

Listening to the Public: What CNY Needs and Wants for Energy Efficiency Retrofits

Presenter: Lindsay Speer

Additional Presenters:

1. Lacey Scofield, Energy Advisor Lead Coordinator, Alliance for a Green Economy, lacey@agreeny.org

Presenter Biographies and Experience:

Lindsay Speer is a Senior Energy Planner at the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board, responsible for directing EnergySmart CNY, the NYSERDA- funded Central New York Regional Clean Energy Hub. A collaboration of three organizations, EnergySmart CNY works with residents to improve the energy efficiency of their homes and recommend additional wraparound services to address barriers, and works with job seekers and contractors to grow the local clean energy workforce.

Lindsay is a graduate of Cornell University (Natural Resources '04) and Vermont Law School (Master of Environmental Law and Policy '14). She is a recipient of Greening USA's Sustaining Our Communities Award (2019). In addition to local presentations to community partners and their members, she has most recently presented at the Building Performance Association's 2024 Clean Energy for Homes Conference and Trade Show, NYSERDA's Regional Clean Energy Hub Annual Conference, and as a panelist for the NYS Department of Public Service's LMI Electrification Technical Conference in September 2024.

Abstract:

How does the average Central New Yorker perceive energy efficiency programs? What barriers prevent them from utilizing the programs, and what are the opportunities to overcome some of those barriers? The Central New York Regional Development and Planning Board, Alliance for a Green Economy, and Greater Syracuse Works conducted a regional assessment and barriers analysis starting in 2022, to guide the development of their combined EnergySmart CNY program. They used a variety of quantitative and qualitative methods to gain insight into CNY's access to clean energy and energy efficiency improvements, including one-to-one conversations with local organizations, community-based conversations with residents, surveys, stakeholder meetings, and roundtables. In all, the engagement activities gathered feedback by reaching well over 1,100 Central New York residents, the majority of whom live in disadvantaged communities (DACs) as defined by New York's Climate Justice Working Group. This presentation explores the findings of the Regional Assessment and Barriers Analysis as well as opportunities to overcome those barriers.