



SHARE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SHERIDAN HOLLOW ALLIANCE FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY—AUGUST 2019

VICTORY !?

We stopped the gas plant expansion — We think...

In February 2018, after widespread protests over plans to increase fossil fuel burning in Sheridan Hollow the New York Power Authority (NYPA) suspended work on the proposal. NYPA said it would hold "listening sessions" on renewable alternatives to heat and power the Empire State Plaza. ***Last April, the Governor and Legislature agreed that the \$88 million in the state budget for the project should be allocated to solutions that use renewable energy "to the extent possible."***

In June the state passed historic climate legislation to dramatically cut greenhouse gas emissions and rapidly transition the state to clean renewable energy such as wind, solar and geothermal. The law seeks to ensure that low-income and communities of color do not bear the brunt of air pollution and climate destruction.

"NYPA must meet with the community to let us know what they are planning. Now is the time to stop polluting Sheridan Hollow and make our Capitol an example of our renewable energy future" said Merton Simpson, Albany County Legislator for Sheridan Hollow and Co-Chair of SHARE.

Overview of the proposed power plant on Sheridan Avenue

Since 1911, Sheridan Hollow has suffered from pollution from the Sheridan Hollow Steam Plant that heats the State Capitol and other government buildings, burning coal, oil, and now natural (fracked) gas. In the 1980s and 90s the ANSWERS plant burned garbage, spreading toxic ash on the community.

A few years ago, NYPA announced plans to build a Combined Heat and Power (CHP) plant, burning gas to create both steam and electricity, by installing two large gas turbines in the old ANSWERS plant. NYPA used the same plans that were used for a similar facility to power the prison system on Riker's Island.

Because gas turbines would be the primary source of electricity and steam (used for both heating and cooling), they would have had to run **continuously**, day and night, resulting in even more fracked gas being burned in Sheridan Hollow than today.

Burning natural gas creates pollutants hazardous to human health, like carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, formaldehyde, and particulate matter. It also contributes to greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming.



Who we are

SHARE is a coalition of individuals, community and climate groups, faith organizations, and environmental justice advocates. We support 21st century solutions to achieve New York's bold climate goals for renewable heat and power and to eliminate the disproportionate exposure of Sheridan Hollow residents to harm.

SHARE Releases Report on Renewable Options for Empire State Plaza

NYPA has not held any public meetings since announcing it would hold “listening sessions” on alternatives. However, SHARE’s science team organized a full-day meeting with NYPA staff that brought in experts on geothermal technology for large-scale projects, like the Empire State Plaza. And last month, SHARE’s science team delivered a report to NYPA and the Governor detailing ways that clean renewable energy could be used.

Geothermal can meet the heating and cooling needs of the Plaza. It has been used for the state Capitols of Oklahoma, Colorado and Michigan, and for the St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York City. Both Skidmore and Cornell colleges have installed geothermal systems. Since the Sheridan Avenue Steam Plant already takes water from the Hudson River, the system could be adapted to use the River as potential source of thermal energy.

The report also explains how electricity can be produced without gas turbines, both with renewables in the immediate area and located regionally. In addition, the report challenges the energy efficiency and emission claims by NYPA in their initial plans for the proposed power plant.

For a copy of the report go to SHARE’s website: [SHAREAlbany.org](https://bit.ly/2M6vyVw) (Direct link—<https://bit.ly/2M6vyVw>)



Remove the Polluting Diesel Generators Now!

The existing diesel generators in Sheridan Hollow are a major source of air pollution for local residents and must be removed or replaced without delay. It is extremely rare for diesel burning generators to be placed so close to people’s homes.

Since their sole purpose is to provide backup electricity for an interruption of service for the Empire State Plaza, the generators are rarely actually needed. However, they are tested at least once a month for a period of time that can last several hours. Residents report seeing dense blue smoke that lingers at ground level for extended periods, along with loud noise and strong odors. Environmental Justice demands that every family should have a healthy environment. This polluting generator must be removed from Sheridan Hollow NOW.



Join SHARE

The Empire State Plaza can become a model of how to build a clean energy future to protect the well-being of current residents and future generations. We want NYPA and the Governor to issue a new request-for-proposals (RFP) for heating, cooling, and electricity needs to be met with renewable energy.

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