



Date: October 20, 2021

To: Karen Persichilli Keogh, Secretary to the Governor  
Elizabeth Fine, Counsel to the Governor

From: Justin Driscoll, Interim President and CEO

Subject: Government Transparency Initiative

The New York Power Authority (NYPA) appreciates the opportunity to reflect on our current transparency and identify additional tangible ways to increase accountability. Broadly, NYPA has two stakeholders: our direct customers and the citizens of the State of New York. One of our primary goals is to provide transparency to both.

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***Existing transparency efforts***

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**Direct Customers:**

NYPA makes every effort to provide transparency and regular contact with all direct customers. Each NYPA customer is assigned a specific customer account representative to reach out to with questions or concerns. Additionally, in 2021, NYPA's online portal was launched for all customers, allowing them to see and manage their bill, track their energy services projects and more. The product and services website was also recently refreshed to provide an easier method to understand the wide and diverse energy services and solutions NYPA offers. Further, NYPA customers have the option to take advantage of New York Energy Manager, our real-time energy management platform.

NYPA also provides regular financial disclosure to our customers through Electronic Municipal Market Access (EMMA) system, operated by the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board and our website, including financial reporting and official bond transaction disclosures.

**For all New Yorkers:**

NYPA's [website](#) designed to provide visitors with access to our expansive repository of information, including a direct link to our [Document Library](#). Publicly available information includes our financial disclosures, meeting minutes from all NYPA Trustees Board and Committee meetings, operations documents and all other required postings. Board meetings are also live streamed from the website and YouTube. Financial disclosures include NYPA's [annual budget and four-year financial plan](#)

In addition to mandatory disclosures, we also provide online access to our [Annual Report](#), [Sustainability Report](#), and our [VISION2030 plan](#).

NYPA has in-house Communications and Social Media teams to responsively communicate with members of the public and the press. On social media, NYPA has profiles on Facebook (7,877 followers), Twitter (10,200 followers), LinkedIn (27,134 followers), Instagram (2,458 followers), YouTube (1,443 followers, 53 public videos), Flickr (36 followers), Tumblr (100 followers), ReCharge LinkedIn

Showcase Page (141 followers) and EVolve NY Facebook page (181 followers). Additional pages are also held for Canals.

## **Community Engagement and Advocacy**

NYPA maintains a Community & Government Affairs group that is responsible for communicating with NYS communities and local/state/federal elected officials regarding NYPA's mission, our goals, programs and activities, developing support for initiatives with public and private stakeholders, and assisting in the implementation of select energy programs. Members of the Community and Government Relations division are located at Power Authority facilities across the State. Our staff members reach out to the community through hosting numerous local events, participation in community organizations, education programs, regional speakers bureaus and contact with local officials and business customers.

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.

## **Partnerships**

NYPA has partnered with UPROSE, an intergenerational, multi-racial, nationally-recognized, women of color led, grassroots organization that promotes sustainability, is a good example. It joined together to celebrate the launch and initial harvest of New York City's first-ever community-based organization hydroponics lab. The gardens, which grow basil in an indoor controlled setting without soil, will offer learning opportunities to community members interested in sustainability and food production.

- Funded by NYPA, the new lab was conceptualized and developed by NY Sun Works and UPROSE. Located in Brooklyn, the new lab builds on NYPA's Green Classroom Initiative, a program which provides the unique opportunity for a hands-on learning experience in an urban farm science lab setting.

Additionally, in 2020, NYPA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the PEAK Coalition to evaluate options for peaker plant retirements.

## **Visitors Centers**

Our Visitor Centers have historically provided opportunities for thousands of New Yorkers and visitors to acquire a better sense of our generation and transmission facilities and their underlying scientific and engineering principles. They are absolutely free.

### **Niagara Power Vista**

The Power Vista is open 7 days a week from 9 am to 5 pm. Outdoor recreation facilities on the project grounds are also open. In addition, we are starting to plan special events and will post them on our events calendar.

The Power Vista, which was redesigned in 2016, offers an array of multimedia exhibits, including hands-on interactive technologies, large touch screens and a virtual roller-coaster ride relating to the production of electricity, energy efficiency and the area's history. The location also provides spectacular views from the observation deck 350-feet above the Niagara River Gorge.

***Two Recent Events:*** October is Energy Awareness Month, the New York Power Authority is hosting two energy-related events at the Niagara Power Vista in Lewiston: The Electric Vehicle

(EV) Guest Drive on Sat., October 23, where licensed drivers can test drive an electric vehicle, and a Halloween ‘Trunk or Treat’ event for families and kids on Saturday, October 30 where families can trick or treat through an array of electric vehicles.

Both events are designed to showcase NYPA’s commitment to making EVs easy to own and operate in New York State, to reduce the carbon footprint of the state’s transportation sector. NYPA’s EVolve NY program is leading the way in EV infrastructure, building fast, affordable and reliable charging stations throughout the state so New Yorkers can drive electric with confidence.

Electric Vehicle Guest Drive – Saturday, Oct. 23, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

The event will be an opportunity to learn about available makes and models, the how-tos of charging, and the benefits of electric car adoption. Knowledgeable staff and electric car owners will be on hand to answer all your questions. Licensed drivers are invited to test drive a current market electric car, including the Tesla Models 3, Y and X, Ford Mustang Mach-E, VW ID4, Kia Niro, and Hyundai Ioniq

Halloween ‘Trunk or Treat’ – Saturday, Oct. 30, from 1 – 3 p.m.

Dress up in your Halloween finest and come to the Power Vista’s ‘Trunk or Treat’ event where kids are invited to trick or treat through an array of electric and hybrid electric vehicles, just outside the Power Vista.

### **B-G Visitors Center**

Housed in a 19th-century dairy barn, the Blenheim-Gilboa Visitors Center features interactive, hands-on exhibits that demonstrate how our power is made and how pumped storage is important to reliable electricity in New York State. The visitors center traditionally hosts and holds free special events throughout the year including favorites like the Travelogue Series, Antique Car Show, Wildlife Festival, Halloween Haunted Tents, Zombie Run, Haunted History Tour, Festival of Trees and much more.

### ***Lansing Manor Historic Lansing Manor***

On site at the B-G Visitors Center is Lansing Manor. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places it is an early American country estate filled with authentic furnishings from the 19th century. John Lansing, who represented New York as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention in 1787 and the state’s Ratification Convention in 1788, had the house built for his daughter and son-in-law in 1819. Lansing Manor is filled with authentic furnishings and priceless antiques from the first half of the 19th century and contains 10 large rooms on two floors, plus a below-ground kitchen and other utility rooms and is a classic example of Federal period architecture.

### ***John S. Dyson New York Energy Zone***

The NY Energy Zone introduces New Yorkers to the dynamic world of electricity, past, present, and future, and the State’s part in it. Interactive exhibits, activities, movies and videos meet you at every turn. It allows visitors to learn about New York’s electric history, its great electric companies, and the important work at NYPA’s Frederick R. Clark Energy Control Center in nearby Marcy.

The 15,000-square-foot facility is designed for visitors of all ages and features unique exhibits that simulate flying a drone to check power transmission lines, controlling electricity on a model energy grid, operating a simulated power plant and building a table-top micro power grid, along with many other activities designed to teach visitors about energy and electricity in New York State.

Visitors can also experience “Imagination!”—the first movie of its kind utilizing 3-D MAGI film generation, by famed cinematographer and director Douglas Trumbull, who is known for his visual effects photography in the films 2001: A Space Odyssey (1968) and Blade Runner (1982), among others. The 3-D movie aims to enlighten viewers about Nikola Tesla and his lasting contributions to the electricity system of today.

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### ***Additional commitment to transparency***

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Our website: NYPA is committed to increasing the usability of our website to ensure New Yorkers can quickly and easily find information. Specifically, we commit to:

- Putting all public filings on an easy-to-find tab on the homepage
- Adding a procurement disclosure to the website to provide more transparency on NYPA procurement and specifically our Minority/Women-owned Business Enterprises (MWBE) priorities
- Adding and regularly updating our progress against [VISION2030](#) using our monthly scorecard and biannual dashboard
- Refreshing our website and search engine optimization to

#### Integrated reporting:

VISION2030, our new strategic plan, expands the scope of Sustainability at NYPA beyond environmental sustainability to include Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG). ESG is increasingly becoming a focus for our stakeholders – customers and local communities as well as investors and rating agencies. Our goal is to integrate ESG priorities as value drivers across the organization and to increase transparency and accountability for ESG performance. NYPA has identified 15 ESG issues that have greatest potential impact on the organization and are of most importance to our stakeholders. Our 2021-2025 Sustainability Plan and 2020 Sustainability Report are built around these issues and align with leading ESG reporting standards, including the Global Reporting Initiative, the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board, and the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures.

We are continuing our efforts to increase transparency by adopting the Integrated Reporting (<IR>) framework and will issue our first <IR> report in 2023. As sustainability reporting standards are consolidated, <IR> is expected to become the leading approach. It provides the structure to combine the annual report and the sustainability report into one report, and builds connectivity between financial and ESG disclosures. The framework identifies a broad base of capitals, or resources, from which companies create value, ranging from financial, intellectual, and manufactured, to human, social and relationship, and natural. By mapping inputs and outcomes to these capitals and tying investments to impacts across ESG, <IR> provides a more comprehensive view of value creation. In applying the framework to NYPA, we will be able to more fully communicate our stewardship of these resources and the value created. The approach will help us streamline the reporting process and target information that is most relevant to our stakeholders.