

# 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.

To find a cooling center near you, call 311 or visit: [nyc.gov/html/oem/html/hazards/heat\\_cooling.shtml](http://nyc.gov/html/oem/html/hazards/heat_cooling.shtml)

Look inside to learn about



efforts to  
lower your  
energy bill

Assemblyman  
**Félix W.  
Ortiz**



Consumers need  
relief from soaring  
energy bills



*“Skyrocketing energy bills are straining family budgets. I am holding utility companies accountable.”*

**– Assemblyman Félix W. Ortiz**

**Ortiz 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



**I Need Your Support to Pass the Utility Consumer Advocate Bill**

-  **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



**Contact your State Senator**

**518-455-2800**

**and urge them to pass A.6239-B/S.4550-B to create a Utility Consumer Advocate**