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Outstanding Questions Answered from PHN Live: IRA, Passive House Funding Opportunities Demystified by Amanda Clevinger and Ion Simonides of Bright Power.

Q: How accurate is the fear that subsidies/incentives available in NYC will run-out?

A: NYS incentives from the utilities and NYSERDA are generally offered on a first come first serve basis, and some of those programs do run out of money from time to time. However, the IRA funding will have significantly larger budgets than existing incentive programs, so we hope that most properties seeking IRA funds will be able to access them.

Q: Are the investment tax credit bonuses additive meaning you could get up to 70% bonus if somehow all bonuses applied to your project?

A: This will depend on the rules. The intent of the organizations who lobbied for the inclusion of the ITC bonuses was that you could stack the bonuses up. However, the federal agencies will have to confirm this.

Q: Does the State plan approval by DOE also apply to 45L and 179D?

A: No, states only have to get approval from DOE for the HOMES and HEEHR rebate programs. The tax credits and deductions are all federal, meaning that the federal agencies have sole jurisdiction over those.

Q: The DOE currently limits buildings of up to 5-stories to be certified as DOE ZERH, but the 45L states for buildings of any size. Would a building over 5-stories be able to then claim the 179D?

A: DOE intends to expand both ZERH and ENERGY STAR so that both under 45L can accommodate larger multifamily properties, however the timeline for that is unclear. Multifamily can also access 179D deduction.

Q: Can you address IRA w/regards to non-profit orgs? I know that ITC now applies where it did not before, but I am having trouble determining whether or not other elements apply to non-profit.

A: Non profits will likely be able to access HOMES and HEEHR rebates without issue. The biggest question is regarding the tax credits and deductions. There is debate over whether tax credits beyond the ITC will offer a direct pay option to make it easier for non profits to participate. This will be fleshed out further in the rulemaking.