



ASSEMBLY REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE



LIGHTS ON WITH ENERGY RELIEF

Assembly Republican **"LOWER"** Plan
Leader Ed Ra

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CONTENTS

How We Got Here	<u>3</u>
Quick Relief Proposals	<u>4</u>
• <i>Energy Price Rebate Checks</i>	<u>4</u>
• <i>Utility Bill Credits</i>	<u>5</u>
• <i>Bring Plants Online and Upgrade</i>	<u>5</u>
Protecting from Future Emergencies	<u>6</u>
• <i>Eliminate Mandates and Protect Energy Choice</i>	<u>6</u>
• <i>Increase Production and Ease Transportation of Natural Gas</i>	<u>7</u>
• <i>All-of-the-Above Energy Production</i>	<u>7</u>
• <i>Expand POWER UP Grant Program</i>	<u>8</u>

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HOW WE GOT HERE

Despite numerous warnings from the Assembly Republican Conference, the extreme climate policies of Albany Democrats have driven up energy costs and weakened grid reliability.

- Electricity prices for residential consumers have risen **59%** since 2019.
- The New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) has **expressed concerns** about grid reliability in the near future.
- Recent winter storms drove energy prices to **historic highs**, which will have a dramatic impact on New Yorkers' utility bills.

Through our new ***Lights On With Energy Relief (LOWER) Plan***, Assembly Republicans are delivering real solutions to lower utility costs for New Yorkers today while securing reliable, affordable energy for the future.

QUICK RELIEF PROPOSALS

Energy Price Rebate Checks

- As originally proposed by Assembly Republicans, issue a second round of Energy Price Rebate Checks to provide approximately \$2 billion in relief.
- Eligibility for the Energy Price Rebate Checks would be based on income levels and tax filing status, as shown in Figure 1, targeting individuals and families with moderate and middle incomes.
- The amount of the rebate would be structured to provide meaningful, one-time relief for those most affected by increases in household energy costs statewide.
- These checks are modeled directly after the inflation refund checks issued last year.
- Under the prior Inflation Refund Check Program, approximately 8.2 million New Yorkers received payments totaling about \$2 billion in relief statewide.
- A comparable number of residents would be expected to qualify for the new Energy Price Rebate Check Program.
- New York City: 3.5 million residents received inflation refund checks, representing \$828.8 million in total benefits.
- Upstate: 3.4 million residents received the checks, representing \$887.3 million in total benefits.
- Long Island: 1.3 million residents benefited, receiving \$316.4 million in total assistance.
- Funding would come from additional revenues identified through revenue consensus.

Energy Price Rebate Checks Figure 1	
Tax Year 2024 Income	Credit Amount
Married Filing Jointly	
Between \$150,000 to \$300,000	\$300
Less than \$150,000 Single, Married	\$400
Filing Separately, or Head-of-Household Taxpayers	
Between \$75,000 and \$150,000	\$150
Less than \$75,000	\$200
Modeled from Part A of A.3009-C of 2025	

QUICK RELIEF PROPOSALS

Utility Bill Credits (A.8876-A, Lemondes/Palmesano)

- Require that any surplus and uncommitted funds remaining in NYSERDA's Climate Investment Account at the end of a fiscal year be returned to the utility ratepayers as a bill credit.
- These funds are collected through energy surcharges under the Public Service Commission's Clean Energy Fund to support clean energy initiatives.
- Currently, there is estimated to be \$2.4 billion in this account that would be rightfully returned to ratepayers.

Bring Plants Online and Upgrade Them Immediately

- Immediate reinvestment into gas plants forced to retire by Albany Democrats' policies, and invest in new natural gas plants throughout the State.
 - Estimated to create 1,000 – 2,000 construction jobs to build each natural gas facility, and 25+ employees when fully operational.
- Members of the Assembly Republican Conference drafted a letter calling on Governor Hochul to declare an Energy State of Emergency in the state and reverse these dangerous policies that have put the grid at risk.

PROTECTION FROM FUTURE EMERGENCIES

Eliminate Unreasonable Mandates and Protect Energy Choice

- Reverse Albany Democrats' radical climate agenda and ensure consumers can choose what type of energy works for them.
 - **School District Zero-Emission Bus Opt-Out**: Authorize school districts to submit a waiver to the commissioner of education to opt out of the zero-emission school bus requirements (**A.2005, Smullen**).
 - **Zero-Emission School Bus Extension**: Extend the deadline for the zero-emission school bus mandate from July 1, 2035, to the latter of July 1, 2045, or whenever all state agencies have transitioned 100% of their medium- and heavy-duty vehicle fleets to zero-emission vehicles (**A.5168, Palmesano**).
 - **Energy Choice Protection**: Prohibit the governing board of a municipal corporation from adopting any law, ordinance, regulation, or policy that prohibits, or has the effect of prohibiting, the connection or reconnection of a utility service to a customer based upon the type or source of energy to be delivered to the customer (**A.653, Barclay**).
 - **Mixed-Fuel Buildings**: Prohibit local governments from withholding a permit for the construction of any new commercial, residential, or mixed-use building on the basis that the building will be mixed-fuel (**A.5171, DeStefano**).
 - **Protecting our Fossil Fuel Appliances**: Allow for continued use of fossil fuel-combusting equipment and building systems in new/existing construction by prohibiting the elimination of building systems or equipment used for the combustion of fossil fuels, including natural gas, propane, and fuel oil (**A.6796, Palmesano**).
 - **Energy Source for Cooking**: Prohibit banning the burning of wood, coal, natural gas, propane, or other fuels for the purposes of cooking or preparing food (**A.210, Pirozzolo**).
 - **Supply Rate Increase Notification**: Requires public utilities or municipal energy suppliers to notify customers when energy supply rates are at least 40% higher than the previous month, and requires customers to be notified of bill assistance programs that may be available (**A.1270, Slater**).

PROTECTION FROM FUTURE EMERGENCIES

Increase Production and Ease Transportation of Natural Gas

- Increase natural gas production through expanded fracking and reduced regulations right here in New York State.
 - **Natural Gas Exploration**: Allow counties to lease land for natural gas expansion, development, and production as long as gas is produced (**A.956, Angelino**).
- Expedite permitting to expand pipeline use in New York State to reduce the cost of transporting natural gas and limit emissions.

True All-of-the-Above Energy Production

- Slow the demands of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) and embrace an all-of-the-above strategy for clean energy production by investing in nuclear, natural gas, hydrogen, renewable, and advanced technology sources.
 - **Cost-Benefit Analysis**: Direct the PSC to commission a full and complete cost-benefit analysis of renewable-energy goals based on CLCPA mandates (**A.6260, Palmesano** and **A.5395, Palmesano**).
 - **Advanced Nuclear Energy Office**: Establish the New York Advanced Nuclear Energy Office to encourage private stakeholders to develop clean nuclear energy projects in New York (**A.10027, Palmesano**).
 - **Small Modular Reactor Feasibility**: Direct the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to conduct a feasibility study on the use of small modular reactors (**A.6705, Durso**).

PROTECTION FROM FUTURE EMERGENCIES

Expand POWER UP Grant Program

- Direct Empire State Development (ESD) to open this program to support natural gas expansion projects and the local pipelines necessary to support such projects.
- The Executive Budget appropriated \$100 million for the Promote Opportunity with Electric Readiness for Underdeveloped Properties (POWER UP) incentive program.
 - Appropriation is contained within the Capital Projects Budget Bill (A.10004 of 2026).
- Administered by ESD in consultation with the Department of Public Service (DPS), this funding supports the proactive development of electrical capacity to create power-ready sites in an effort to attract new businesses to New York State.
- This is the second of three rounds of funding for the program.
- As of December 2025, the program is accepting letters of intent to apply.
- More information about POWER UP eligibility can be found [here](#).

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