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# 2016 Update from the New York State Assembly ENERGY COMMITTEE

Carl E. Heastie, Speaker • Amy Paulin, Chair

## Message from the Chair



As Chair of the Assembly Standing Committee on Energy, I am eager to share with you an overview of the Committee's activities during the 2016 legislative session. This newsletter will provide a summary of various issues important to ratepayers. Additionally, this newsletter will include energy saving tips for homeowners.

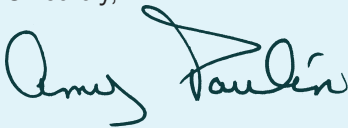
This session, the Committee advanced several bills which passed on the Assembly floor. Among key Assembly initiatives was legislation that would require utilities to file a tariff for residential charging of electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles (A.9574-A/Paulin). This legislation was intended to create a rate structure to encourage consumers to charge their clean vehicles when renewable energy is most abundant.

The Committee also reported legislation which would direct the Public Service Commission (PSC) to issue an order concerning the sharing of interconnection costs for distributed generation resources, such as wind and solar (A.10426/Paulin). This bill was a result of testimony gathered from a joint hearing with the Committee on Economic Development, Job Creation, Commerce and Industry examining obstacles to interconnecting large renewable energy systems to the electrical grid.

Over the summer, the PSC approved the Clean Energy Standard, a plan that includes a mandate for obtaining 50% of the State's electricity from renewables by 2030. In addition to this ambitious plan, the PSC continues to oversee several key proceedings, including proceedings related to the Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) initiative. As these REV-related and other proceedings progress, the Committee will be an active participant in discussions with various stakeholders to ensure a favorable outcome for ratepayers and renewable energy concerns.

I look forward to sharing more legislative updates with you in the coming months as the Assembly convenes for the 2017 legislative session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Paulin".

Amy R. Paulin  
Chair, Committee on Energy

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Please include the committee name in the subject line and provide the name and address as it appears on the mailing label and any changes you would like made.

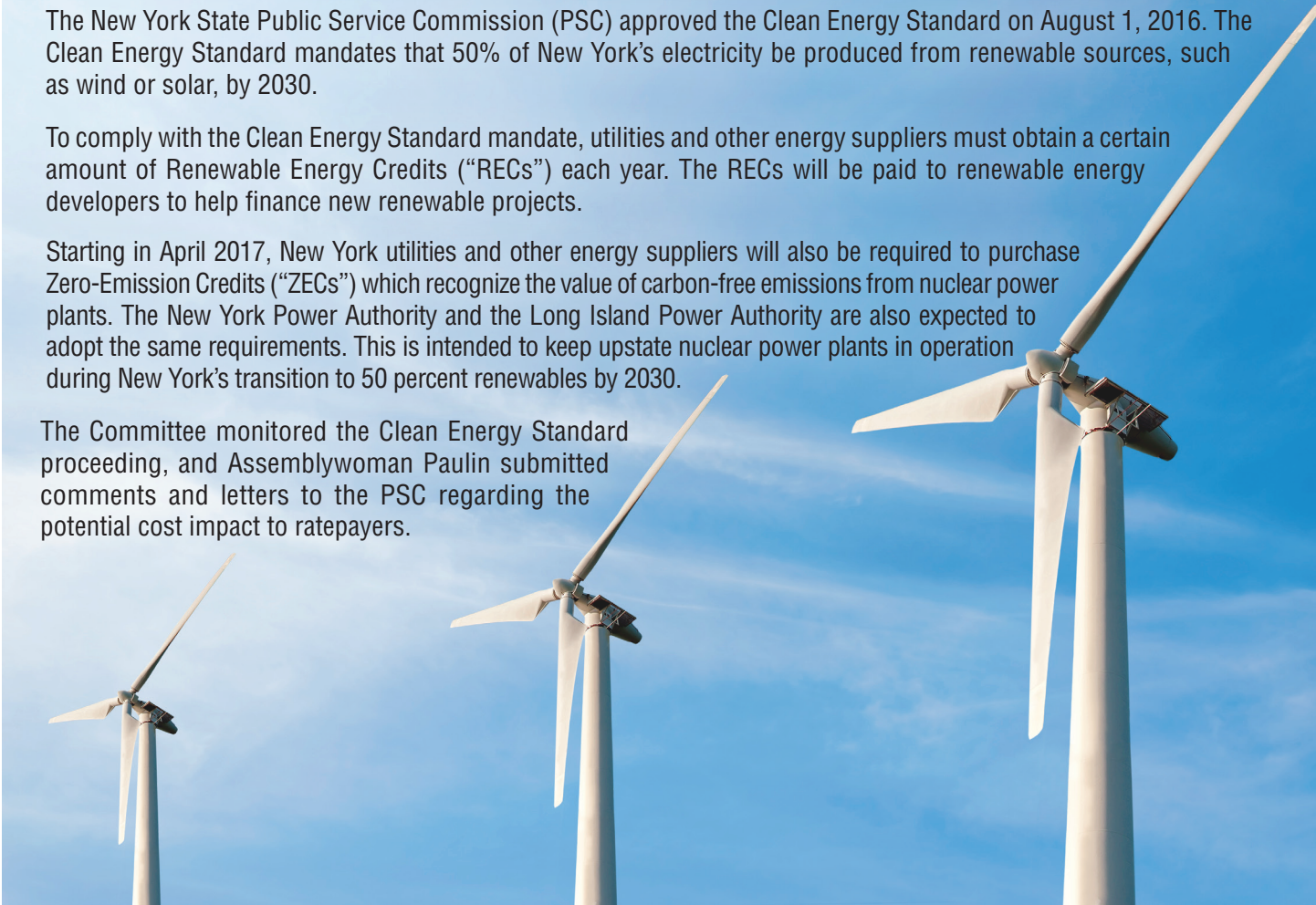
# The Clean Energy Standard

The New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) approved the Clean Energy Standard on August 1, 2016. The Clean Energy Standard mandates that 50% of New York's electricity be produced from renewable sources, such as wind or solar, by 2030.

To comply with the Clean Energy Standard mandate, utilities and other energy suppliers must obtain a certain amount of Renewable Energy Credits ("RECs") each year. The RECs will be paid to renewable energy developers to help finance new renewable projects.

Starting in April 2017, New York utilities and other energy suppliers will also be required to purchase Zero-Emission Credits ("ZECs") which recognize the value of carbon-free emissions from nuclear power plants. The New York Power Authority and the Long Island Power Authority are also expected to adopt the same requirements. This is intended to keep upstate nuclear power plants in operation during New York's transition to 50 percent renewables by 2030.

The Committee monitored the Clean Energy Standard proceeding, and Assemblywoman Paulin submitted comments and letters to the PSC regarding the potential cost impact to ratepayers.



## Electric Vehicle Charging Initiatives

The 2016-17 State Budget created an incentive and rebate program for Zero Emissions Vehicles (ZEVs) and related infrastructure. The Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) will fund an initiative to provide municipalities with a rebate of up to \$250,000 for clean vehicle infrastructure and a rebate of \$750 to \$5,000 for each eligible ZEV purchased by the municipality, based on the vehicle's range. New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) will implement a program to provide rebates of up to two thousand dollars to consumers who purchase ZEVs.



Assemblywoman Paulin joined Gil Quiniones, President and CEO of the New York Power Authority, to announce the installation of the 100th public electric vehicle charging station located at the Metro-North station in Tarrytown.

## Taking a Vacation This Winter?



If you are one of the many New Yorkers escaping the cold for a trip to a warmer locale, you can take steps to save energy while you are away.

- Lower the temperature setting on your water heater. If you are away for three or more days, select the lowest or “vacation” setting if there is one. Water heating is the second highest energy expense in homes, so the savings can really add up.
- Turn off the lights and consider using a lighting timer. A lighting timer can be programmed to turn lights on and off at certain times to make it look like someone is home without having to leave lights on continuously.
- Unplug electronics. Kitchen appliances and other electronic devices, such as TVs, DVD players, and computers continue to use power when plugged in, even when turned off.



Assemblywoman Paulin traveled to Arizona to attend the National Conference of State Legislators–Task Force on Energy Supply meeting. She toured the Southwest Gas Demonstration Facility to learn about natural gas safety, and visited the Arizona Public Service trading floor to see how the energy market works.

## Save Money By Installing a Programmable Thermostat

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, you can save as much as 10% a year on heating and cooling by simply turning your thermostat back 7°-10°F for 8 hours a day from its normal setting. For winter, setting the thermostat at 68° while you are home and awake, and lowering it while you are away or asleep, can easily save energy. To obtain these savings without sacrificing comfort, consider installing a programmable thermostat. The thermostat can be programmed at a cooler temperature for times you are not home, and heat back up in time for your return.





In August, Assemblywoman Paulin attended the National Conference of State Legislatures' "Solar Boot Camp." Held in Denver, the meeting brought together legislators, legislative staff, and state energy officials to explore topics such as solar markets, tools for valuing solar energy, community and shared solar models, and energy storage. Attendees also toured the Solar Technology Acceleration Center, the largest test facility for solar technologies in the United States.



## 2016 Update from the New York State Assembly



# ENERGY COMMITTEE

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Assemblywoman Paulin toured the Spectra natural gas compression station in Southeast.



Assemblywoman Paulin toured the Avalon Bay Fort Greene building with representatives from Avalon and ETS to learn about the technologies implemented to make it a "Smart Multi-Family" building.