**Summary of Objectives of NYSERDA Contract Agreement #158002 issued September 2020 to Pace Energy and Climate Center at Pace University: Study of New York state and local law and regulation affecting the delivery of thermal energy across public rights-of-way**

Under this agreement, NYSERDA aims to obtain a report explaining existing projects in the State of New York that distribute and sell thermal energy across rights of way:

* Observations will be evaluated to identify patterns, enabling factors, potential hurdles, and further opportunities for thermal energy service from a source to proximate businesses and residences.
* To the extent information can be ascertained, the report will explore various factors, including project technologies, size, location, form of business organization, numbers of unique customers, state and local regulations pertaining to usage of rights of way for reaching the customers served and other essential characteristics.
* The report will evaluate how the existing regime of rights-of-way regulation and law shape or constrain clean thermal projects in New York State.
* Identify and Evaluate Hurdles: Conduct an analysis of hurdles, such as but not limited to an exploration of opportunities for better coordination among regulatory agencies and issues regarding uncertainty of outcome and uncertain duration of the permitting review process especially where multiple regulators are involved.
* Identify Policy Priorities to Advance Clean Thermal: Evaluate and identify possible policy options for overcoming these hurdles, including but not limited to an evaluation of legal and regulatory approaches, as well as financial and other incentives to address overall project economics affected by legal regulatory hurdles. Issues will include but not be limited to potential indemnity matters for third parties including property rights holders, parties granting consent to projects, and those who may be affected by demonstration projects.
* Identify Promising Business Models: Explore and identify viable business models, and, to the extent practicable, create typologies with the objective of informing the degree of feasibility of business models as a consequences of various critical rights-of-way factors.