CLIMATE X CHANGE

Talking Energy Affordability

From Technical Facts to Kitchen Table Conversations

February 17th at 3PM ET

Introduction

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State Climate Policy
Network Manager

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[SCPN]

State Climate Policy Network

Network of **15,000+**

- ➔ State and local elected officials
- ➔ NGO advocates
- ➔ Researchers
- ➔ State agency staffers
- ➔ Organizers and activists
- ➔ Business leaders

... working on state climate policy

www.climate-xchange.org/network

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Pro Bono Policy Assistance

We specialize in state climate policy design and analysis.
Reach out to kristen@climate-xchange.org with your requests on:

- **Example states** and **model rules** for a given policy
- **Gap analysis** of your state's climate policy landscape
- **Connections** to other actors working on similar issues

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Talking Energy Affordability: *From Technical Facts to Kitchen Table Conversations*

Abby Watson
Co-Founder and President of The Groundwire Group

Abe Silverman
Assistant Research Scholar at the Johns Hopkins Sustainable Energy Institute

Alisa Fox
Director of Grid Campaigns at ACORE

Annie Levenson-Falk
Executive Director of the Citizens Utility Board of Minnesota

Agenda

1. Communicating A Story: Investments in a Time of Rising Bills
2. Moderated Panel: *How do different tools achieve energy affordability?*
3. Q&A: Lessons Learned on Communications

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Speaker

Abby Watson

Co-Founder and President

The Groundwire Group

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Anatomy of a Bill Increase

Communicating with the public about the affordability benefits of clean energy and transmission investments

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The solution to energy affordability is **investment.**

How do we deliver this message when the subject is so complex, when we run the risk of sounding out of touch?

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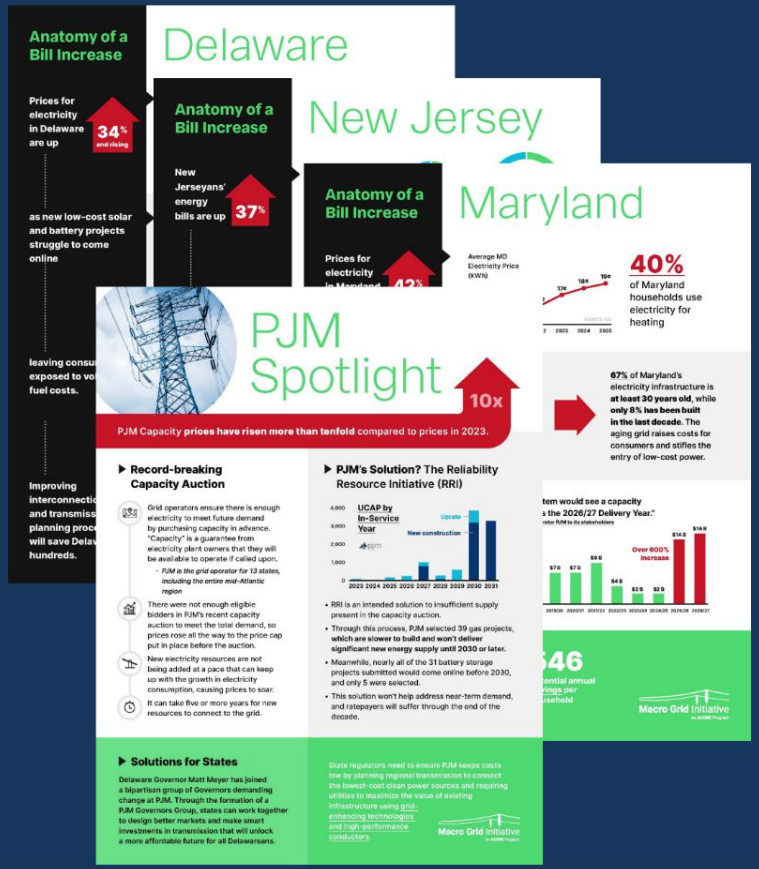
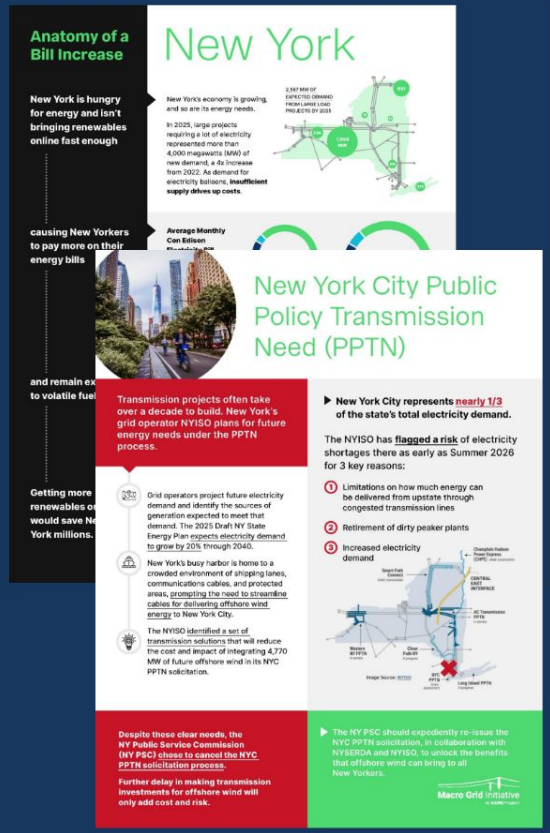
The Assets





THE GROUNDWIRE GROUP

The **Storyline**

New York is hungry for energy and isn't bringing renewables online fast enough

causing New Yorkers to pay more on their energy bills

and remain exposed to volatile fuel costs.

Getting more renewables online would save New York millions.

Problem Statement

Solution

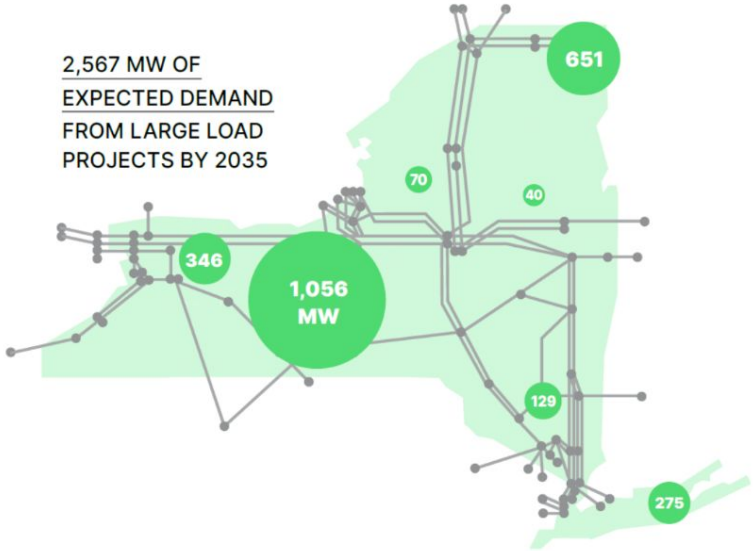
THE GROUNDWIRE GROUP

The **Storyline**

New York is hungry for energy and isn't bringing renewables online fast enough

New York's economy is growing, and so are its energy needs.

In 2025, large projects requiring a lot of electricity represented more than 4,000 megawatts (MW) of new demand, a 4x increase from 2022. As demand for electricity balloons, **insufficient supply drives up costs**.



Claim

Evidence

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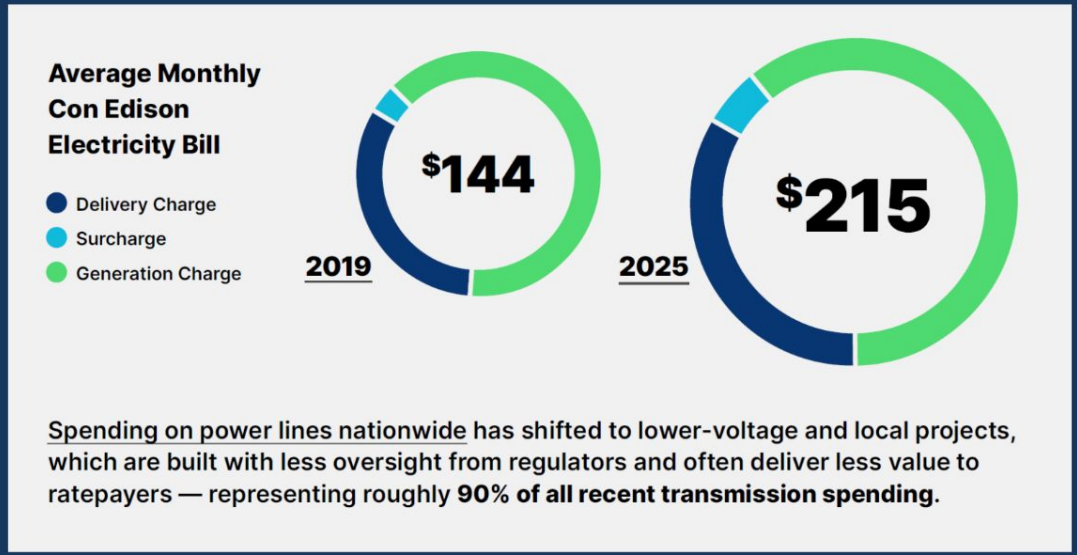
The **Storyline**

causing New Yorkers to pay more on their energy bills



Spending on power lines nationwide has shifted to lower-voltage and local projects, which are built with less oversight from regulators and often deliver less value to ratepayers — representing roughly **90% of all recent transmission spending**.

Claim

Evidence

THE GROUNDWIRE GROUP

The **Storyline**

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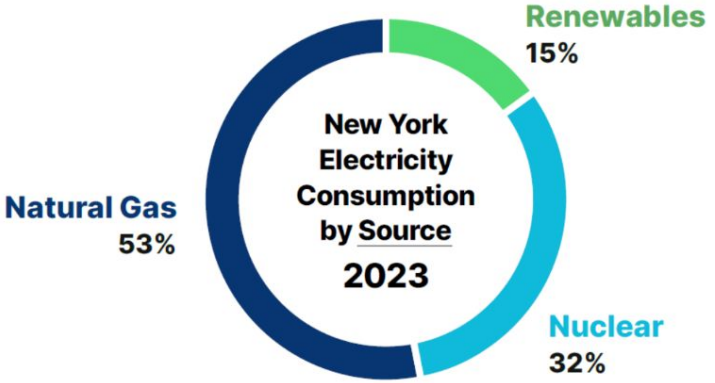

With **53% of electricity consumption coming from natural gas**, New York consumers are subject to swings in **natural gas prices, which are projected to more than double from 2024-2027**.

Claim

Evidence

THE GROUNDWIRE GROUP

The **Storyline**

Getting more renewables online would save New York millions.

Ratepayer savings projected in one cold winter month from offshore wind additions

$77 million
in savings

Macro Grid Initiative
An **ACORE** Program

Claim

Evidence

THE GROUNDWIRE GROUP

The Deeper Dive

Transmission projects often take over a decade to build. New York's grid operator NYISO plans for future energy needs under the PPTN process.

Grid operators project future electricity demand and identify the sources of generation expected to meet that demand. The 2025 Draft NY State Energy Plan expects electricity demand to grow by 20% through 2040.

New York's busy harbor is home to a crowded environment of shipping lanes, communications cables, and protected areas, prompting the need to streamline cables for delivering offshore wind energy to New York City.

The NYISO identified a set of transmission solutions that will reduce the cost and impact of integrating 4,770 MW of future offshore wind in its NYC PPTN solicitation.

New York City Public Policy Transmission Need (PPTN)

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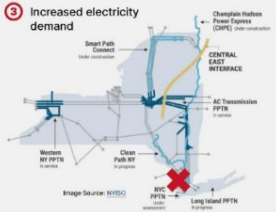
Despite these clear needs, the NY Public Service Commission (NY PSC) chose to cancel the NYC PPTN solicitation process.

Further delay in making transmission investments for offshore wind will only add cost and risk.

▶ **New York City represents nearly 1/3 of the state's total electricity demand.**

The NYISO has **flagged a risk** of electricity shortages there as early as Summer 2026 for 3 key reasons:

1. Limitations on how much energy can be delivered from upstate through congested transmission lines
2. Retirement of dirty peaker plants
3. Increased electricity demand



▶ The NY PSC should expediently re-issue the NYC PPTN solicitation, in collaboration with NYSERDA and NYISO, to unlock the benefits that offshore wind can bring to all New Yorkers.

Macro Grid Initiative
An AEORE Program

THE GROUNDWIRE GROUP

Get In **Touch**

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Speaker

Alisa Fox

Director of Grid Campaigns

ACORE

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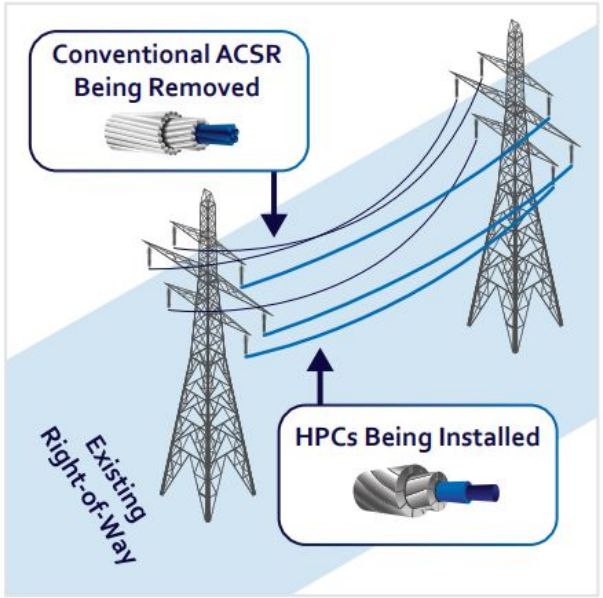
Advanced Transmission Technologies (ATTs)

Alisa Fox, Director of Grid Campaigns

ATTs make the grid run more efficiently

High Performance Conductors (HPC)



Source: HPC Playbook

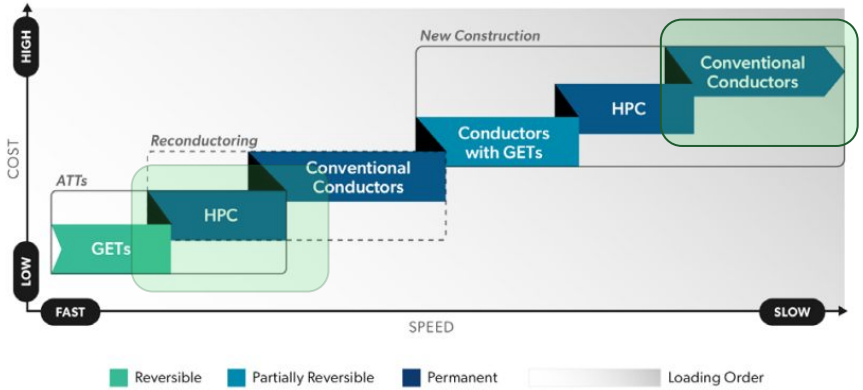
Grid Enhancing Technologies (GETs)

Dynamic Line Ratings (DLR) measure and calculate the true carrying capacity of transmission lines.

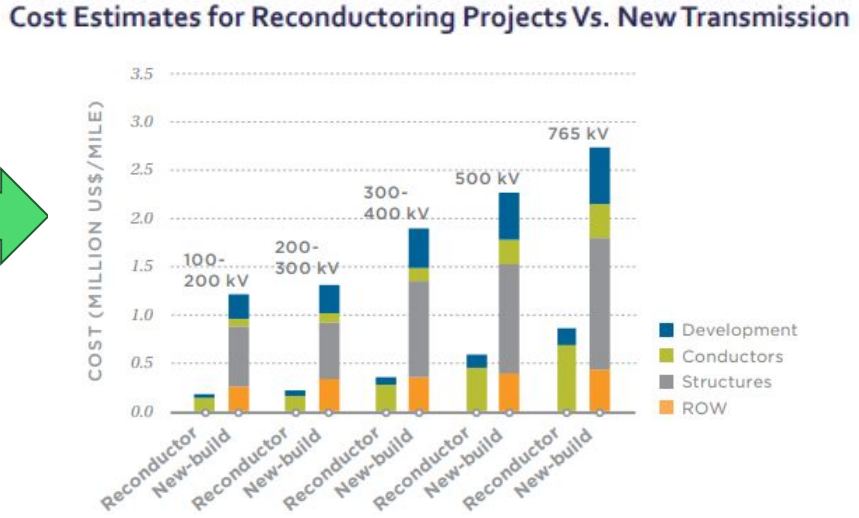
Advanced Power Flow Control (APFC) redirects power from overloaded to underutilized circuits

Topology Optimization is software that finds ideal grid configurations to avoid constraints.

ATTs increase capacity of the grid faster and at lower cost



Source: Incorporating ATTs in FERC Order 1920



Source: 2035 and Beyond: Reconductoring

ATTs can save consumers money in many ways

ACORE

Reduce congestion

- GETs can reduce grid congestion by 40%+, which would have saved $4-8 billion per year in the last five years[1].

Unlock low-cost power generation

- The production cost savings by adding more renewables to the grid more quickly for GETs alone is estimated at $5B annually[2].

Improve efficiency

- HPCs can reduce annual transmission losses by 20%+, generating over $2.2 billion in annual consumer savings[3].

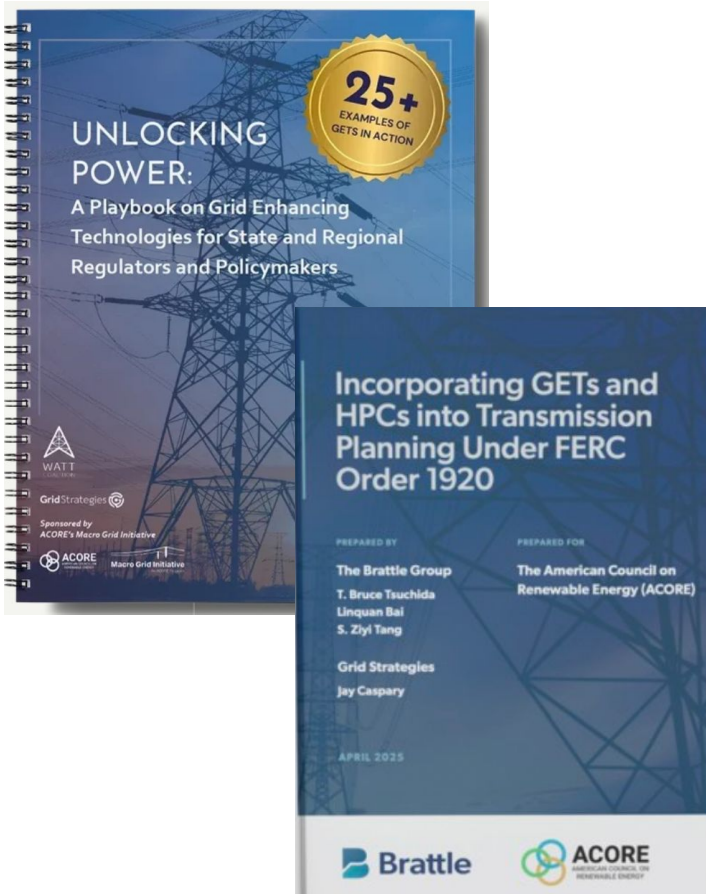
1:Building-a-Better-Grid-How-Grid-Enhancing-Technologies-Complement-Transmission-Buildouts.pdf
2.Unlocking the Queue with Grid-enhancing technoloiges
3. HPC Playbook

State regulators and policymakers play a large role in successful ATT deployment

- Study the potential and benefits of ATTs (e.g. CA SB 1006)
- Require evaluation of ATTs in State IRP Processes, state-level transmission planning, and/or CPCN Proceedings. (e.g. Virginia HB 862)
- Change or develop incentives for ATTs to encourage further deployment by utilities (e.g. Montana HB 729)
- Shift utility and public utility commission (PUC) planning and project evaluations from a "least upfront cost" to a "maximum net benefits" framework, with a particular focus on energy efficiency (e.g. Vermont)
- Make permitting changes to more closely align with federal exclusions for reconductor and rebuild projects (e.g. CA AB 3246)
- Encourage or require the creation of utility working groups to study and share lessons learned on ATTs. (e.g. NY Advanced Technologies Working Group)
- Engage with RTO/ISOs on FERC Order 1920 and 2023 to ensure ATTs are properly evaluated

Learn more!

- Unlocking Power: A Playbook on Grid Enhancing Technologies for State and Regional Regulators and Policymakers
- Unlocking the Grid: A Playbook on High Performance Conductors for State and Regional Regulators and Policymakers
- Incorporating GETs and HPCs into Transmission Planning Under FERC Order 1920
- Assessment and Evaluation of Grid Enhancing Technologies (GETs)
- Advanced Transmission Technologies Planning Guide
- Best Practices for State Legislation on Advanced Transmission Technologies



Reach out! Alisa Fox, Fox@acore.org

Speakers

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Q&A

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Thank you for joining!

Reach out to kristen@climate-xchange.org with any additional questions!

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