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For Immediate Release

ACE NY Statement for Earth Week 2023

The path to a pollution-free electricity system has begun

NB: These remarks were made by Anne Reynolds, the executive director of ACE NY, at an event at Grissom Solar in Mohawk, New York [announcing](#) the completion of eight renewable energy projects in New York in the past six months.

MOHAWK, N.Y., Apr. 18, 2023 — Our climate goals have now become our construction goals. Today's wonderful celebration needs to be for twice as many projects next year, and twice that the next.

Because what New York is striving to do is nothing less than demonstrate to the world that we can aggressively tackle climate change with a gradual transition to a pollution-free electricity system. It is a long path, not always smooth, not always clear. But what's exciting is that it has really and truly begun.

As you have heard today, since 2017, New York has awarded over 100 contracts for wind and solar projects. Fantastic progress. They will likely award 100 more before 2027. These projects will bring investment, construction jobs, local tax revenue, and cleaner air; building new infrastructure to update the grid, making it ready for the future we want for our state.

Which is why today is so exciting for me. The Alliance for Clean Energy New York has been working for renewable energy development in New York for a long time — advocating, cajoling, yes, even begging; there is hardly a NYSERDA employee here that I haven't called on at one time or another. We try to identify barriers and suggest solutions; working in partnership with New York state to grow this industry; bring this investment to New York, and, simply put, change the way we make electricity.

I've said before that all of these wind, solar, and hydro projects are like an elephant that has gotten eaten by a snake. They are moving through a complicated and uncomfortable passage all at once, and causing issues along the way with more permitting, more grid interconnection requests, more tax agreement negotiations, more contract amendments requested; we are pressuring the transmission grid in new places. These are issues that are being tackled and must be solved. I like to think of them as symptoms of our success, in that there are real projects working through the system, showing how the system needs to change, and ending with projects like the ones we are celebrating here today.

So, a hearty congratulations to ALL of the people that made these great projects real — from the landowners that were open to a new vision for their land, to the developers that

spent many hours at kitchen tables and town meetings, to the laborers and electricians who made it happen, and to the New York state team, who also made it happen.

Happy Earth Day, and let's all get together next Earth Day to celebrate another successful batch of clean energy projects to power New York's future.

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About the Alliance for Clean Energy New York: The Alliance for Clean Energy New York (ACE NY) is a broad coalition dedicated to promoting clean energy, energy efficiency, a healthy environment, and a strong economy for the Empire State, and is New York's premier advocate for the rapid adoption of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. www.aceny.org