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Energy Policy Seminar Series

Getting Greener: New York State's Energy Strategy

Tuesday, August 18th
1:30PM-2:30PM

WebEx: https://rutgers.webex.com/meet/ffelder

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Abstract: New York State has set an ambitious goal to cut its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 85% from 1990 levels by 2050 with interim goals of a 40% cut by 2030 and for zero GHG emissions in the electric power sector by 2040. Greenhouse gas reduction is the animating principle for the State's energy strategy as articulated by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act of 2019 and policies and actions of the New York Public Service Commission (PSC) and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). In order to meet the goals, New York has mapped out a plan to build an extensive network of offshore wind turbines as well as expanding the deployment of rooftop solar along with utility scale solar power. Eliminating all GHG emissions from the electric power sector will still leave New York well short of the long-term GHG goals. It will be necessary to decarbonize the transportation and heating energy uses and convert them to electricity and that electricity will need to be supplied by non-GHG emitting sources. The immense scaling up of renewable generation over the next ten years is challenging and possibly infeasible. The focus on long-term contracts for offshore wind will limit flexibility and reduce opportunities to consider other cost-effective approaches in the future. Current state policies on nuclear, natural gas and hydropower are counterproductive to the near-term and long-term GHG goals. The state also needs to focus greater effort on reducing total energy use in heating and transportation in parallel with decarbonizing those sectors.

For more information about Mr. Hulkower and the Energy Policy Seminar Series:
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