STATE WIDE POLICY SOLUTIONS
TONAWANDA

NRG Huntley
HUNTLEY’S ECONOMIC IMPACT

- Jobs
  - About 75 people
  - IBEW & Boiler Makers

- Taxes – 2013-2014
  - $3,072,492 – Kenmore-Tonawanda School District
  - $2,256,256 – Town of Tonawanda
  - $792,297 – Erie County
  - Total = $6,111,048
IEEEFA REPORT
JUST TRANSITION ASSEMBLIES
Provide opportunities to practice leadership skills
Build new relationships
Continue to build and win the message frame
GUIDING CRITERIA

- Maintains fair funding for our schools
- Protects workers
- Creates good paying jobs and access to opportunities and benefits
- Reconnects us to our waterfront
- Is bold and visionary
- Sustains/creates new tax base
- Protects rate-payers
- Improves environment and health
WHAT WE WON

- **Supported workers.** Out of the 75 workers at the plant no worker filed unemployment. Preserved teacher’s/public sector jobs through establishing state mitigation funding.

- **Protected schools, services and residents.** Established transition fund. 45 Million to replace cuts to tax revenue after power plants close statewide.

- **Released future economic Development Plan.** Secured POWER+/ACC Funds—launched long term planning process. (tonawandatomorrow.org)

- **Together, with labor partners** organizing towards site clean up.
Budget Bill Established 2017 Budget – Assemblyman Robin Schimminger D – District 140 Kenmore/Tonawanda

45 M state-wide fund available for any school district or municipality where an electric generation facility is located that has ceased operations & the result is that taxes or PILOT has been reduced.

Facility must submit its intent to retire the facility to the state.

The money flows through the urban development corporation (Empire State Development)

Municipalities and districts can take advantage of the fund for 7 years (first year recoup no more than 80% of lost revenues, decreases every year)
HOW DID WE DO THIS?

- ALWAYS BASE BUILDING
  - Alliance Building
    - WNY AFL-CIO, Kenmore Teachers (NYSUT)
    - Town of Tonawanda
  - Strategy is lead by those actually impacted and grounded in place

- Media & Public Education
  - Ready with joint messaging day plant closed. Short films pre-taped.
  - Advocacy and State Budget Trainings for members and partners

- Legislative
Branches of Government

Executive
* Implements the law

- Governor
- Agencies
  - Can veto bills; recommend legislation; call special sessions of the legislature

Legislature
* Creates and amends the law

- Assembly
- Senate
  - Can override vetos

Judicial
* Interprets the law

- Courts
  - Can determine laws unconstitutional or otherwise invalid; determine executive action to be unlawful
State Map 3 - How a Bill Becomes a Law

Path A: Bill passes one committee and reaches Calendar
Path B: Bill passes two (or more) committees and reaches Calendar
Path C: Bill routed through Rules Committee for rush passage at the end of the session

* In the Assembly, the second committee can only be Codes or Ways and Means

* In the Senate, the second committee can only be Codes or Finance

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Overview Timeline

**Budget Season**
1 Oct - 31 Mar

**Legislative Session**
1 Jan - 30 Jun

**Agency Budget Prep**
1 Jun - 30 Sep

- Prep for Legislative Session
  1 Sep - 31 Dec

- (Sometimes the budget is not passed by April 1)

- (New Fiscal Year begins on April 1)
Governor’s State of the State Address (Early January)

Executive budget released (Mid January)

Joint Hearings, Agency Presentations, and Meetings with Budget Tables, Members and Central Staff (February and March)

Senate & Assembly Expense & Revenue Response

Senate and Assembly pass budget or resolution

“Three Men in a Room” hammer out a deal by budget deadline (April 1)

DOB and Executive set budget priorities (End of December)

Governor’s State of the State Address (Early January)

21- or 30-day amendments

Joint Hearings, Agency Presentations, and Meetings with Budget Tables, Members and Central Staff (February and March)

Senate & Assembly Expense & Revenue Response

Senate and Assembly pass budget or resolution

“Three Men in a Room” hammer out a deal by budget deadline (April 1)
THE WORK FROM DEC-APRIL 2016

Town leadership on our message.
  • Numerous one on ones with Town Supervisor and people he respects.

Strong partnerships with AFL/Ken-Ton Teachers
  • Daily phone calls. Numerous one on ones.

Building and strengthening base of people
  • 3 community meetings to build advocacy skills and take action. Numerous one on ones. 5 campaign leader team meetings.

Lobby Visits
  • 3 visits at state capitol with Assembly and Senate targets. Meeting with Heastie’s team (Speaker) where budget language was drafted. 2 calls with Governors energy team and 1 in person meeting. About a dozen calls to Assembly members chief of staff. Weekly calls with local electeds.

Press
  • 10 press hits including Washington Times and Albany Times Union
• Build a coalition whose members have self interest – choose partners strategically, and know you most likely won’t be on the same page at first. It is important that you all create and share a vision together.

• Progress must be directed by the people most affected – know that this takes time and resources.

• Plan it out. Know your targets. Do your research.

• Use structures and hierarchies to your advantage

• Understand the big issues that impact power dynamics

• Always be base building. Balance your time. The work will always take longer than you think