

MEUA News and Views



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Mayville, NY

MEUA MEMBER SYSTEM SPOTLIGHT: PAGE 8





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Executive Director Jim Stokes

Executive Director's Report

Jim Stokes

Greetings Everyone,

Spring is around the corner. Among other things, this means it's budget time in New York. The Governor and the Legislature will be conducting their annual negotiations with the goal of reaching agreement on a final budget bill by April 1st. As always, we are keeping a close eye on the budget process and other developments in Albany, and will be reporting back to you.

One such development we are following is the New York Cap-and Invest Program (CIP), which has the potential to significantly increase the cost of doing business and living in New York. The Legislature has tasked the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority with developing the CIP program to meet the greenhouse gas emission goals of the State's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

As described in a NYS website, *"DEC and NYSERDA are designing a program that sets an annual cap on the amount of greenhouse gas pollution that is permitted to be emitted in New York. . . . It's anticipated that large-scale greenhouse gas emissions sources and distributors of heating and transportation fuels will be required to purchase or obtain allowances for the emissions associated with their activities. By applying a price to the amount of pollution, the Cap-and-Invest Program incentivizes consumers, businesses, and other entities to transition to lower-carbon alternatives."*

Earlier this month, MEUA submitted formal comments with respect to the DEC's and NYSERDA's Pre-Proposal Outline for the CIP. One of MEUA's principal positions is that the electric sector should be excluded from obligations under the CIP. There already exist a number of programs, including, but not limited to the Clean Energy Standard and the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, to address the decarbonization of electricity generation in New York State. These existing programs already have a cost impact to consumers, and imposing additional obligations under the CIP would only further increase the cost of electricity to businesses and residents alike, which could actually create a disincentive to the achievement of the State's objectives for further electrification of the building and transportation sectors.

We have also been communicating with you on the Renewable Energy Access and Community Help Program (REACH). Last year's State budget bill authorized the New York Power Authority to build and operate renewable energy generation projects, such as solar, wind and energy storage systems. The REACH program anticipates that a portion of the revenues generated by renewable energy projects developed by NYPA will be utilized to provide bill credits to low-income or moderate-income rate-

continued on next page

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MEUA Mission

To foster and advance the efficient operation of publicly owned and operated electric systems, including the production, distribution, conservation and prudent use of electric power and energy for public service for the mutual benefit of all members.

payers in disadvantaged communities served by regulated investor-owned utilities (IOUs) and the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA). Municipal systems are not currently covered by REACH, but under the 2023 legislation, NYPA is required to compile and issue a report that addresses the feasibility and advisability of implementing a program similar to REACH for municipal utilities and rural electric cooperatives. MEUA has been working cooperatively with NYPA to collect information to support the development of the NYPA report. If you have any questions about the program or its potential impacts, please do not hesitate to contact me at the MEUA office.

For those of you who celebrate it, I wish you a Happy Easter and a relaxing holiday with family and friends. To all, enjoy the warming weather and the wonders and beauty of the Spring season.

Take care,



Jim



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Independent Energy Efficiency Program Update

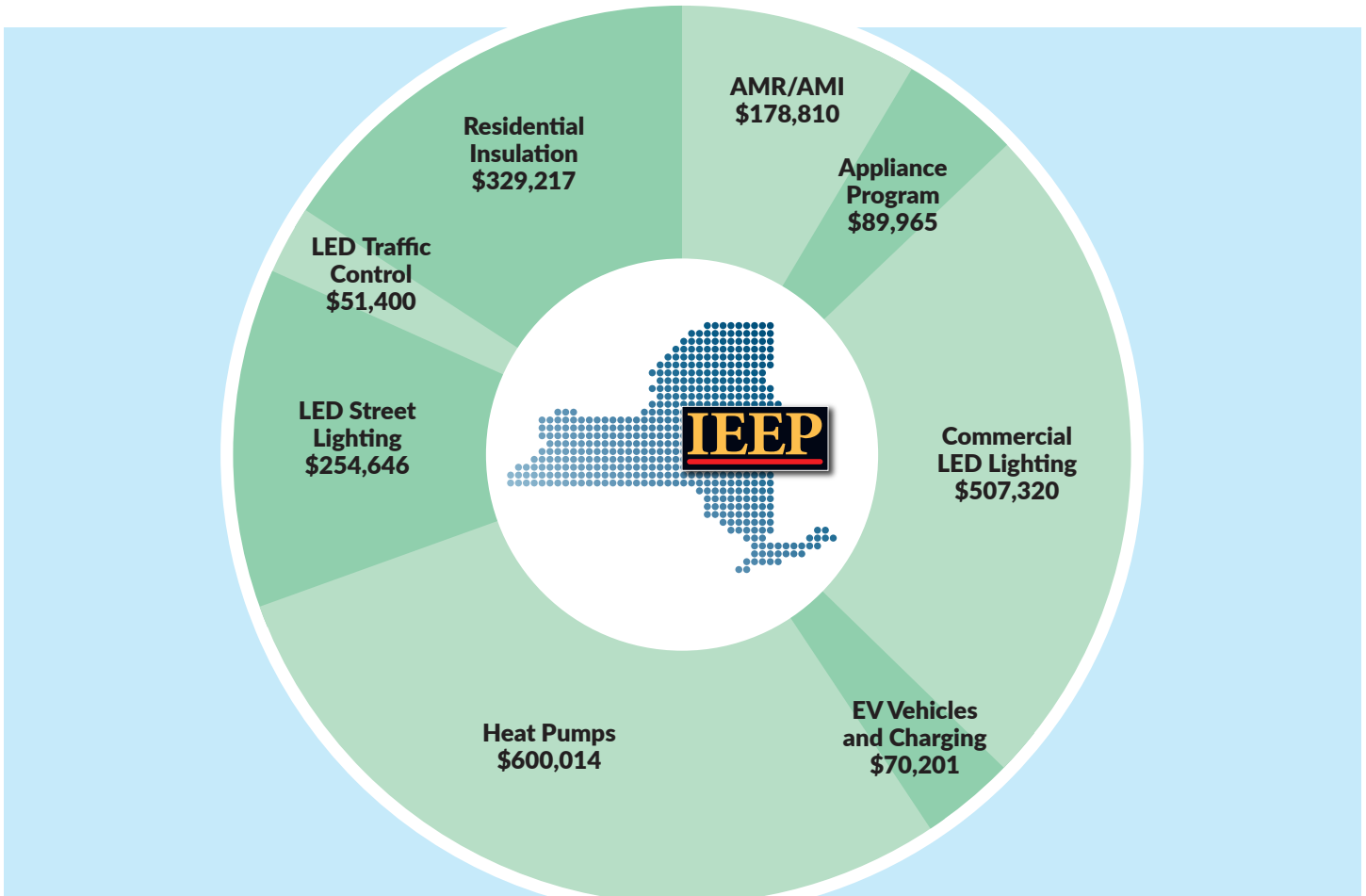
Mike Lyons



2023 proved to be another successful year for the Independent Energy Efficiency Program (IEEP). We reinvested nearly \$3 million on energy efficiency projects which resulted in benefits for your customers and local economies and kept us aligned with New York State's aggressive climate and clean energy initiatives. We completed a variety of over 1,500 energy efficiency projects across residential, commercial, municipal, industrial, and transportation sectors.

The IEEP was successful in securing additional outside funding from both the New York Power Authority and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to plan for electrification by expanding electric vehicle charging infrastructure and by assisting our low to moderate income homes to install cold climate heat pumps and building shell improvements. Finally, we have updated our leading electric yard care rebate program which provides incentives to increase the use of battery-powered yard care equipment to further reduce carbon emissions. The chart on this page provides an overview of our top spending categories for 2023.

IEEP TOP SPENDING CATEGORIES: 2023



Large New Economic Development - Energy Load Consumers – Going Forward

Chris Wentlet



On February 19, Governor Hochul and others announced a \$11.6 Billion investment to expand a semiconductor manufacturing plant in Saratoga County. This announcement is in addition to other major economic development announcements made over the past 1-2 years including the Micron

Technology facility in Central New York, hydrogen facility in the North Country, and various data and dairy industry-related announcements elsewhere in upstate New York.

A major challenge going forward will be how New York State continues to promote new economic development while also realizing the strict mandates within the Community Leadership and Climate Protection Act (CLCPA) legislation. Specifically—per the CLCPA—by 2030, 70% of energy usage must be from renewable resources, and by 2040, the electric sector must be 100% emissions free.

This raises several important questions:

1. Many of the proposed economic development projects have load requirements that range from 100 up to 1000 MWs. How will New York State build enough renewable generation (wind, solar and battery storage) to not only meet the current 70% by 2030 renewable requirement but also add enough to accommodate new economic development load?
2. What level of transmission and distribution (T&D) upgrades and what is the cost and time required to build new T&D infrastructure to support this new economic development load growth?
3. In the interim, how do we manage existing public safety and system reliability if load growth occurs faster than new renewable energy generation and T&D infrastructure?
4. How do we evaluate retirement of existing resources if new renewable energy is delayed and economic de-

- velopment growth is pushing to be commercialized?
5. Finally, New York State is forecasted to be a winter peaking grid in the 2032-2034 timeframe per recent NYISO reports. What unique seasonal variations must be fully understood to ensure the existing load plus new economic development load demand is met throughout the calendar year, including high load winter periods of extreme cold?

Ultimately, these questions trigger timing, consumer cost, reliability, public safety, and economic progress considerations. The complexity of the challenge is significant; the risks if the outcome is not effectively managed are equally significant. Environmental, energy and economic initiatives must be managed together vs. individual silos of activity. Anything less will push the needle toward a less desirable outcome.

NEW YORK CLIMATE ACTION COUNCIL

The NYSDEC/NYSERDA released the second stage of engagement on December 21. The package of materials included a New York Cap and Invest Pre-Proposal Outline, and three webinars were held on January 23, 25 and 26. Comments on the Pre-Proposal Outline are informally required by March 1, 2024. MEUA is currently considering whether to submit comments.

Several major items in the Pre-Proposal Outline include exempting the electric generation from the New York Cap and Invest Program and instead have the sector remain in RGGI, a consignment provision for utility customers to receive an affordability rebate through the sale of CO₂ allowances, special permit requirements for facilities located in or near disadvantaged communities, specific recommendations about banking, treatment of the cost containment reserve, emergency containment reserve, inflation rates for allowances, and planned treatment of Energy Intensive Trade Exposed (EITE) industries. Additional information is available at <https://capandinvest.ny.gov/>.

Ken Podolny, Esq.



This is a follow-up to last month's discussion about REC costs and the Clean Energy Standard (CES).

As previously described, the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act

(CLCPA) directed the Public Service Commission (PSC) to establish a program to ensure, among other things, that: (1) at least 70% of statewide load be served by renewable generation by 2030, and (2) that there are 0 emissions from electric generation by 2040. In response, the PSC adopted the CES. In addition to requiring the utilities to purchase various Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) or make Alternative Compliance Payments (ACP), the CES requires NYSERDA to publish annual progress reports to show the state's progress towards meeting the CLCPA mandates. The most recent Progress Report was issued in February, and is summarized here.

Overall, the State's LSEs met 81.9% of their CES obligations. The shortfall was due largely to the fact that NYPA, which is not PSC jurisdictional, has never purchased any RECs. NYPA does contribute its load share towards ZEC obligations. How that compliance has contributed to emissions reductions is another story entirely. Through 2022, PSC authorized CES funding has totaled \$25.2 Billion. Approximately \$4.4 Billion of that total has been collected from the State's electric customers through 2022.

In return for this investment, in 2022, renewable resources accounted for 25.1% of the State's load. While that is certainly a far cry from the 70% target for 2030, what is more troubling is that this represents a .2% decrease from 2014, the starting point for the program. This percent decrease is even more troubling, considering that total load in the State in 2022 was actually 5% lower than it was in 2014. According to NYSERDA,

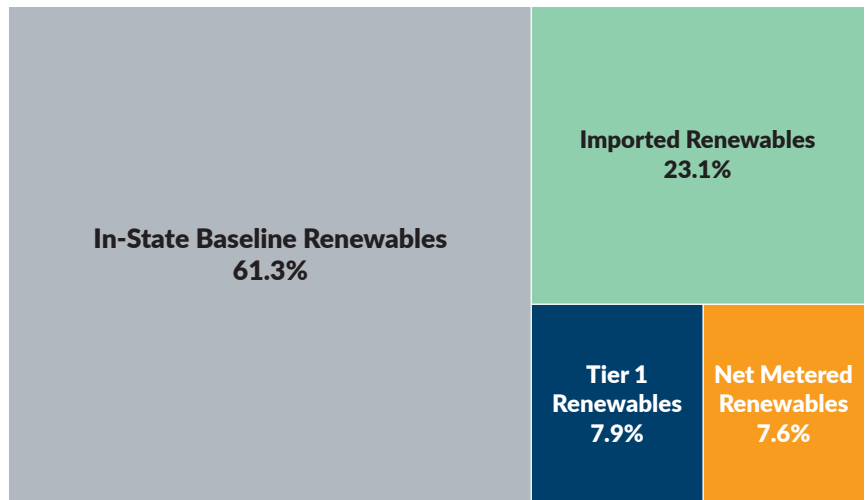
the decrease is due largely to decreased imports of hydro energy from neighboring control areas:

	2014	2022
Generation from Baseline Renewable Energy (MWh)	40,292,056	35,045,955 ^c
Generation from Teir 1-Eligible Energy (MWh) ^a	N/A	3,141,766 ^d
Total Renewable Energy (MWh)	40,292,056	38,061,155
Total Load (MWh) ^b	159,146,663	151,836,485
% Renewable Energy Serving Load (%)	25.3%	25.1%

In sum, renewable energy accounted for a smaller percentage of statewide load, despite the investments.

Equally troubling is a closer look at the composition of the 25% of renewable generation. Of that 25%, about 15.5%, or under 4% of the total, was generated by new renewables built under the CES:

Renewables in the 2022 New York System Mix (Source: NYGATS)



To be fair, building new generation in New York is a slow process, and new generators have come online since 2022, and the buildout will accelerate with each passing year. So will the costs. The dollars collected to date do not include offshore wind, or Tier 4 RECs or costs for energy storage, all of which are in development and will begin to hit utility bills in the near future. So while it remains far from certain that the State will achieve the targets set in the CLCPA, what is clear is that New Yorkers will continue to pay ever increasing fees for the attempt.

Village of Mayville

1 South Erie Street, PO Box 188,
Mayville, NY 14757

Website: www.villageofmayville.com

Phone: 716-753-2125

Fax: 716-753-3125

Founded: 1805 Incorporated: 1830

Population: 4,239

Electric Utility Established: 1896

Customers: 1,167

System Operating Voltage:

8,320 & 34,500 (One Customer)

Board of Trustees:

Mayor: Richard W. Syper

Deputy Mayor/Trustee: Daniel E. Roush

Trustee: Mark D. Perry

Trustee: Bill Ward

Trustee: Janel Webb

Village Employees:

Clerk: John G. Crandall

Treasurer: Jennifer L. Obert

DPW Superintendent: Daniel Engdahl

Electric Supervisor: Matthew Schumaker

Chief Water Operator: Timothy Johnson



Village Office 2024

The Village of Mayville is located in the center of the Town of Chautauqua. Mayville is the location of the Chautauqua County seat. Situated at the northwest end of Chautauqua Lake, Mayville is at the junction of New York State Route 394 and 430 and is 7 miles south of the New York State Thruway exit at Westfield. The Village of Mayville is known for its picturesque setting on the lake which makes it a popular destination for tourists and outdoor enthusiasts. The lake provides many recreational opportunities for locals and visitors alike who can enjoy fishing, boating, kayaking, and stand-up paddleboarding. There are also scenic hiking and biking trails that allow people to explore the natural beauty of the region. A paved trail is located near the lake for people to enjoy the view as they walk or bike in the area.

Mayville is home to several parks. The Village Green, which is located at the junction of Route 394 and 430, has seating areas as well as the

Village Fountain, which is an attraction for children of all ages to make wishes. Gravit's Field is home to baseball fields which are used by the youth sports for practice and games in the spring and summer months. Lakeside Park, located on the shore of Chautauqua Lake, is the main park for the Village. It features a playground, basketball court, tennis courts, pickleball courts, volleyball courts, a baseball field, outdoor exercise equipment, and playground equipment. The park also has a gazebo, two picnic pavilions, and the Carlson Community Center which is used year-round for different functions.



Village Office 1890. Photo: The Post Journal



Village fountain



Mayville has several charming shops and restaurants that can be explored in both the uptown area as well as near the lake front.

Mayville is the nearest village to the Chautauqua Institution, which draws thousands of visitors during the summer months. The Chautauqua Institution is a center for education, the arts, religion, and recreation, and has played a significant role in shaping the cultural identity of the region. The institution hosts a wide range of programs and events each summer, including lectures, concerts, and theatrical performances which draw visitors from across the country.

During the summer months there is a weekly farmers' market at the Village Green and live music performances at Lakeside Park. Mayville is also known for its annual events, such as the Winter Festival, the Big Fish, the July 4th Celebration, the Grand Fondo and the Celtic Festival. These are all held in the Mayville Lakeside Park for everyone to enjoy.

There are several versions of how Mayville received its name. The best known is first attributed to William Peacock. It relates that a meeting of agents and representatives was held at Mayville to consider several matters including the naming of the new settlement known up to that time as "The Corners". A great many names had been suggested but none upon which all could unite. When Mrs. Paul Busti, wife of one of the agents and attorney for the company, came into the room where they were gathered with a baby in her arms, she was asked the name of her baby and she re-



Mayville Lakeside Park

plied, "May". Then someone suggested that the settlement be named after the baby and call it Mayville, to which, all quickly agreed.

The first non-religious school building was built on North Erie Street in 1824. The next brick school building was built on the top of the hill in 1832. The first issue of the local paper, the Mayville Sentinel was printed on December 11, 1834.

The first railroad started operation in 1867. It operated under several names including Penn Central and Conrail, but was operated the longest, 1900 to 1968, as the Pennsylvania Railroad. The last train ran to Mayville on December 29, 1978 and the rails were torn up the following year. The commercial ice industry, made possible by the railroad, started in 1871 when the first of six large ice houses were built in Mayville. The industry employed as many as 600 workers at its peak, but the last

continued next page



*Uptown Mayville
prior to 1900*



Funding Opportunity

Empire State Development's ConnectALL Office has launched the Municipal Infrastructure Program with \$228 million to support the construction of new fiber for tens of thousands of homes, businesses and community anchor institutions statewide.

The program will provide grants for open-access, publicly owned and/or controlled broadband infrastructure. The program builds upon the highly successful **21st Century Municipal Infrastructure** pilot program that took a pioneering approach to connectivity by providing State funding to four municipal broadband projects located in Chenango, Tioga, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties.

The Municipal Infrastructure Program will provide grants to municipalities, non-profits, and other entities to construct open and accessible public broadband infrastructure. It is a last-mile program. Middle mile construction necessary to transport internet services to a local data center where an applicant is connecting its last mile infrastructure may be included, however the project must ultimately be designed to result in last-mile connectivity. In addition to funding fiber to the premises, the Municipal Infrastructure Program will also support the project's make-ready costs, drops to the building, middle-mile interconnection, and networking equipment.

The program will prioritize new public broadband infrastructure that will be made available on an open-access, non-discriminatory basis to private Internet Service Providers and Managed Service Providers to provide New Yorkers with high-quality, reliable, and affordable service options. The Municipal Infrastructure Program will facilitate a variety of models of municipal broadband and public-private partnership, where eligible public entities, municipal utilities and utility cooperatives can partner with private partners like ISPs, MSPs, and broadband infrastructure builders and owners.

Application Deadlines:

The April 19th deadline to submit a Phase 2 application is approaching and ConnectALL urges eligible public entities not to miss out on this opportunity.

Phase 1 Public Applicants Closed March 8, 2024

Phase 2 Public Applicants April 19, 2024

Phase 3 Private Applicants June 7, 2024

To learn more visit the [Municipal Infrastructure Program webpage](#) and review the [Request for Applications](#).

Member System Spotlight cont'd.



Hopson Ice Elevator

ice was harvested in 1935. Other notable industries were Chautauqua Malted Milk, Inc. and the Gravit Cider Mill. Gravit's closed shortly

after WW II and the building was torn down. The Chautauqua Malted Milk, Inc. plant last operated on January 8, 1976.

Currently, major employers in the area include Chautauqua County and the Chautauqua Lake Central School District. Anyone interested in economic development opportunities should contact the Chautauqua County Department of Planning and Development, 201 W. 3rd Street, Jamestown, NY 14701, phone number 716-661-8900. Visitor and Tourism information is available from the Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau, 67 Bestor Plaza, Chautauqua, NY 14722, phone number 716-357-4569.



John Jennings, Esq. Harter Secrest & Emery LLP



The legislature returned to Albany in January, and we expect to see an eventful legislative session. Early in the session, the legislature passed and Governor Hochul signed the chapter amendment legislation for which we had advocated (**S.8012/A.8542**). As you recall, they passed legislation last session that, in part,

would have significantly increased the administrative burden related to billing for many of our members by requiring certain historical usage information be included on each customer bill. This chapter amendment legislation exempts municipalities from that requirement, and we are pleased that all parties heard and understood our concerns. **A chapter amendment is when the Governor negotiates with the legislature after they have already passed a bill to get everyone to agree to amendments. Then, during the next legislative session, the legislature passes the second bill to make the agreed upon changes to the original legislation.**

The Governor released her proposed budget legislation in mid-January. After careful review, we determined that it did not include much in the way of policy that would directly impact our members. The next step in the budget process will be when each house of the legislature introduces its proposed budget legislation. We expect this to occur sometime in the next week. We will certainly let you know if anything of concern arises. The final step in the budget process will be for all parties to reach a final agreement—ideally before the start of the new fiscal year on April 1.

Another significant development so far this year related to New York's congressional districts: the 2022 congressional districts were drawn by a nonpartisan expert appointed by a judge as a result of a myriad of lawsuits related to inappropriate gerrymandering. A court subsequently ruled that New York could redraw those districts for the 2024 election. Many speculated that this would result in a chaotic process that would inevitably result in more litigation. However (to make a very long, complicated, and boring story short) the legislature approved congressional districts that are significantly

similar to the existing ones.

Once the budget concludes, we expect the volume of legislative action to increase dramatically as the legislature plans to wrap up the session by early June. We are watching dozens of bills that could impact our members, and we will keep you apprised of developments in Albany in the coming months.

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