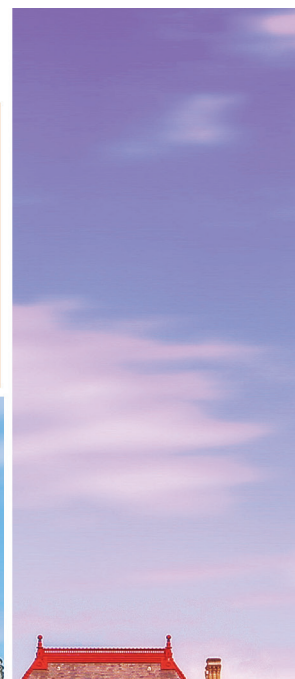
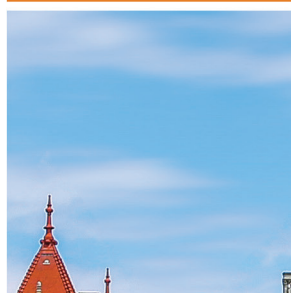
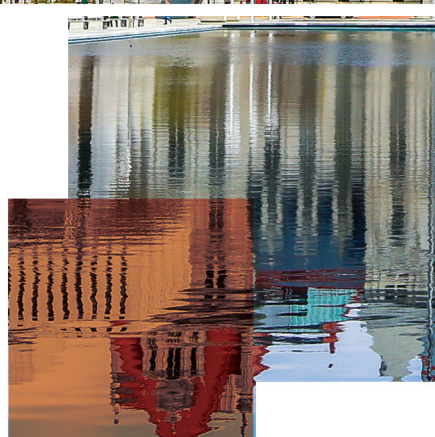


The New York State Assembly Annual Report



20 25



**Committee on
Energy**

Speaker Carl E. Heastie
Didi Barrett, CHAIR



DIDI BARRETT
106th Assembly District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

CHAIRPERSON
Committee on Energy
COMMITTEES
Environmental Conservation
Tourism, Parks, Arts, and Sports Development
Agriculture

December 15, 2025

Honorable Carl E. Heastie
Speaker of the Assembly
Room 932, Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Speaker Heastie:

It is with great pleasure that I forward to you the 2025 Annual Report of the New York State Assembly Standing Committee on Energy.

This report describes the legislative accomplishments and major issues considered by the Committee and sets forth our goals for future legislative sessions. The Committee addressed several important issues this year, including promoting the modernization of New York's grid; long-term energy planning; expanding Electric Vehicle (EV) adoption, and charging convenience infrastructure; improving transparency for ratepayers; and ensuring that the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), New York Power Authority (NYPA), Department of Public Service (DPS), and utility companies are accountable and responsive to the interests of all New Yorkers.

It is a demanding but exciting time to be the Energy Chair, with so much focus on issues such as energy generation and grid capacity. Under your leadership and with your support of the Committee's efforts, the Assembly will continue to focus on affordability and ratepayer protections during the 2026 legislative session. Many thanks to the members of the Committee, the Committee staff, and to you, Mr. Speaker, for your unwavering support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Didi Barrett".

Didi Barrett, Chair
Assembly Standing Committee on Energy

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

THE NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

Honorable Didi Barrett,
Chair

Committee Members

Majority

Angelo Santabarbara

Erik Dilan

Steve Stern

Khaleel Anderson

Sarah Clark

William Conrad III

Zohran Mamdani

Jonathan Rivera

Sarahana Shrestha

Nikki Lucas

Landon Dais

Minority

Philip Palmesano

Ken Blankenbush

Brian Manktelow

Scott Gray

Sam Pirozzolo

Daniel Fausak, Legislative Analyst
Matthew Hansen, Associate Counsel
Michelle Milot, Assistant Secretary for Program and Policy
Patricia Hanna, Committee Clerk

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	2
MAJOR ISSUES OF 2025.....	3
A. BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS	3
B. COMMITTEE LEGISLATION	4
C. BILLS OF INTEREST IN OTHER COMMITTEES.....	10
PUBLIC HEARINGS.....	11
OUTLOOK FOR 2026.....	12
APPENDIX A	13
APPENDIX B.....	14
APPENDIX C.....	16

INTRODUCTION

The Assembly Energy Committee has jurisdiction over legislation relating to energy policy and planning, energy conservation, energy availability and sources, and electric, gas, and steam ratemaking in New York State.

The Committee considers legislation that amends the Energy Law, Public Service Law, Public Authorities Law, Economic Development Law, General Municipal Law, and Rural Electric Cooperative Law.

The Committee oversees the policies, actions, orders, and regulations the of the Public Service Commission (PSC), the Power Authority of the State of New York (NYPA), the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA), and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), and works closely with the Assembly Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions, which considers legislation concerning the structure and operations of these state entities. The Committee also works with other State agencies including the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), the Department of State (DOS), and the Department of Economic Development (DED).

In 2025, 141 bills introduced in the Assembly were referenced to the Committee and 28 were reported from the Committee. The Assembly passed 18 energy bills and the Senate passed ten of those bills. Eight bills were ultimately signed into law.

MAJOR ISSUES OF 2025

A. BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Sustainable Future Fund Established

The SFY 2025-2026 Budget established a \$1 billion Sustainable Future Program to fund new energy infrastructure and promote the clean energy transition. The Fund contains the following energy-related appropriations:

- \$100 million for the purchase of zero emission school buses and supporting infrastructure;
- \$100 million to support the development of EV fast charging stations throughout the state;
- \$200 million to support renewable energy projects developed by the New York Power Authority;
- \$240 million for the development of thermal energy networks at CUNY and SUNY Campuses;
- \$50 million for the EmPower+ program, which helps low- and moderate-income households undergo energy efficiency improvements; and
- Up to \$100 million for the purchase and installation of energy efficient residential appliances, including heat pumps.

Call Before You Dig Penalties Increased

The SFY 2025-2026 Budget included provisions that raised the penalties for excavators and operators who endanger public safety by damaging utility lines, and redirected penalties into the Environmental Protection Fund.

B. COMMITTEE LEGISLATION

Charging Station Accessibility

(A.1469 Simon; Chapter 86 of 2025)

This law provides technical amendments to Chapter 618 of the Laws of 2024, which required NYPA, which constructs and leases EV charging stations throughout the state, to include parking spots to accommodate wheelchair access. The technical amendments clarify that at least one space must be accessible to people with disabilities.

Utility Call Center Requirements Chapter Amendment

(A.2579 Cruz; Chapter 107 of 2025)

This law provides technical amendments to Chapter 675 of 2024, which modified the requirements of utility customer service call centers to, among other things, require the PSC to approve the relocation of a utility's call center outside of the State and impose penalties if a utility relocated a call center without approval. The technical amendments clarify that the transfer of customer service requests out of state are permissible during certain circumstances such as during a declared emergency or for training purposes, and removes the deadline for the PSC to approve or deny a call center relocation request, as well as the penalties.

ESCO Refunds

(A.6762 Woerner; Chapter 129 of 2025)

Currently utilities are required to remit any unclaimed funds, such as deposits or refunds, to the State Comptroller under the Abandoned Property Law. However, Energy Services Companies, or ESCOs, which, like utilities, provide energy services, emerged after the creation of the statutory requirements, are not subject to the remittance requirement. This law requires ESCOs to remit any unclaimed funds to the Comptroller in the same manner as utilities.

Funding for the Installation of Mechanical Insulation
(A.3999-B Bronson; Chapter 363 of 2025)

Mechanical insulation is designed to increase the energy efficiency of heating and air conditioning pipes and ducts by reducing the amount of energy lost in moving energy throughout a building. Less energy usage results in lower energy costs.

This law requires NYSERDA to provide energy audits to identify mechanical insulation needs and provide grants for public buildings, such as hospitals, housing, and schools, to install mechanical insulation at no cost to the facility.

Greater Transparency in Utility Capital Expenditures
(A.2736-A Jacobson; Chapter 622 of 2025)

Capital projects are one of the largest expenses of electric and gas utilities and these costs are ultimately passed along to ratepayers. Capital expenditures are typically approved by the PSC in the context of a rate case. Rate cases are made up of lengthy, dense, and complicated documents hundreds of pages long, making it difficult to understand the actual costs of capital projects and their benefits.

This law requires utility companies to describe their capital expenditures more transparently and demonstrate that the costs of the project are reasonable in light of the expected benefits.

Consumer Representation on the State Energy Planning Board
(A.4712 Barrett; Chapter 650 of 2025)

The State Energy Planning Board is tasked with developing and updating a State Energy Plan to guide state energy policy. Prior to 2012, the Consumer Protection Board oversaw the state Utility Intervention Unit, which is now housed under the Department of State, and had their own dedicated seat on the State Energy Planning Board. Since the elimination of the Consumer Protection Board, there has been no direct representation for an entity primarily dedicated to protecting ratepayers on the State Energy Planning Board. This law remedies that omission and adds a representative of the Utility Intervention Unit to the State Energy Planning Board.

Public Renewables Transparency
(A.7686-A Shrestha; Chapter 679 of 2025)

In the SFY 2023-2024 budget, NYPA was granted the authority to develop, own and operate renewable energy projects. As the Authority develops their plans to build these projects and plays a larger role in the state's energy system, public interest in the development process has increased. This law will require a report on the development and implementation of NYPA's renewable energy generation strategic plan to be delivered at three board meetings per year. This law also adds the chief executive officer of NYPA to the State Energy Planning Board.

Energy Services Company Billing Comparison
(A.3875 Dinowitz; Chapter 685 of the Laws of 2025)

ESCOs are companies that sell power to customers who would otherwise be served by a local utility. ESCOs promise certain benefits such as cheaper or greener energy to their customers. This law will require ESCOs to provide a comparison on customers' bills between ESCO prices and the prices the utility would have charged. This law will provide ESCO customers with additional information, which could otherwise be obscured by complicated billing procedures, to better evaluate ESCO prices.

Customer Notice of Rate Changes
(A.6326-A Valdez; Veto Memo 80)

When the PSC approves an increase in utility rates, the utility is currently only obligated to publish notice in a newspaper with general circulation. As a result, in an increasingly digital world, many customers may not be aware of a rate increase and may be unprepared for higher energy costs. This legislation would require utilities to send written notice to each electric and gas customer at least 45 days prior to a major rate change.

Microgrid Study

(A.7762 Bichotte-Hermelyn; Veto Memo 84)

A microgrid is a group of interconnected energy resources that acts as a single controllable entity that can connect and disconnect from the larger grid. Microgrids help provide local power when the larger electric grid is down and can help ensure reliability. This legislation would direct NYSERDA to study the feasibility of constructing a microgrid on the campus of Brooklyn College in Kings County.

Utility Intervenor Reimbursement Account

(A.836 Solages; Passed the Assembly)

Utility rate cases have hundreds of pages, detailed accounting information, and technical language, and can be daunting for ratepayers to navigate. As a result, ratepayer concerns are not always fully represented in the final rate determination. This legislation would establish the Utility Intervenor Reimbursement Account to help offset the costs of public participation in PSC proceedings, including utility rate cases. The Account, which would be funded by the utilities, would allow qualified individuals and not-for-profit organizations to apply for reimbursement of reasonable expenses, related to expert witness fees and other costs for preparation and participation in a proceeding related to the cost of gas, electricity, steam, or submetering.

Grid Modernization

(A.982 Barrett; Passed the Assembly)

As New York strives to reduce its dependence on fossil fuels, more vehicles, equipment, and appliances will be reliant on the electric grid and increase electricity demand. Any resulting increase in demand will require a more robust and modern electric grid. This legislation would establish the New York State Grid Modernization Commission. The 17-member Commission, made up of Commissioners of relevant state agencies as well as legislative appointees, would be tasked with issuing a report to the State Energy Planning Board on recommendations for tools, resources, and deployment models, such as distributed energy resources, demand management systems, and other emerging technologies to improve and modernize the electric grid.

EV Charging Station Implementation Plan

(A.1012-A Barrett; Passed the Assembly)

As the adoption of EV continues to rise, the need for more plentiful and robust charging infrastructure becomes even more important. Currently, a patchwork of state agency programs, municipal projects, and private developers are undertaking this complex development without much coordination. This legislation would direct NYSERDA to establish a Fast Charge NY Working Group and develop an EV Fast Charging Station Implementation Plan in consultation with the working group. The plan would be required to include information on the current landscape of EV charging stations, as well as methods to increase the availability of charging stations, and guidance for municipalities and fleet owners to deploy charging stations.

Interconnection Study

(A.4127-A Stirpe; Passed the Assembly)

The process to connect new electric generators to the grid is known as interconnection, and for large generators, this process is managed by the New York Independent System Operator (NYISO). In recent years, there has been an increase in the amount of time it takes for new sources of electricity, notably renewables, to connect to the grid. As demand for electricity increases, an efficient and reliable interconnection process has become even more important. This legislation would require the PSC to conduct a study on potential changes to the interconnection process and report to the Legislature and the Governor within one year.

Utility Emergency Response Plans

(A.6285 Otis; Passed the Assembly)

In recent years, the length of power outages after major storms has increased. This legislation would require the PSC to create a time-based restoration schedule for utilities to ensure prompt restoration and utilize benchmarking, including the percentage of customers restored within each 24-hour interval after the storm. In addition, utilities would be required to include more details pertaining to staffing levels and equipment in their emergency response plans submitted to the PSC.

Charging Fee Transparency
(A.7633 Barrett; Passed the Assembly)

EV charging stations are becoming an increasingly important component of New York's transportation infrastructure. However, pricing at charging stations is not always clearly or consistently displayed and may require a mobile application to be used. This legislation would direct the PSC to establish fee transparency standards for future publicly funded EV charging stations.

Rate Case Overview Revision
(A.8151 Barrett; Passed the Assembly)

Electricity and gas service rates in New York are set by the PSC as part of a rate case, but rate cases, which are long and filled with technical language, are difficult for ratepayers to understand. Last year the Legislature enacted a law requiring the PSC to make one-page rate case summaries publicly available. While these summaries include the overall rate increase on an average customer's bill, they do not separate out the changes to service and delivery charges. Combining both charges can hide the true costs of delivery, which the utility controls most directly. This legislation would require the one-page summaries to include the separate changes to the service and delivery charges, in addition to the average rate change for residential, commercial, and industrial customers.

NYSERDA Reporting Requirements
(A.8410 Barrett; Passed the Assembly)

NYSERDA has become an important participant in state energy policy by using its status as a public authority to establish programs and spend money in a manner not available to a traditional state agency. However, as a public authority, NYSERDA's funding is not subject to the annual state budget process, which distances its operations from oversight by the Legislature. While NYSERDA is required to submit a semi-annual financial report to the Chairs of the Legislative Fiscal Committees, this report is often focused on the details of finance and accounting, and not broader programmatic and operational trends that are also of interest to the public and legislative energy policymakers. This legislation would require the semi-annual report to also summarize the specific uses of NYSERDA's funds and be shared with the Chairs of the Assembly Energy Committee and Senate Energy and Telecommunications Committee.

C.BILLS OF INTEREST IN OTHER COMMITTEES

Corporations, Authorities and Commissions Committee

Repeal of the 100-foot rule

(A.8888 Simon; Chapter 709 of 2025)

Currently, when a new building is connected to the natural gas system the cost to install the first 100-feet of pipe connecting such building to a gas main is borne by the respective gas utility. As a result, these connection costs are passed on to all ratepayers, costing all gas customers hundreds of millions of dollars per year. This law repeals the statutory requirement that the first 100-feet of a gas line be subsidized by ratepayers.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Roadway Zero Emission Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

On January 23rd the Committee held a hearing in conjunction with the Assembly Standing Committee on Transportation to review the status of zero emission vehicle charging stations available to the public on roadways across the State. The State has encouraged the adoption of zero emission vehicles in order to align the transportation sector with the greenhouse gas reduction goals of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. However, zero emissions vehicles require the construction of a network of publicly accessible charging stations, and the infrastructure to power them.

At the hearing the Committees heard testimony from the PSC, NYSERDA, the Thruway Authority, utility companies, charging station developers, a variety of truck dealerships and associations, and environmental groups.

Protecting Residential Ratepayers from Increased Energy Costs Associated with New Large Energy Users

On October 23rd the Committee held a hearing to examine measures that may be effective in protecting residential ratepayers against increased energy costs associated with the integration of new large energy users. Demand for electricity is rising significantly for the first time in over two decades, driven primarily by large energy users such as AI, data and computing services. The increased energy demand, along with the accompanying need for additional infrastructure and generation, is expected to lead to higher utility bills for all consumers in the coming years.

At the hearing, the Committee heard testimony from the PSC, the New York Independent System Operator, and utility companies on current practices to integrate large loads. The Committee also heard testimony from the Public Utility Law Project, environmental advocacy groups, and an academic on methods to protect ratepayers. Industry organizations also provided testimony.

OUTLOOK FOR 2026

The 2026 legislative session will be another critical opportunity for the Assembly to lead the way in ensuring that all New Yorker's reap the rewards of affordable, reliable, and abundant clean energy. The Committee remains interested in ensuring transparency at the PSC, NYSERDA, NYPA and the utilities. The Committee also remains focused on protecting residential and small commercial customers from utility bill rate increases, particularly those caused by large energy users like data centers. Additionally, the Committee will be actively monitoring the changing energy landscape, including the impacts of federal actions and recent projections of significant increases in electricity demand.

APPENDIX A

2025 SUMMARY SHEET

Summary of Action on All Bills Referred to the Committee on ENERGY

Final Action	Assembly Bills	Senate Bills	Total
<u>Bills Reported Favorable To:</u>			
<i>Codes</i>	2	0	2
<i>Judiciary</i>	0	0	0
<i>Ways and Means</i>	10	0	10
<i>Rules</i>	11	0	11
<i>Floor</i>	5	0	5
TOTAL BILLS REPORTED	28	0	28
 <u>Bills Held for Consideration</u>	 3	 0	 3
<u>Bills Defeated</u>	0	0	0
<u>Bills Enacting Clause Stricken</u>	2	0	2
<u>Bills Re-referenced</u>	2	0	2
<u>Bills Never Reported</u>	106	54	160
 TOTAL BILLS IN COMMITTEE	 141	 54	 188
 TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD	 5		

APPENDIX B

ENERGY BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

Assembly Bill	Sponsor	Description	Final Action
A.1469	Simon	Clarifies the requirement that NYPA's EV charging stations include at least one space to accommodate people with wheelchairs.	Chapter 86
A.2579	Cruz	Provides technical amendments to a 2024 law related to the requirements of utility customer service call centers.	Chapter 107
A.2736-A	Jacobson	Requires utilities to describe requested capital expenditures in greater detail and make them publicly available.	Chapter 622
A.3875	Dinowitz	Requires the bills of ESCOs to include a cost comparison of ESCO and local utility prices.	Chapter 685
A.3999-B	Bronson	Requires NYSERDA to establish a program to provide mechanical insulation grants to public buildings, including school districts.	Chapter 363
A.4712	Barrett	Requires a representative from the DOS's State's Utility Intervention Unit to be appointed to the State Energy Planning Board.	Chapter 650
A.6326-A	Valdez	Requires electric and gas utilities to provide 45-days' notice to customers of a major change in rates.	Veto Memo 80
A.6762	Woerner	Requires ESCOs to remit unclaimed funds to the State Comptroller in the same manner as utilities.	Chapter 129

A.7686-A	Shrestha	Requires NYPA to report on progress regarding the implementation of its renewable energy generation strategic plan and add the NYPA CEO to the State Energy Planning Board.	Chapter 679
A.7762	Bichotte-Hermelyn	Requires NYSERDA to study the feasibility of a microgrid on the Brooklyn College Campus.	Veto Memo 84

APPENDIX C

ENERGY BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY

Assembly Bill	Sponsor	Description	Final Action
A.836	Solages	Would authorize reimbursement for expenses incurred by not-for-profits and individuals that participate in certain utility proceedings.	Passed the Assembly
A.982	Barrett	Would establish the New York State Grid Modernization Commission.	Passed the Assembly
A.1012-A	Barrett	Would require NYSERDA to develop an EV Fast Charging Station Implementation Plan.	Passed the Assembly
A.4127-A	Stirpe	Would require PSC to study the renewable energy interconnection process.	Passed the Assembly
A.6285	Otis	Would require the PSC to adopt criteria for service restoration benchmarks in emergency response plans.	Passed the Assembly
A.7633	Barrett	Would require the PSC to establish fee transparency standards for publicly funded EV charging stations.	Passed the Assembly
A.8151	Barrett	Would require the PSC to include additional information in rate case summaries.	Passed the Assembly
A.8410	Barrett	Would require NYSERDA to include a brief summary of funds collected pursuant to PSC orders in its semi-annual report.	Passed the Assembly