

Congratulations to the Public Service Commission for taking on the regulatory component of the REV initiative that will ultimately lead to a greater proportion of renewable energy sources used in electricity generation.

This initiative is extremely important for us and for future generations. We need to transition from producing electricity by burning fossil fuels, which create carbon emissions that are warming the planet and altering climate.

Furthermore, relying less on fossil fuels will reduce harmful emissions, like mercury, sulfur dioxide, and black carbon. It will also reduce ground-level ozone formation. These changes will benefit our health and environment.

The regulatory role of the PSC is crucial in this energy transition. For-profit utilities are beholden to their investors, not their customers. The Public Service Commission looks out for the people.

I can attest to that. When all of the street lights in my neighborhood were out for over a month, repeated calls by me and neighbors to National Grid fell on deaf ears. I heard that the PSC could impose fines on utilities for not doing their job. So I wrote an email complaint to the PSC, citing safety and security issues of the outage. Within a day or two, I received an apologetic phone call from National Grid informing me that a truck was on my street to fix the problem. So I learned that the PSC is indeed my friend!

NY State has pledged to reduce carbon emissions 50% by the year 2030 and 80% by 2050. I and many others would like to see a more aggressive interim target. For example, 50% of pollution-free electricity from wind and solar by 2025.

Offshore wind along the Atlantic coast needs be included in the REV to get to maximal reductions in carbon emissions.

Energy efficiency is an key piece of the REV. Obviously, the less electricity we need to use, the less needs to produced.

One way to use far less electricity for heating and cooling homes and buildings is a geothermal heat pump, which requires only a small amount of electricity to

operate. It draws heat from underground to warm your house in winter, and reverses the process in summer to provide cooling.

A geothermal heat pump is also an alternative to heating with natural gas, primarily methane. Methane is a greenhouse gas far more potent than carbon dioxide and it leaks into the atmosphere during natural gas drilling, production, and distribution through our aging infrastructure. Reducing methane usage will help cut global warming pollution.

As part of the REV, NY State should provide financial incentives to install geothermal heat pumps in homes and buildings, like the incentives it provides for solar panels.