



The Policy & the People: *We Need to Clear the Path Ahead*



Moderator:

Ania Camargo / *Building Decarbonization Coalition*

Panel:

Debbie New / *VCGA*

Bryant Jones / *Geothermal Rising*

Heather Deese / *Dandelion Energy*

Ryan Dougherty / *GeoExchange*

Lisa Marshall / *Renewable Heat Now & NYCP*

Standing Breakout:

Jessica Azulay / *AGREE New York*

Lisa Dix / *Building Decarbonization Coalition*

Ed Draves / *Shenker Russo & Clark*

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THE PEOPLE WE NEED

- Economists, lawyers, scientists, moms, municipalities, regional planning committees
- Community, industry, academics, policy makers
- Regulators, industry, geothermal companies, NY GEO, HVAC contractors, general contractors, academia, governments, nonprofits, NGOs, Rewiring America, BDC, private sector business entities, technical colleges, HVAC technical college professors, IGSHPA installer trainers, congressional offices, Geo Exchange, people with proper licenses and educational background, permitting agencies
- Federal decision makers, Congress, bipartisan lawmakers and elected officials, regulators, “gatekeepers,” academia, facilities managers, architects, engineers, national labs, Rewiring America, Dandelion, BDC, Sierra Club

- Mothers Out Front, grassroots organizers, HeatSmart Tompkins, municipal leaders, contractors, home owners, Clean Energy Communities, town boards, planners
- Gas utilities, labor

Policy Priorities (State and Federal)

1. Allow communities **and utilities** to implement networked geothermal systems
2. Jobs and labor standards, money for workforce development and a prevailing wage, **grant funding to build out programming and curriculum at community college, licensing restrictions between states that limit flexibility and movement of workers and the industry - need more flexibility in hiring. Being realistic about overcoming barriers in bringing more diversity into these trades, both on the worker and employer side. Pathway to the future for existing gas workers, steelworkers, pipefitters, and others who are trained and ready to do this work and need to be brought into this industry and allow it to scale.**
3. Deployment and demonstration dollars and raise the profile of geothermal within Department of Energy and other departments to create grant programs

4. Permitting (municipal, county and state) is complicated and time intensive
5. Utility reform so that they have more flexibility to electrify - energy efficiency programs, install non pipeline alternatives, deliver things other than natural gas, etc. Public works permissioning and rights of way. Change parameters in order for utilities to come up with more creative solutions.
6. Consumer awareness
7. Customer retrofits and how to do them in an equitable way
8. Efficient and cost-effective electrification
9. Common language and common units of measure
10. States facilities serve as examples
11. Financial evaluation of thermal resources to incorporate into networks. Developed criteria and data for where and how to start building out networks, including mapping (geology, gas system, resources, customers).
12. Coordinating development of networked geothermal projects with utility planning

13. Equity! Included in every priority.