



# Environmental Justice



# Being a Good Neighbor

2019 Environmental Justice Program



# About the New York Power Authority

## What Environmental Justice Means at NYPA

NYPA's Environmental Justice (EJ) program is driven by our commitment to always be a good neighbor to the historically disadvantaged and marginalized communities located near our statewide facilities. Community collaboration and engagement are the hallmarks of NYPA's EJ program. NYPA leverages its expertise in energy and energy technology to provide no-cost programs and services that meet the unique needs of our communities.



**The New York Power Authority (NYPA)** is the largest state-owned electric utility in the nation. Seventy percent of NYPA's power is generated using clean, renewable hydropower. NYPA is an industry leader in operational digitization, renewable energy technology, energy efficiency, and electric vehicle infrastructure.

## Letter from Lisa Payne Wansley, Vice President, Environmental Justice and Sustainability

As we have built our EJ Program over the past three years, I have learned that there is one universal truth; although experiences or geographic regions may differ, people across all demographics have the same goal—to make life better for their families, neighbors and communities.

To assist our communities in reaching some of their quality of life goals, our team is constantly developing or refining tools and programs that align with our EJ program's four strategic areas; STEM Education, Community Energy Literacy, Community Outreach and Advocacy, and Energy Efficiency Projects. It is my belief that these efforts will help to provide a bridge in some of the gaps found in traditionally underserved areas. Making meaningful connections and helping to provide options are in part what drives my team.

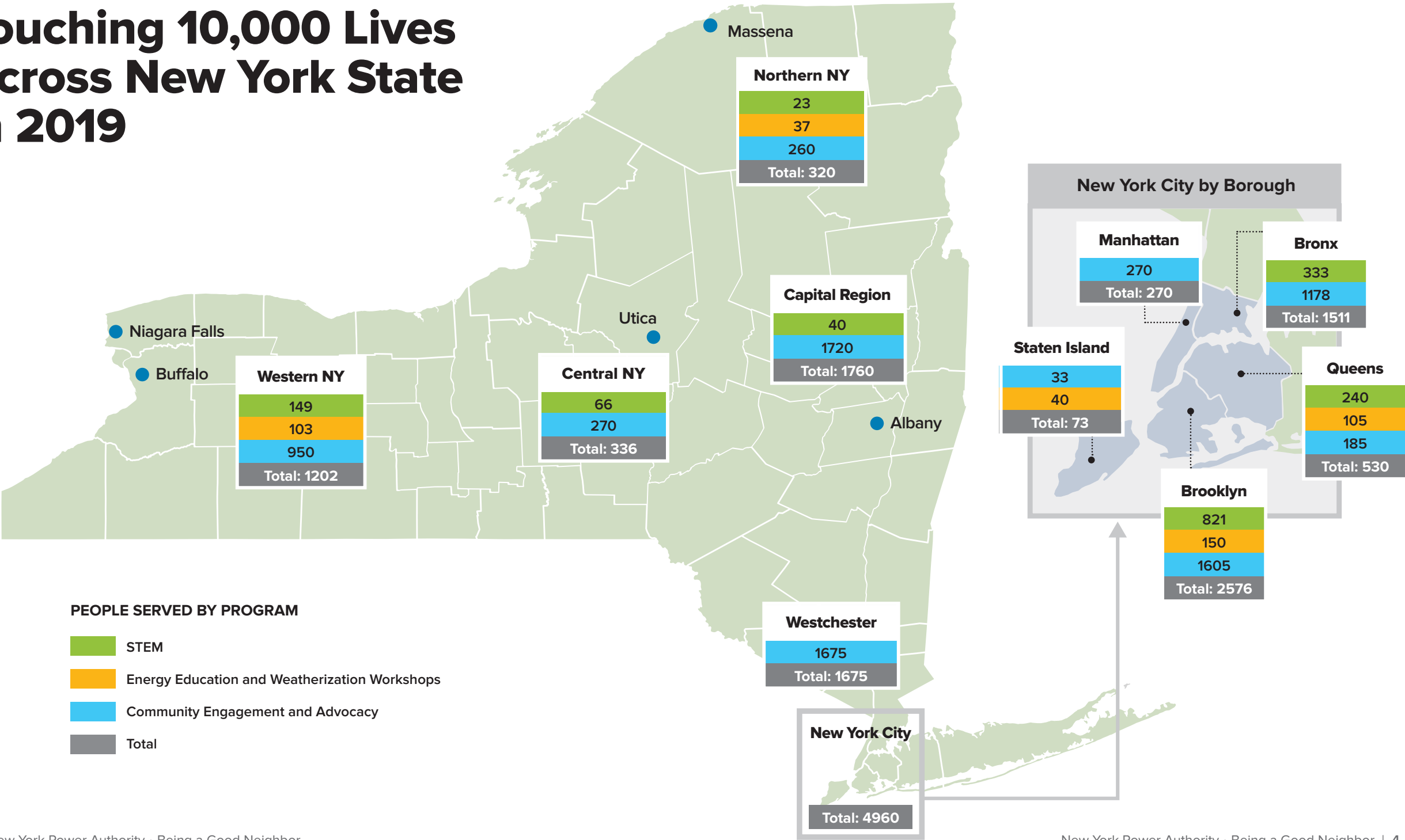
This publication provides highlights of our 2019 accomplishments and a pathway to the work we intend to continue in 2020 and beyond. We are proud of these achievements and are thankful to have had the opportunity to learn from, and work with, members of the community as we continue to evolve the important work of the EJ program.

**Lisa Payne Wansley**



*Lisa Payne Wansley (L) and long-time community leader, Soccoro Rodriguez – Highbridge Green School, Bronx*

# Touching 10,000 Lives Across New York State in 2019



# Stronger Together

## NYPA’s Community Partners

Collaboration and continuous communication are the building blocks of successful partnerships. Consistently showing up for our community partners enables NYPA to build trust and expand our programs to reflect the changing needs of our neighbors.

The list of our community partners is continually growing. We are grateful for their insight and support.

Academy of Urban Planning and Engineering – Brooklyn	Girl Scouts of Western New York
Bronx Works	Good For Girls Inc.
Catholic Archdiocese of New York	Highbridge Green School – Bronx
Catholic Archdiocese of Brooklyn and Queens	High School for Environmental Studies – Manhattan
Center for the Integration & Advancement of New Americans	Historic St. George Episcopal Church
CUNY Staten Island Science and Technology Entry Program	Hispanic Heritage Council of Western New York
Bronx Community Board 1	Hostos Community College Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program
City University of New York – the College of Staten Island	Hostos Community College Liberty Partnership Program
Della Monica Senior Center	IS 227 – Louis Armstrong Middle School – Queens
Eagle Academy for Young Men	Jacob Riis Afterschool Program
Eastside Houses – Mitchell Community Center	Laboratory School of Finance and Technology
Edward R. Morrow High School – Brooklyn	LaGuardia Community College Liberty Partnership Program
Feeding Westchester	Levesque Institute
First Central Baptist Church of Staten Island	Lincoln Academy of Science – Bronx
Fulton Montgomery Community College Liberty Partnership Program	Long Island University Liberty Partnership Program
Fulton Montgomery Community College Science and Technology Entry Program	Massena Boys and Girls Club

Massena Housing Authority	St. Sylvester Roman Catholic Church
McKinley Houses	Staten Island Community Board 1
Medgar Evers College Research Foundation	Sunset Park Senior Center
Medgar Evers College Science and Technology Entry Program	SUNY Albany Liberty Partnership Program
Millbrook Houses	SUNY Cortland Liberty Partnership Program
Mohawk Valley Community College Collegiate Science and Technology Program	SUNY Polytechnic Institute Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program
Montessori Magnet School – Albany	SUNY Potsdam Science and Technology Entry Program
Mott Haven Academy	The Belle Center
National Night Out	The Floating Hospital
New York Sun Works	Third Avenue Business Improvement District
Niagara Falls Boys and Girls Club	Tuscarora Nation
Niagara Falls Housing Authority	United Neighborhood Houses
Niagara University	UPROSE
North Country Housing Council	Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology Science
Nos Quedamos	Wagner High School – Staten Island
Office of the Bronx Borough President	Wagner Houses – Supportive Children’s Advocacy Network
Office of the Brooklyn Borough President	Westchester Community College
P.S. 377 – Brooklyn	Westside Senior Center
P.S. 2130 – Bronx	White Plains High School
P.S. 179 – Brooklyn	White Plains Youth Bureau
Queens Community Board 1	Women of Westchester
Queensbridge Houses	Woodside Houses
Say Yes to Education	YWCA of Westchester – GEMS Program
Southeast Bronx Neighborhood Centers	
St. Lawrence County Community Development Center	
St. Regis Mohawk Nation	



# Education Equals Empowerment

## STEM Education and Community Energy Literacy

### STEM Education

*Science, Technology, Engineering, Math*

Our supplemental STEM education program is designed to improve the academic performance of K-12 students who attend under-resourced schools in EJ communities. Our goal is to help level the playing field by providing age-appropriate, energy related education so students are better equipped to compete academically and professionally.



*School of Finance and Technology, Bronx*



*Fulton-Montgomery Community College  
Liberty Partnership, Johnstown*



*Massena Boys and Girls Club*

### Bringing STEM Programs to Our Communities

Our STEM program provides a fun, hands-on and collaborative learning experience for students. It focuses on topics that include: basic electricity, electric generation and transmission, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and the effects of climate change.

We bring our programs to the community in a variety of different ways. Whether it is an afterschool program, STEM camp, green classroom program, or a one-day workshop, we strive to build students' interest and confidence in science outside of the traditional classroom setting.



*St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, Massena Students.*



*Highbridge Green School, Bronx*



*Fulton-Montgomery Community College  
Liberty Partnership, Johnstown*



*SUNY Albany and SUNY Cobleskill  
Liberty Partnership, North Blenheim*



## STEM Career Preparation

NYPA places a premium on cultivating a tech-savvy and diverse workforce. Bringing awareness of the numerous career opportunities in the electric utility industry to upper level high school and college students is another EJ initiatives.

Our goal is to help students gain a real-world understanding of the career benefits of STEM proficiency. Human Resources staff teach students how to

write an impactful resume and how to prepare for interviews. Another feature of this initiative is speed mentoring. Students engage in a fun exercise whereby they get a wide range of career and educational and advice from NYPA professionals. Career panels also provide a relatable way to share personal stories and help students understand pathways to professional success.



Hostos Community College STEM Career Workshop, Bronx

## Community Energy Literacy: Energy Education Workshops

According to the U.S. Census, the national average energy bill for low-income households is 8.6%—3 times higher than for non-low-income households. NYPA's Energy Education and Weatherization Workshops

help alleviate some of this burden by teaching low-income homeowners and renters simple and no-cost ways they can conserve energy and lower utility costs without compromising comfort or safety.



Niagara Falls Boys and Girls Club, Niagara Falls



Catholic Charities Della Monica Senior Center, Queens



Catholic Charities Della Monica Senior Center, Queens



# You Must be Part of the Community to Serve the Community

## Community Engagement and Advocacy

### Community Engagement

You'll find NYPA's Environmental Justice staff working side by side with our neighbors at community fairs, neighborhood beautification projects, and back-to-school events across the State. In 2019, NYPA sponsored its first Having Fun with STEM Day! for the 200 families living in Massena Housing Authority homes.

These opportunities help us develop a deeper, one-on-one understanding of the concerns and challenges of the families and residents who live in EJ communities.



Massena Housing Authority, Massena



Victory Houses, Massena

### Advocacy

*NYPA recognizes the need to include all marginalized communities in the benefits that accrue from a clean energy economy. A critical part of our Environmental Justice mission is to act as the internal voice of the community to ensure that an Environmental Justice lens is applied to all of NYPA's strategic planning efforts and operations.*



Community Meeting, White Plains



Massena Housing Authority, Massena



# We Build the Bridge to Bring Energy Efficient Technologies to Our EJ Communities

## Energy Services Projects

Environmental Justice communities often lack the funding to implement energy efficient technology that can improve quality of life. NYPA's EJ staff work with our partners to identify opportunities for us to help. We are currently engaged in ongoing planning for long-term energy services projects that are provided at no-cost to our communities.



Massena Housing Authority, Massena



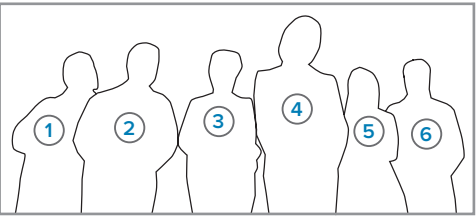
Massena Housing Authority, Massena

### ENERGY SERVICES PROJECT CASE STUDY

#### Massena Housing Authority

*Leveraging NYPA's expertise in energy efficiency, our Environmental Justice team spearheaded its first project at the Massena Housing Authority in December 2018. 260 energy efficient refrigerators were installed in the homes and apartments of low income and disabled residents. Savings from the project helps lower residents' utilities bills. EJ staff also distributed holiday food providing an extra dose of good cheer.*

# Meet the Team



1. **Natalie Thomas** – Department Administrator, Environmental Justice and Sustainability
2. **Matthew Caruso** – Environmental Justice Program Coordinator
3. **Kaela Mainsah** – Senior Manager, Environmental Justice
4. **Lisa Payne Wansley** – Vice President, Environmental Justice and Sustainability
5. **Alexandra DeRosa** – Environmental Justice Program Coordinator
6. **Julieanne Sullivan** – Environmental Justice Program Specialist

## Contact Information

To learn more about NYPA's Environmental Justice Program, please visit our website:  
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For more information about NYPA, careers and our internship program, please visit:  
[NYPA.gov](https://NYPA.gov)  
[nypa.gov/careers/](https://nypa.gov/careers/)  
[careers.nypa.gov/go/Internship](https://careers.nypa.gov/go/Internship)