

# 2017 Report Content Guide

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Revised 8/26/16

(Replaces the 2016 NYSERDA Report Content Guide)

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This Report Content Guide should be used in conjunction with the following documents, which are available at [nyserdera.ny.gov/Doing-Business-with-NYSERDA](http://nyserdera.ny.gov/Doing-Business-with-NYSERDA):

- 2017 NYSERDA Report Formatting Guide
- 2017 NYSERDA Marketing’s Template for Reports (including example)

# 1 Purpose

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This document explains how to prepare and submit a report to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). It includes details on the elements of the report, specifications for formatting and accessibility, and information on electronic submission. Please follow these instructions unless your NYSERDA contract specifies otherwise.

NYSERDA will publish the finished report deliverable online and/or in print unless the NYSERDA Project Manager approves special circumstances. Please direct questions about technical content and submission deadlines to your NYSERDA Project Manager. For questions related to formatting and electronic submission of the report, contact Diane Welch in NYSERDA Marketing at 518-862-1090, ext. 3276 or [dlw@nyserda.ny.gov](mailto:dlw@nyserda.ny.gov)

# 2 Required Elements

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Section 6 includes a checklist of the required elements. This section contains details about the items that are required in all reports (unless noted as optional). Items should appear and be paginated in the following sequence:

- Title page (no page number):
  - Include title of report, draft or final, prepared for NYSERDA, NYSERDA Project Manager (name and title), prepared by name of organization, individuals and affiliation, report number (NYSERDA will provide during editing), contract number and date report submitted.
- Notice (small Roman numerals for page numbers i.e., ii):
  - Option 1—When NYSERDA is the project’s sole sponsor, this notice must be used:

Notice

This report was prepared by [Insert Preparer's Name] in the course of performing work contracted for and sponsored by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (hereafter “NYSERDA”). The opinions expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect those of NYSERDA or the State of New York, and reference to any specific product, service, process, or method does not constitute an implied or expressed recommendation or endorsement of it. Further, NYSERDA, the State of New York, and the contractor make no

warranties or representations, expressed or implied, as to the fitness for particular purpose or merchantability of any product, apparatus, or service, or the usefulness, completeness, or accuracy of any processes, methods, or other information contained, described, disclosed, or referred to in this report. NYSERDA, the State of New York, and the contractor make no representation that the use of any product, apparatus, process, method, or other information will not infringe privately owned rights and will assume no liability for any loss, injury, or damage resulting from, or occurring in connection with, the use of information contained, described, disclosed, or referred to in this report.

NYSERDA makes every effort to provide accurate information about copyright owners and related matters in the reports we publish. Contractors are responsible for determining and satisfying copyright or other use restrictions regarding the content of reports that they write, in compliance with NYSERDA's policies and federal law. If you are the copyright owner and believe a NYSERDA report has not properly attributed your work to you or has used it without permission, please email [print@nyserda.ny.gov](mailto:print@nyserda.ny.gov).

Information contained in this document, such as web page addresses, are current at the time of publication.

- Option 2—When there are project co-sponsors in addition to NYSERDA, use the following notice instead:

Notice

This report was prepared by [Insert Preparer's Name] in the course of performing work contracted for and sponsored by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority and the [Insert Co-Sponsor's Name] (hereafter the "Sponsors"). The opinions expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect those of the Sponsors or the State of New York, and reference to any specific product, service, process, or method does not constitute an implied or expressed recommendation or endorsement of it. Further, the Sponsors, the State of New York, and the contractor make no warranties or representations, expressed or implied, as to the fitness for particular purpose or merchantability of any product, apparatus, or service, or the usefulness, completeness, or accuracy of any processes, methods, or other information

contained, described, disclosed, or referred to in this report. The Sponsors, the State of New York, and the contractor make no representation that the use of any product, apparatus, process, method, or other information will not infringe privately owned rights and will assume no liability for any loss, injury, or damage resulting from, or occurring in connection with, the use of information contained, described, disclosed, or referred to in this report.

NYSERDA makes every effort to provide accurate information about copyright owners and related matters in the reports we publish. Contractors are responsible for determining and satisfying copyright or other use restrictions regarding the content of the reports that they write, in compliance with NYSERDA's policies and federal law. If you are the copyright owner and believe a NYSERDA report has not properly attributed your work to you or has used it without permission, please email [print@nyserda.ny.gov](mailto:print@nyserda.ny.gov)

Information contained in this document, such as web page addresses, are current at the time of publication.

- Abstract and Keywords (optional; small Roman numerals for page numbers):
  - The Abstract is a brief, approximately 200-word description of project objectives, investigative methods used, and research conclusions or applications. This information will be used when NYSERDA registers the report with the New York State Library and the Library of Congress. A list of keywords that describe the project and identify the major research concept should be submitted with the report. Four to six precise descriptors are generally sufficient and will be used for indexing, registering and distributing the report.
- Acknowledgments (optional; small Roman numerals for page numbers):
  - If included, the Acknowledgments page precedes the Table of Contents and is generally no longer than two paragraphs in length.
- Table of Contents (small Roman numerals for page numbers):
  - The Table of Contents should list front matter material (except the Table of Contents) and titles and section numbers for heading levels one through four. Additional levels should not be used in the report. If the heading styles are applied in Word, the list can be automatically generated.
- List of Figures (small Roman numerals for page numbers).

- If the report contains three or more figures, they should be listed using the style of the Table of Contents. (If the figure titles in text have the caption function applied in Word, the list can be automatically generated.)
- List of Tables (small Roman numerals for page numbers).
  - If the report contains three or more tables, they should be listed using the style of the Table of Contents. (If the figure titles in text have the caption function applied in Word, the list can be automatically generated.)
- Acronyms and Abbreviations List (small Roman numerals for page numbers):
  - All acronyms and abbreviations should be spelled out and followed by the acronym or abbreviation in parentheses on first use.
  - First reference to NYSERDA in text should be “the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).” Subsequent references should read simply “NYSERDA.”
  - When referring to New York State, use “New York State” on first use and abbreviate “the State” for subsequent uses.
  - Use a one- or two-column layout for the list, but do not use a table.
- Executive Summary or Summary (optional; ES-1 or S-1 etc. for page numbers of Executive Summary and Summary, respectively):
  - An Executive Summary is two pages in length maximum. A Summary is a shorter version of the report and varies in length but less than 10 percent of the main report is a good guideline.
- Main Text (sequentially numbered pages i.e., 1, 2, 3 etc. preferred, but chapter-page numbering is acceptable).
- Figures and tables with sequential numbering (Figure 1, Figure 2, etc. preferred but sequential chapter-number are acceptable), callouts in text (i.e., Figure 1 shows...) and Alternative Text to comply with ADA Accessibility are required. Refer to ADA guidelines for the best way to represent data with reference to colors. Preferences for tables are listed in this document.
  - Figures and tables at the back of the document are preferred for documents that NYSERDA will be formatting; figures and tables placed in-line with text near callout is acceptable. Do not use wrap text.
- References Cited and Bibliography information (as needed; continue sequential page numbering):
  - References Cited vs. Bibliography: References Cited has specific references called out in text to document sources of specific information, and a bibliography is a list of sources used to compile a document but does not have callouts for specific facts in the text.
  - Endnote style for reference citations is preferred but footnotes are acceptable.
  - Format of reference callout in text for footnote or endnote is the author-date callout in text (i.e., Wood and Stone 2010).
  - Full reference citations listed alphabetically by the last name of the first author.

- Citation format is based on Chapter 15 (Documentation II: Author-Date References) of The Chicago Manual of Style (16th edition).
- Use the following format to refer to reports published by NYSERDA:  
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). Year of publication. “Title of Report,” NYSERDA Report Number xx-yy. Prepared by organization, company or individual names and city/state location (optional). [nysesda.ny.gov/publications](http://nysesda.ny.gov/publications)
- Appendices (optional; A-1 etc for Appendix A, B-1 etc for Appendix B page numbering):
  - In NYSERDA reports, Appendices should be called appendices and not Attachments. Attachments are used to append a document to an appendix. (Attachments may have different definitions in emails and legal documents.)
- Alternative text that describes figures and tables to meet Accessibility requirements. (A separate Word file is fine—see Section 2.2 for more details).

## **2.1 Copyright for Intellectual Property**

All material borrowed or adapted from other sources should be properly identified (i.e., document, source, date, and page). The contractor must obtain and submit to NYSERDA the copyright owner’s written permission to use any illustrations, photographs, tables, figures, or substantial amounts of text from any other publication.

For each figure and table, the contractor must also provide a source line that gives the original source and any language stating permission to reprint that should be published with each respective table or figure.

## **2.2 Proprietary or Confidential Information**

Propriety or confidential information must be clearly labeled in the report submission as “proprietary” or “confidential.” To the extent possible, the information should be contained within one section or appendix that can be easily removed prior to publishing. Consult your NYSERDA Project Manager with any questions.

## **2.3 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Compliance**

As a State Authority, NYSERDA is obligated to ensure that all documents published on NYSERDA’s website are accessible, pursuant to Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794d), as amended by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (P.L. 105-220 August 7, 1998).

To meet the needs of persons with visual or mobility disabilities, reports must be in a format that allows for conversion of written words of an electronic document into speech, thus allowing the person with a disability to hear the text. The formatting of these documents is critical to the success of the conversion from text to speech. Screen reading software will read the document as one long series of paragraphs with no differentiation for new topics unless properly formatted with Heading Styles. (Imagine reading a textbook with no difference in text from one paragraph to the next.)

Reports submitted to NYSERDA must meet the following requirements:

- Use numbered headings in the document up to Level 4 (i.e., 1.1.1.1).
- Pick one of the formatting options outlined in Section 3 of this document.
- Provide short titles for all tables, images, and figures.
- Provide Alternative Text (also known as alt-text) that describes the visual elements of each image and figure—and does not just repeat the title or caption. Include alt text for any tables that are inserted as images.
- Write out links in documents that will be printed. Write the sentence so that the URL is not at the end and followed by a period. See the last bulleted item for an example (“Visit...”).
- Avoid linking to “click here” or including extremely long URLs. For web-only documents, use contextual links, such as linking NYSERDA’s website to “NYSERDA” instead of putting a long URL in text.
- Visit [nyserderda.ny.gov/Doing-Business-with-NYSERDA](http://nyserderda.ny.gov/Doing-Business-with-NYSERDA) for more information about how to make a document accessible.

## 3 Formatting

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Contractors have two options for the format of a submitted document:

### **Option 1—NYSERDA does the formatting**

- Contractor emails to NYSERDA Project Manager a Word file of all report components with all text in Times New Roman 10 pt font.
- File should include outline level numbering with each section head (1 is Level 1 Heading, 1.1 is Level 2 Heading, 1.1.1 is Level 3 Heading, 1.1.1.1 is Level 4 Heading), not to exceed Level 4.
- Each figure and table should have a call-out in the main text (i.e., Figure 1 shows... or According to Figure 1,... or (Figure 1) at the end of a sentence).
- Figures and tables along with their titles and sources (and captions if necessary) should be grouped together at the back of the file or supplied in a separate file. Contractor can request inline or back-of-report placement of figures.
- NYSERDA will format the document according to the 2016 NYSERDA Marketing’s Template for Reports.

## Option 2—Contractor does the formatting

- Visit [nysesda.ny.gov/Doing-Business-with-NYSERDA](http://nysesda.ny.gov/Doing-Business-with-NYSERDA) to download:
  - Report template (2016 NYSERDA Marketing’s Template for Reports).
  - Details about report formatting (2016 NYSERDA Report Formatting Guide).
- Apply each of the Word Styles in the template to the elements of the document as appropriate, such as apply Heading 1 to all first-level headings, Body Text to all body text and References to reference materials. Place figures and captions after each respective call-out OR in order at the back of the report. Do not hyperlink websites.

## 4 Submitting a Report to NYSERDA

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No print drafts of the report are required. An electronic Word version of the draft report should be emailed to the NYSERDA Project Manager. Contact the Project Manager regarding how to transfer large files. The contractor is responsible for satisfactorily addressing comments from NYSERDA and other stakeholders. When making corrections, the contractor must ensure that technical content is not compromised. After editorial corrections have been made, the contractor must email to the Project Manager a Word version of the final report. NYSERDA will consider high-resolution image submissions for report covers.

## 5 Contacts

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- The NYSERDA Project Manager should be the contractor’s primary point of contact.
- For additional questions, contact Diane Welch in NYSERDA Marketing at [dlw@nysesda.ny.gov](mailto:dlw@nysesda.ny.gov) or 518-862-1090 x3276.
- Contractors can also email [print@nysesda.ny.gov](mailto:print@nysesda.ny.gov) or call 518-862-1090 and ask for Marketing.

## 6 Required Elements Checklist

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The following elements should be included in reports, unless noted as optional, along with the style of page numbers is listed in parentheses:

- Title page (no page number).
- Notice (small Roman numeral page numbers, i.e., ii).
- Abstract



- Keywords (optional; small Roman numerals).
- Acknowledgments (optional; small Roman numerals).
- Table of Contents (small Roman numerals).
- List of Figures (small Roman numerals).
- List of Tables (small Roman numerals).
- Acronyms and Abbreviations List (small Roman numerals).
- Executive Summary or Summary (optional; ES-1 or S-1 etc).
- Main Text (pages sequentially numbered i.e., 1, 2, 3 etc.).
- Figures and tables with sequential numbering (Figure 1, Figure 2, etc.), callouts in text (i.e., Figure 1 shows...), and Alt Text for ADA Accessibility.
  - Figures and tables at the back of the document are preferred for documents that NYSERDA will be formatting; figures and tables placed in-line with text after first callout are acceptable. Do not wrap text.
- References Cited and Bibliography information.
- Appendices (optional; page numbering is A-1 etc. for Appendix A, B-1 etc. for Appendix B).
- Copyright information for intellectual property (i.e., images, figures, tables or large pieces of text that have been previously published)—include written permission from the copyright holder at the end of the document and use appropriate language in the captions of the images, figures and tables such as “Reprinted with permission from [publisher’s name].”
- Alternative text that describes each image and figure (include Alt text for tables that are included as images) —and does not just repeat the title or caption. (See Section 2.3 for more information.) The text should be listed at the end of the document or provided in a separate file.