

The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA): Phase 2 Projects FAQ

What is the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA)?

The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) was signed into law in 2019. It called for the reduction of economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions: 40% by 2030 and no less than 85% by 2050 in comparison to previous 1990 levels. Additionally, the CLCPA targets 70% renewable energy by 2030 and 100% emissions-free energy by 2040.

As a result, in May 2020, the New York State Public Service Commission (NYSPSC) directed all NYS electric utilities to identify electric system investments to support CLCPA goals.

What does “Phase 2” mean? Are there “Phase 1” projects? What is the difference?

Both Phase 1 and Phase 2 transmission project solution groups are intended to support the planned renewable generation growth in Upstate New York. Their classification refers to the underlying objectives of the effort, as well as the filing dates and rate case cycles as assigned by the NYSPSC.

Avangrid is the parent company of Rochester Gas & Electric Corporation (RG&E). Avangrid has CLCPA projects in both Phase 1 and Phase 2: Phase 1 projects are focused primarily on infrastructure asset condition (upgrades and rebuilds), while Phase 2 projects are driven by future renewable energy demands (electric, wind & solar). Both groups of projects share the primary purpose of creating additional capacity for renewable generation integration.

Where can I find detailed information about these projects?

Phase 1 projects will be listed on our Reliability Projects page of our operating company website (www.rge.com/ourcompany/reliableservice/reliability-projects). Project details will be included in project-specific Fact Sheets as plans are finalized.

Likewise, as detailed plans become available for Phase 2 projects, corresponding Fact Sheets will be created and available on our website.

At this time, Phase 2 projects are being planned for municipalities within Livingston and Monroe counties. Additional municipalities are still under consideration. Some Phase 2 projects are located within “Areas of Concern” where the NYSPSC recognized challenges to the renewable generation interconnection process, and these will require advanced planning and design.

What are the benefits of these projects?

- Improved reliability and resiliency with a strengthened network that affords redundancy contingencies in the event of extreme weather events and/or outages.
- Additional capacity for renewable generation integration.
- Significant reduction in greenhouse gas emission levels statewide.
- Increased employment opportunities and economic development during the various phases of the project for specifically impacted construction areas.

How will my rates be affected by these projects?

In February 2023, the NYSPSC approved the vast majority of Avangrid’s proposed Phase 2 projects.

The approved projects amount to about \$2.3 billion in spending by 2030. The costs of these projects are regionalized and recovered through the New York Independent System Operator, Inc. (NYISO) rates. As a result, there is a reduced rate impact to RG&E customers. All utility rates are approved by the NYSPSC.

In total, Avangrid has committed to executing approximately \$3.5B on CLCPA projects (*combined Phase 1 & 2) by 2030 in support of NYS climate goals.

Wouldn't it be cheaper to simply maintain the electrical network we have?

An integration analysis by New York State found that the cost of inaction exceeds the cost of (CLCPA) action by more than \$115 billion. (Source: NYS Climate Action Council – Scoping Plan – December 2022 – Executive Summary)

Where can I learn more about New York State's Climate Act and associated CLCPA program?

www.climate.ny.gov

Will I have an opportunity to learn more about each project, how it impacts my area, ask questions or share concerns prior to project approval?

Avangrid will encourage public involvement through various public meetings and/or informational forums (such as Open Houses), by sharing educational project resources, and by providing notifications of Public Statement Hearings and/or Evidentiary Hearings, etc. as part of the fulfillment of the mandatory public information requirements as dictated by the *Article VII* section of the *NYS Public Service Law*.

What about the impact to forests, wetlands and endangered species?

New York State requires extensive and numerous preliminary fieldwork and environmental studies before they will issue a permit to proceed with construction. The issuance of said permits represents the state's satisfaction with and Avangrid's fulfillment of their stringent regulatory guidelines to protect these groups. The fieldwork can include, but is not limited to:

- Wetland/stream delineations
- Ecological community surveys
- Threatened & Endangered species surveys
- Invasive species surveys
- Cultural/archaeological resource surveys
- Encroachment identification
- Viewshed analysis/visual simulations

Will I be notified about fieldwork activities and surveys occurring near my property?

Our Project Outreach Team will mail courtesy *Notification Letters* in advance of fieldwork occurring in a public Right of Way (ROW) or via the company's existing ROW on your property per an easement to the land, as they work in the areas in between and immediately adjacent to our existing substations. Generally, our teams (or contractors working on behalf of Avangrid) will not be accessing property outside of the company's ROW. In those isolated situations where entering private property is unavoidable, landowners will be contacted separately (usually in advance) by our Energy Land Management staff. Additionally, contractors working on our behalf may contact agricultural stakeholders separately.

How large is the impacted area?

Currently, approximately 310 miles of existing ROW land, 35 - substations, 20 - 115kV circuits, 4 - 230kV circuits, and 13 - Article VII filings with the NYSPS will be involved in this effort.



What is the objective of this huge initiative?

The CLCPA projects will provide a strengthened grid that will enable interconnections to renewable energy sources (electric, wind & solar) that will benefit customers across NYS while sharing costs across the NYISO.

Who can I contact if I have additional questions about work in my community?

Our Project Outreach Team will be available M-F to answer any questions you may have about the CLCPA projects through several communication channels:

Our Project Information Line: 888-553-5411

Email: outreach@rge.com

A member of the Project Outreach Team will respond to your question or concern within three business days. Please be sure to reference the CLCPA Phase 2 Projects in your inquiry.