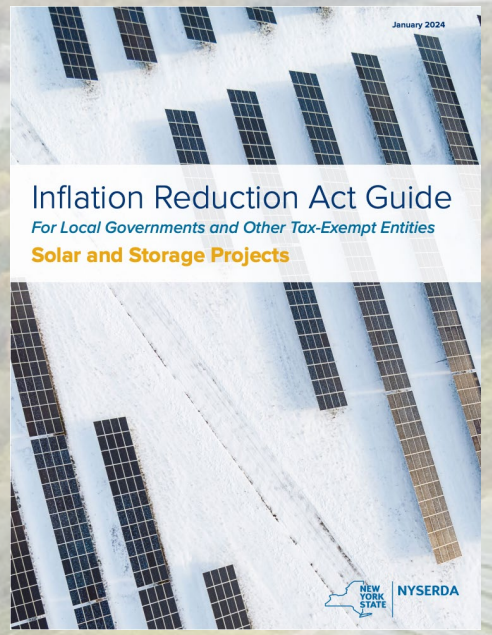


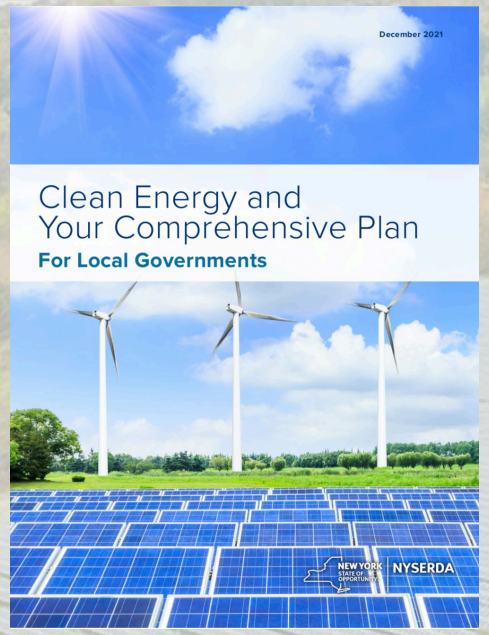
https://climate.ny.gov/Resources/Scoping-Plan

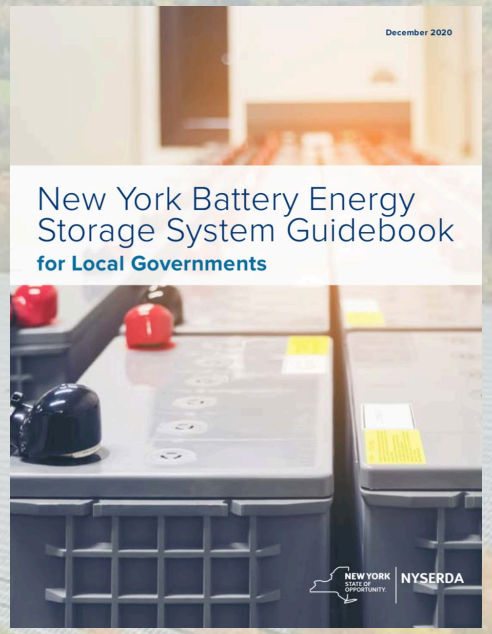
Community Benefits

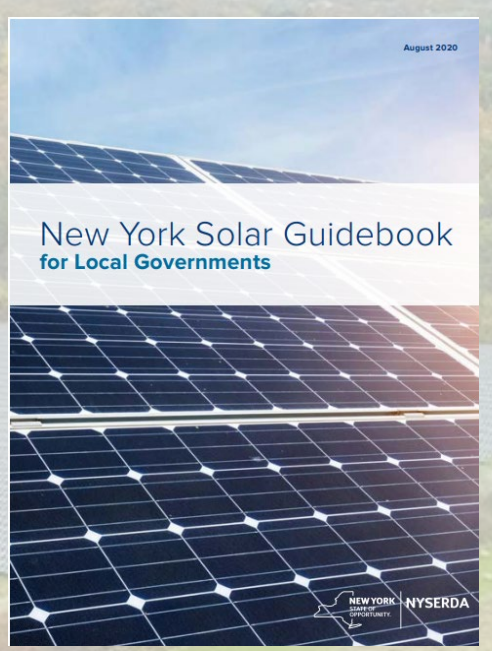
- Lease Payments
- Host Community Benefit Program
- Host Community Agreements
- Taxation and Tax Department Assessment Methodology
- Payments-In-Lieu-Of-Taxes (PILOTs) - RPTL 487 or IDA

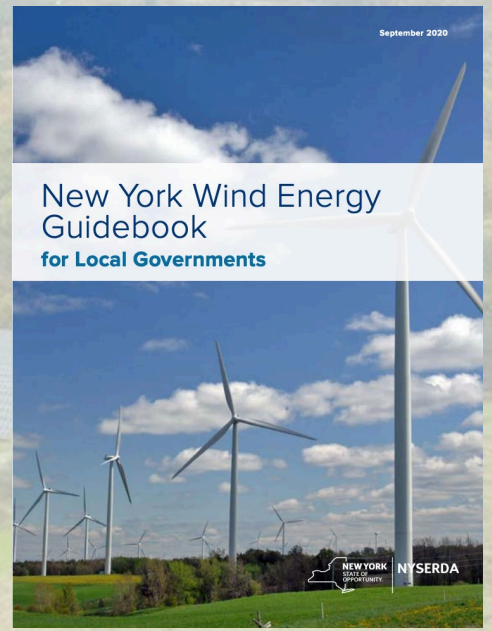
NYSERDA Local Government Support











Clean Energy Siting Team:
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Context:
Local Land Use & Clean Energy

Permitting Authority for Renewables & Energy Storage in NYS:

Technology Type		State Approval (Article 10, ORES)	Local Approval (SEQR/local regulations)	Combination of State & Local Approvals (PSL §68, SEQR/local regulations)
Renewable Generator (e.g. solar, wind)		**≥ 25 MW**	**< 25 MW**	*N/A*
Battery Energy Storage System	Co-located w/ Renewable Generator	All sizes if co-located w/ **≥ 25 MW** renewable generator	All sizes if co-located w/ **< 25 MW** renewable generator	*N/A*
	Standalone System	*N/A*	**≤ 80 MW**	**> 80 MW**

Comprehensive Planning and Large-Scale Renewables

Permitting Regimes for Large-Scale Renewable Generators:

Article 10:

- Exhibit 4: Land Use

ORES:

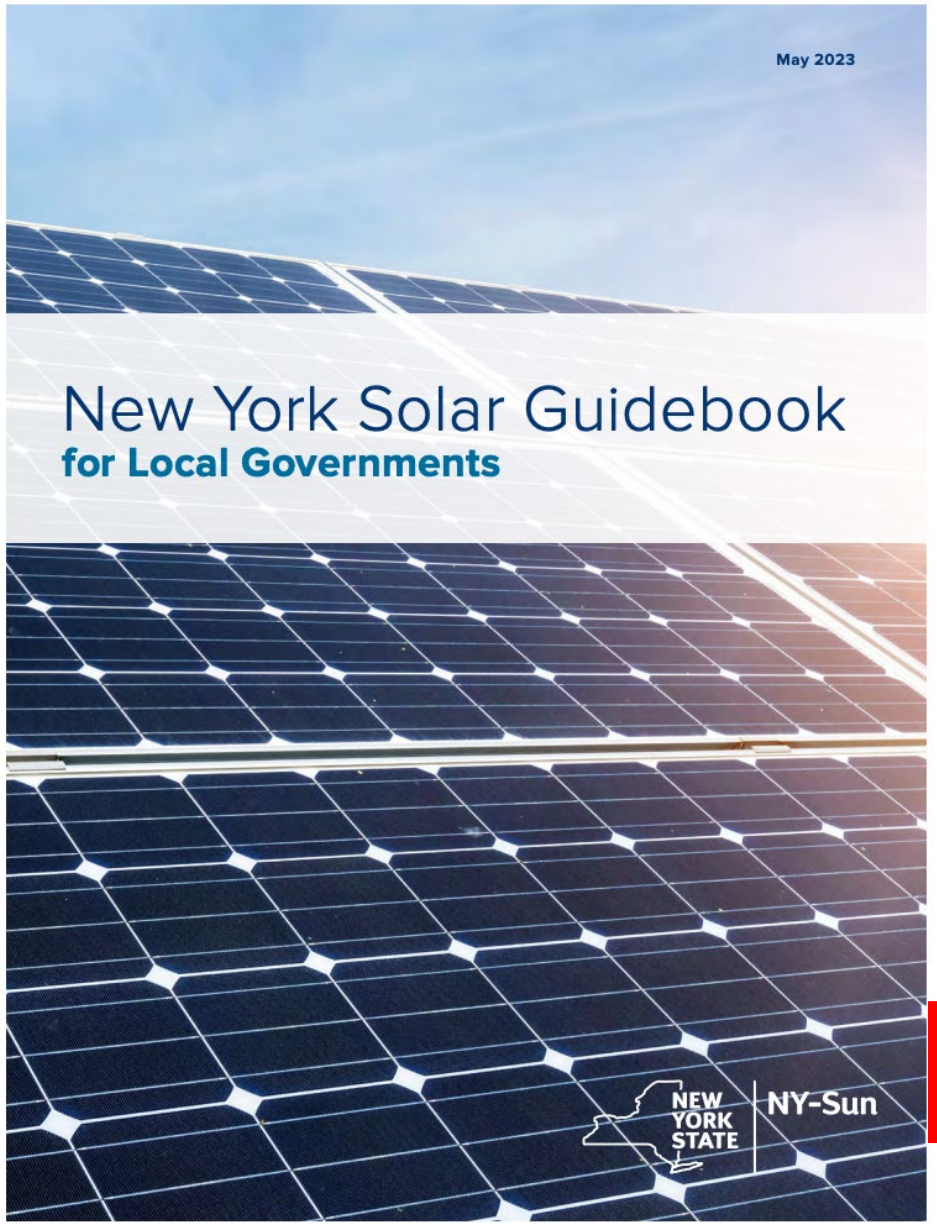
- Exhibit 3: Location of Facilities and Surrounding Land Use

"A statement as to whether any applicable local jurisdiction **has an adopted comprehensive plan** applicable to lands on which facility components or ancillary facilities are located **and whether the proposed facility is consistent with such comprehensive plan**. **A copy of the plan shall be provided in the application**, with an indication of plan sections applicable to the proposed uses."

Early Community Engagement

1. Amend the **comprehensive plan** – before, if not concurrently– to include a strategy for municipality-wide solar development.
2. Conduct **outreach with the community** to gather all available ideas, identify divergent groups and views, and secure support from the entire community.
3. Create a **working group** that will conduct meetings on a community-wide basis and studies to determine whether existing policies, plans, and land use regulations require amendments to remove barriers to and facilitate solar energy development goals.

NYS Model Solar Law



Chapter 1 - Solar Basics & FAQ

Chapter 2 - Solar PV Permitting and Inspecting

Chapter 3 - Roof Top Access and Ventilation

Chapter 4 - State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) for Solar

Chapter 5 - NYS's Real Property Tax Law § 487

Chapter 6 - Solar Payment-In-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILOT)

Chapter 7 - Solar Installations on Agricultural Lands

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

Section 9: Tier 4 Systems Permitting Requirements

Process & Requirements for Approval

Choose which zoning district(s) to permit systems.

Subject to Site Plan and Special Use permit Requirements established for **Tier 3 Systems**.

Applications shall be reviewed for completeness within 60 business days.

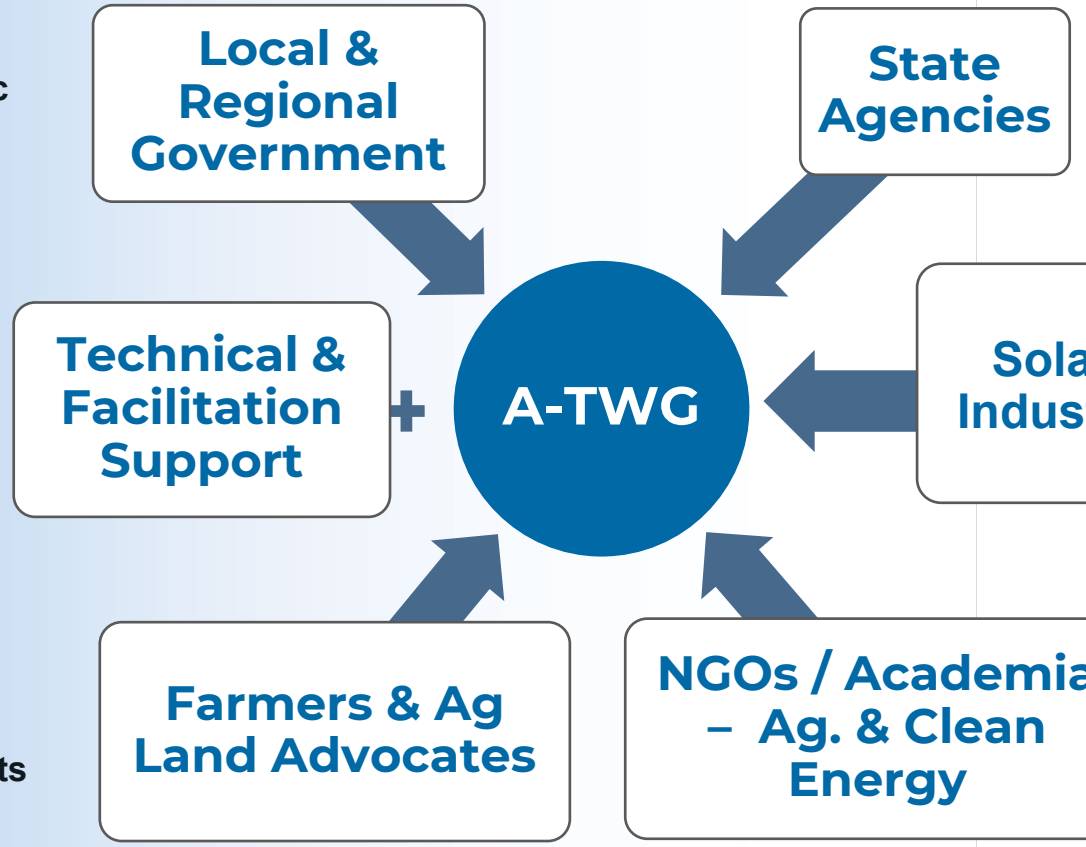
Applicants must conduct a **Pre-Application Meeting** with the Reviewing Board.

Applications must include a **Community Engagement Plan**.

Additional Special Use Permit Standards.

Agricultural Technical Working Group (A-TWG)

- Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council
- Suffolk County Dept. of Economic Development & Planning
- Tug Hill Commission



- NYSERDA
- NYSAGM
- NYSDEC

- Consensus Building Institute
- WSP
- Pace Law

- ACE NY
- EDF Renewables
- Nexamp
- NYSEIA

- American Farmland Trust
- NY Farm Bureau
- NYS Assoc. of Conservation Districts
- Northeast Ag & Feed Alliance
- Northeast Dairy Producers Assoc.

- Scenic Hudson
- The Nature Conservancy
- New Yorkers for Clean Power
- Cornell College of Ag & Life Sciences

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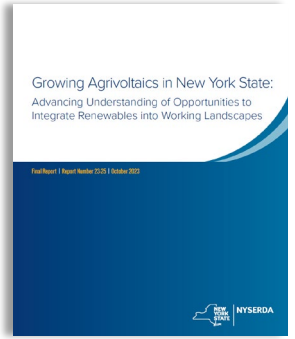
www.nyatwg.com

Active A-TWG Specialist Committees

Agrivoltaics

- Exploring the applicability, feasibility, and reasonability of agrivoltaics in New York
- Recent Outputs Growing Agrivoltaics in New York



RAISE

- RAISE = Regional Agronomic Impact From Solar Energy
- To advise and inform development of a study (or suite of studies) that can be undertaken to assess the relative benefits and impacts of solar energy development on regional farmland economies.
- Convened March 2024

Scorecard

- Provides input on approaches to reduce impacts and encourage community collaboration, and how to value these approaches in a scorecard format
- Recent Output: RESRFP23-1 Smart Solar Siting Scorecard

Engagement Can Be Fun!

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Extra Slides if needed

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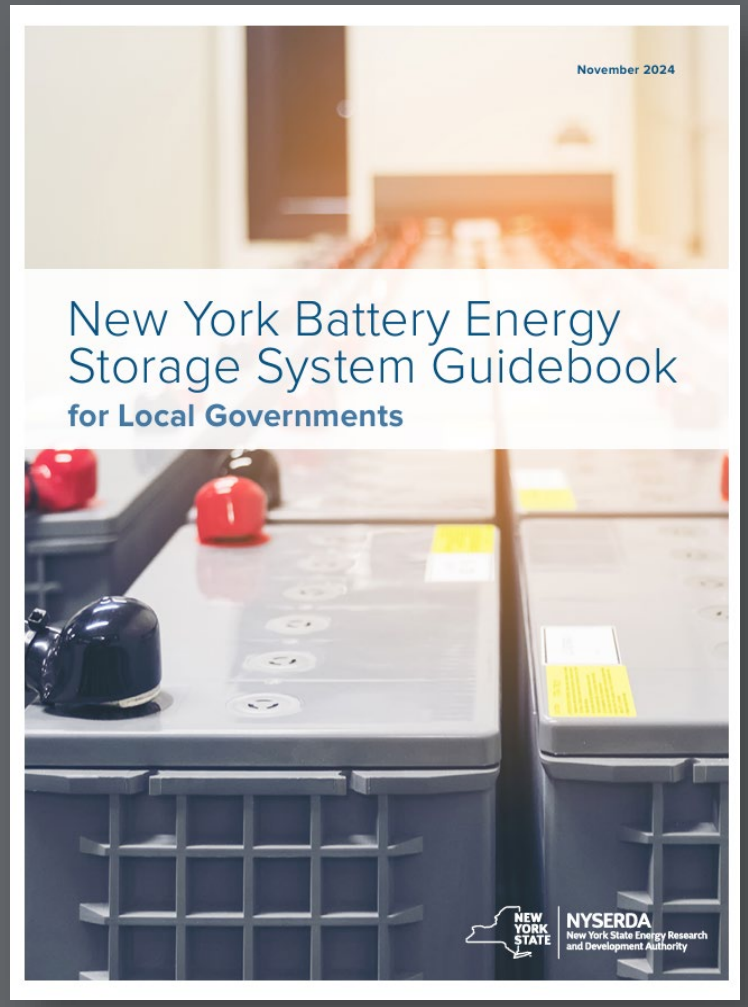
NYS BESS Model Law



Chapter 1 Battery Energy Storage Model Law

Chapter 2 Battery Energy Storage Model Permit

Chapter 3 Battery Energy Storage Inspection Checklist

Chapter 4 2020 New York State Uniform Code

Chapter 5 Siting Battery Energy Storage Systems to the 2020 Fire Code of New York State

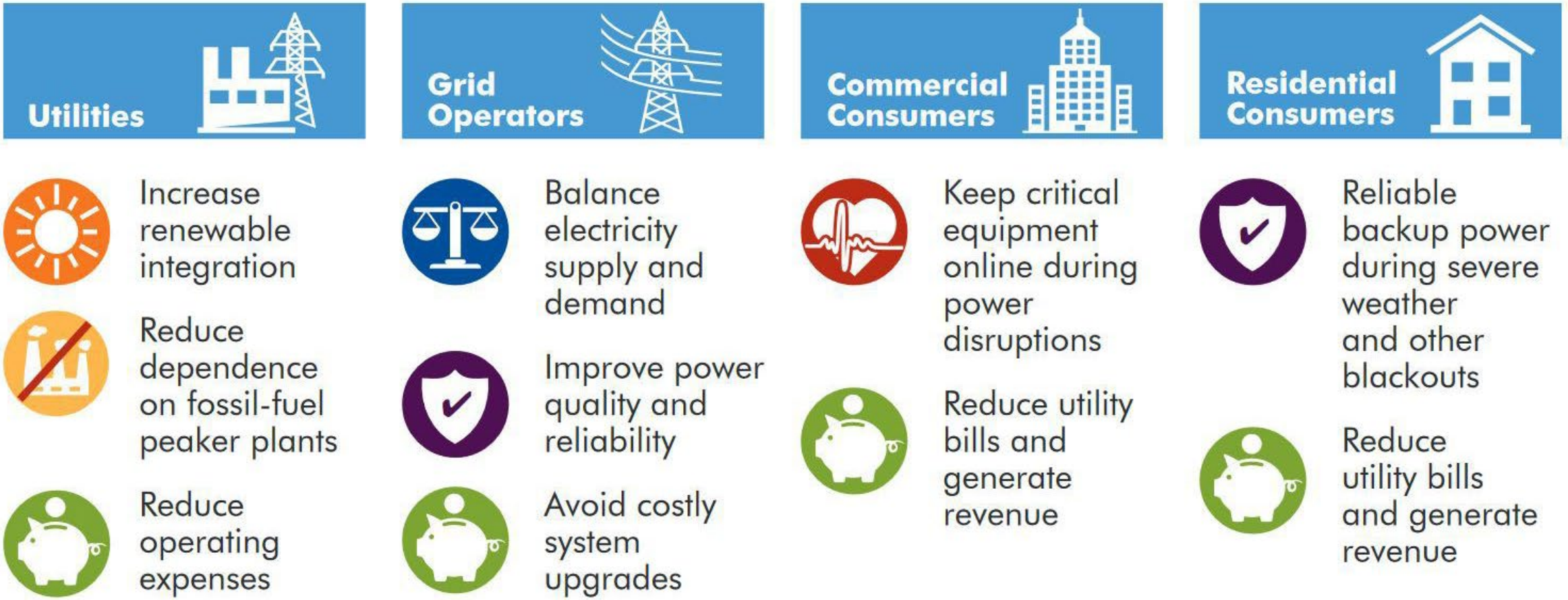
WHY ARE WE TALKING ABOUT BATTERIES?

Energy storage acts like a giant battery for the electric grid. It can store extra electricity on sunny days when solar panels are producing more power than we need. Then, it releases that stored energy when we need it most, such as during the evening or on hot days when everyone's using air conditioning.

This helps the grid in two significant ways:

- **Making it more resilient:** If something goes wrong, like a storm knocking out power lines, energy storage can step in to supply electricity, keeping the lights on and essential services running until the problem is fixed.
- **Saving money:** Storage helps avoid the need to turn on expensive power plants only used during peak demand times. By smoothing out supply and demand, it reduces costs for everyone.

APPLICATIONS FOR BESS: EXAMPLES BY SECTOR



Energy storage technologies have the capacity to benefit each segment of the power system.

NYS INTER-AGENCY FIRE SAFETY WORKING GROUP

In July 2023, in response to fires in **Warwick, Chaumont, and East Hampton**, Governor Hochul convened an Inter-Agency Fire Safety Working Group (Working Group).

Agency Participants

- Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES)
- Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC)
- New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)
- Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
- Department of Public Service (DPS)
- Department of State (DOS)

Working Group Partners

Highly specialized Subject Matter Experts (SME), national labs, Long Island Power Authority, and New York Power Authority.

Tasks include:

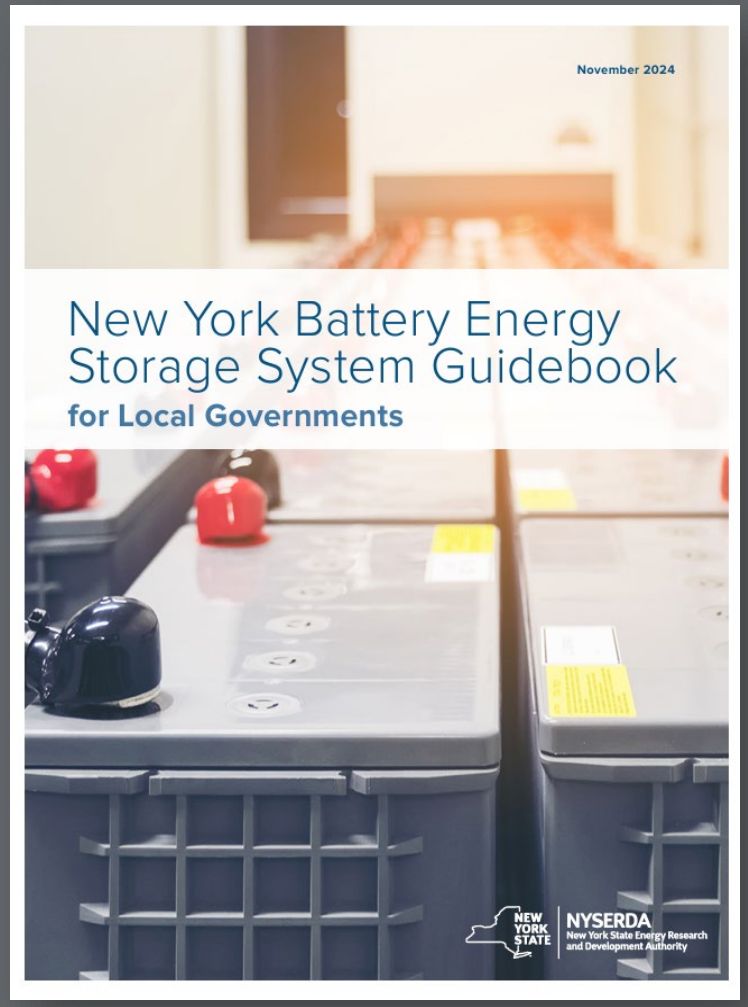
- Collect and assess air/soil/water testing data, review emergency response actions and data, and examine Root Cause Analyses.
- Review existing codes, standards, and regulations, and develop recommendations for revisions/enhancements.
- Field inspections of in-service BESS fleet.

NYS INTER-AGENCY FIRE SAFETY WORKING GROUP

Working Group Milestones

1. ✓ Release preliminary Air, Soil, and Water **Data Findings** Report. No reported injuries, no detected harmful levels of contaminants linked to the fires. *Issued December 2023*
2. ✓ Issuance of final **Fire Code Recommendations** for NYS Uniform Code. Resulted in 11 recommendations for large, grid-scale systems. Draft code language to reflect the recommendations now incorporated into the Notice of Proposed Rule Making. *Issued March 2025*
3. ✓ Field Inspections and Quality Assurance – inspected 57 in-service projects with SME collaboration resulting in an enhanced NYSERDA inspection process. *Completed Dec 2024*
   - ✓ *Through lessons learned, incorporated peer review into NYSERDA program*
4. ✓ Field inspection summary report outlining findings and improvements. Q2 2025
5. ✓ State-wide Webinar for local communities. Q2 2025
6. Accessing and examining Root Cause Analysis.
7. Compiling all preliminary working group findings, data, and other relevant materials and send to National Labs to review.

NYS BESS Model Law



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