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New York's Reforming the Energy Vision Plan Recognized as 2015 Harvard Ash Bright Idea in Government

March 02, 2015

New York's Reforming the Energy Vision plan has been recognized by the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University, as part of its 2015 Bright Ideas program.

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's comprehensive Reforming the Energy Vision, or REV, plan is a strategic approach to develop a clean, reliable, and affordable energy system for all New Yorkers. The REV plan is one of 124 programs from all levels of government acknowledged by the Ash Center, part of Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government, as being at the forefront of innovative government action.

"When the state launched Reforming the Energy Vision last year, our goal was to jumpstart and accelerate private investment in the local clean energy economy to support job creation, community revitalization, and the environment," said Richard Kauffman, Chairman of Energy and Finance, Office of Governor Cuomo. "I'm thrilled the Ash Center has recognized New York's leadership in making government work more creatively and effectively for the people of New York."

The pioneering approach of Governor Cuomo's Reforming the Energy Vision plan includes regulatory changes to ensure the state's utilities use clean energy solutions to provide their customers reliable and affordable power, a transition from ineffective public programs to more market-oriented strategies to attract new capital, and investment in energy efficiency and renewables across state agencies and authorities.

The plan encompasses statewide initiatives such as the nation's largest-of-its-kind NY Green Bank to transform clean-energy financing markets, the \$1 billion NY-Sun Initiative to empower communities and schools to access the benefits of solar power, and the \$40 million NY Prize community microgrid competition to inspire a new generation of local power.

Gil Quiniones, New York Power Authority president and CEO said: "Reforming the Energy Vision's groundbreaking initiatives will fundamentally transform the way energy is generated, distributed, and used in New York State. Having our ideas recognized by the Ash Center is proof-positive we are making meaningful progress towards achieving our ambitious economic development and environmental goals."

"We are pleased to see the continued positive attention that Governor Cuomo's REV initiative is rightfully receiving," said Public Service Commission Chair Audrey Zibelman. "By unleashing innovation, New York is pioneering a new statewide approach to give customers new opportunities for energy savings, local power generation, and enhanced reliability to provide safe, clean, and affordable electric service."

John B. Rhodes, President and CEO, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, said: "Reforming the Energy Vision is a ground breaking and innovative plan that will ensure New Yorkers have access to an energy system that is reliable, affordable and ensures customer choice. The recognition bestowed by the Ash Center reaffirms that the State's efforts, under Governor Cuomo, is spurring innovation and investment in the clean energy economy and can be a model for other states."

For consideration as a Bright Idea, programs must currently be in operation or in the process of launching and have sufficient operational resources and must be administered by one or more governmental entities; nonprofit, private sector, and union initiatives are eligible if operating in partnership with a governmental organization. Bright Ideas are showcased on the Ash Center's Government Innovators Network, an online platform for practitioners and policymakers to share innovative public policy solutions.

"The Bright Ideas program demonstrates that often seemingly intractable problems can be creatively and capably tackled by small groups of dedicated, civic-minded individuals," said Stephen Goldsmith, director of the Innovations in Government Program at the Ash Center. "Making government work better doesn't always require massive reforms and huge budgets. Indeed, we are seeing that, in many ways, an emphasis on efficiency and adaptability can have further-reaching effects than large-scale reforms."

About NYPA:

NYPA is the nation's largest state public power organization, through the operation of its 16 generating facilities and more than 1,400 circuit-miles of transmission lines. NYPA uses no tax money or state credit. It finances its operations through the sale of bonds and revenues earned in large part through sales of electricity. More than 70 percent of the electricity NYPA produces is clean renewable hydropower. For more information visit www.nypa.gov and follow us on Twitter @NYPAenergy, Facebook, Instagram, WordPress, and LinkedIn.

About Reforming the Energy Vision:

Under Governor Cuomo's strategic initiative Reforming the Energy Vision, (REV) New York State spurs clean energy innovation, brings in new investments, improves consumer choice while protecting the environment and energizing New York's economy. By unleashing innovation, overcoming markets barriers and empowering communities, New York is pioneering a new statewide approach, giving customers greater opportunities for energy savings, local power generation, and enhanced reliability. New Yorkers will benefit by access to a safe, clean and affordable energy infrastructure that creates jobs and provides economic development.

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