



**NY Power
Authority**

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New York Power Authority and Environmental Justice Groups Agree to Explore Options for Transitioning NYPA’s Natural Gas ‘Peaker’ Plants to Cleaner Energy Technologies

Landmark Agreement to Explore Battery Storage and New Low to Zero Carbon Emission Resources and Technologies to Continue to Reliably Meet New York City’s and Long Island’s Peak Energy Demands, Ensure Resiliency of Grid

WHITE PLAINS—The New York Power Authority (NYPA) and the PEAK Coalition, a group of five leading environmental justice and clean energy interests, today unveiled an agreement to assess how NYPA can transition its natural gas fired ‘peaker’ plants, six located in New York City and one on Long Island with a total capacity of 461 megawatts, to utilize clean energy technologies, such as battery storage and low to zero carbon emission resources and technologies, while continuing to meet the unique electricity reliability and resiliency requirements of New York City. The agreement sets the path for the transition of NYPA’s plants to low to zero carbon emission resources and technologies. Implementation of such technologies will help accelerate the clean energy goals outlined in Governor Andrew M. Cuomo’s [Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act](#), nation-leading climate legislation passed last year, that calls for zero-carbon emission electricity in New York State by 2040.

“NYPA is leading by example in transitioning our plants to utilize clean technologies to help expedite Governor Cuomo’s ambitious climate leadership targets,” **said Gil C. Quinones, NYPA president and CEO.** “NYPA has committed to being a first-mover, exploring new clean energy frontiers, so that we, together with our partners and along with other utilities, can demonstrate a direct path to a cleaner environment for all New Yorkers.”

The agreement, in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), contains two notable commitments:

- NYPA will collaborate with environmental justice groups to explore cleaner energy options for its entire fleet of city-wide, peaker power plants – the first time a utility has agreed to enter into such a collaboration in the country.
- NYPA has agreed to support consultants who will work alongside the Authority and independently support the PEAK Coalition partners to develop alternative clean energy replacement options.

NYPA's natural gas peaker plants (known as "peaker plants" because they are used at times of 'peak' electricity demand) were installed in 2001. They operate infrequently—roughly 10 percent of the time or less when directed to do so by the New York Independent System Operator and Con Edison Company of New York to meet energy demands—providing local reliability and resiliency. Transitioning these plants to newer technologies will lessen or eliminate greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants, improving air quality in the surrounding neighborhoods and for all New Yorkers.

Eddie Bautista, Executive Director, New York City Environmental Justice Alliance, said, "This collaboration will evaluate the technologies needed to move these peaker plants toward low or zero carbon emission technologies. The emissions from in-city power plants can exacerbate respiratory diseases, such as asthma, which recently have been shown to contribute to worse outcomes for those affected by COVID-19. On behalf of the entire Peak Coalition, I am very pleased that NYPA has agreed to work with us to make a clean energy future a reality."

Elizabeth Yeampierre, Executive Director, UPROSE, said, "There is no better time to address pollution and inequities of NYC's energy system. We saw how the historic exposure to high levels of air pollution from multiple sources, including power plants, contributed to higher numbers of COVID-19 deaths in environmental justice communities. This collaboration is a model of the innovative and timely work that is necessary to address billions of dollars that are put into infrastructure that impacts the health of our communities."

Dariella Rodriguez, Director of Community Development, The Point CDC, said: "Now more than ever we know the negative impact of built environments and infrastructure on the lives of New Yorkers, especially those in EJ communities - which are also our black, brown, immigrant communities. This is one necessary step in the right direction towards accomplishing the goals set out by the CLCPA and getting closer to just living conditions for our most vulnerable."

Justin Wood, Director of Organizing and Strategic Research at New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, said "While private power companies are trying to double down on polluting and expensive fossil fuel technologies – despite the obvious acceleration of the climate crisis - it is refreshing to see New York State's public power authority move toward creating renewable power and green jobs in environmental justice communities where they're needed most urgently."

Lewis Milford, president of Clean Energy Group, a national nonprofit and adviser to the PEAK coalition, said, "In this time of racial reckoning and the growing harm from climate change to vulnerable populations, this New York agreement is a responsible model that should be followed in other communities with peaker plants, one where plant owners respect environmental justice concerns and pursue a collaborative approach to a clean energy transition in heavily polluted urban areas."

As evidenced by this agreement, NYPA is committed to being a leader in piloting low to zero carbon emission resources and technologies, investigating the feasibility of short- and long-duration battery storage, and driving forward a system-wide transformation to a clean energy economy. NYPA, with input from and in collaboration with its state, industry and advocacy partners, and other stakeholders, also is advocating for offshore wind and solar projects in southeast New York, supporting grid modernization efforts, and investigating ways that more clean distributed energy sources can be added to the energy mix.

About NYPA

NYPA, the largest state public power organization in the nation, is a leader in providing clean, renewable energy and has done so since its founding in 1931 by Franklin D. Roosevelt. More than 80% of the nearly 25% of the state's electricity that NYPA generates is clean, renewable hydropower. NYPA plays a leadership role in making CLCPA come to fruition through strategic, smart investments in renewable energy and innovative technologies. Through large scale renewable projects, statewide energy efficiency work, and infrastructure support for the electrification of the transportation sector, NYPA is actively pursuing clean energy strategies, so that New Yorkers today and in the future will benefit from a cleaner environment, well-paying clean energy sector jobs, and a reliable, resilient, affordable and state-of-the-art, nation-leading energy system. operating 16 generating facilities and more than 1,400 circuit-miles of transmission lines. NYPA uses no tax money financings its operations through the sale of bonds and revenues earned in large part through sales of low-cost electricity.

Some examples of NYPA's current efforts toward a carbon emission-free economy include: a new, five-year initiative to accelerate development and demonstration of low-carbon energy technologies, along with the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) and Gas Technology Institute (GTI), called the [Low-Carbon Resources Initiative \(LCRI\)](#); a collaboration with a leading-edge energy storage company, [Zinc8 Energy Solutions, Inc.](#), to develop a zinc-air energy storage system; testing a novel lithium-ion battery storage technology through a [demonstration project](#) with [Cadenza Innovation](#) at NYPA's headquarters; a large-scale, and a [20 megawatt \(MW\) energy battery storage project](#) in Northern New York.

For more information visit www.nypa.gov and follow us on [Twitter](#) @NYPAenergy, [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Tumblr](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

About the Peak Coalition

The PEAK Coalition – UPROSE, THE POINT CDC, New York City Environmental Justice Alliance (NYC-EJA), New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI), and Clean Energy Group (CEG) – has come together to work toward an end to the pollution burden from power plants on the city's most climate-vulnerable people. The coalition is working to replace the city's peaker plants with renewable energy and storage solutions. The collaboration brings technical, legal, public health, and planning expertise to support organizing and advocacy led by communities near peaker plants. The coalition advocates for a system of localized renewable energy generation and battery storage to

replace peaker plants, reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, lower energy bills and make the electricity system more resilient. The Coalition has issued a report on replacing the New York City peakers, *Dirty Energy, Big Money* that argues why existing New York City peakers must be replaced by battery storage and renewable technologies. See <https://www.cleaneenergy.org/wp-content/uploads/Dirty-Energy-Big-Money.pdf>.

For more information visit <https://www.peakcoalition.org/>; Twitter: @PeakCoalition; <https://www.facebook.com/PeakCoalition/>.

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