

# SAVE MONEY

by taking advantage  
of  
energy assistance programs

Visit the NYS Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) website to learn about free and low-cost programs to help lower your energy bills. You may qualify for a free home energy assessment or upgraded energy-efficient appliances.

Learn more at: [nysesda.ny.gov](http://nysesda.ny.gov)

# Stay safe in the summer heat

Intense summer heat can lead to power outages and dangerously high temperatures. Make sure you stay safe by spending time in air-conditioned buildings like libraries, malls or local cooling centers.

Look inside to learn about



efforts to  
lower your  
energy bill

# ASSEMBLYMEMBER Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes



# Consumers need relief from soaring energy bills



*“Skyrocketing energy bills are straining family budgets. It’s time to hold utility companies accountable.”*

**– Assemblymember Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes**

## Peoples-Stokes is working to lower energy bills by:

- ✓ **Cutting a tax on energy bills**, saving residential and business customers \$600 million over the next 3 years (Ch. 59 of 2014)
- ✓ **Creating a Utility Consumer Advocate (UCA)**, an independent voice to protect families from unfair rate hikes (A.6239-B, passed Assembly)

*“...the Assembly took a giant step for New Yorkers today by passing legislation to create an independent utility consumer advocate office with the power to go to court over unfair rate increases.”*

— Beth Finkel, State Director for AARP New York



## A Utility Consumer Advocate is needed in New York

- 💰 **New Yorkers pay some of the highest utility rates in the country.** Residential customers pay 68% more than the average American.\*
- 💰 **New Yorkers paid even more this winter** with rates increasing statewide anywhere from 10% to a staggering 75%.\*\*
- 💰 **In the 40 other states that have a comparable UCA office**, consumers have seen up to \$243 saved for every dollar invested.\*

\*states.aarp.org/nys-leaving-utility-consumers-out-in-cold-while-other-states-save-millions-with-advocate

\*\*schumer.senate.gov/Newsroom/record.cfm?id=350589

