



July 27th, 2020

Founded in 1966, UPROSE is an intergenerational, multi-racial, and women of color led community based organization in Sunset Park, Brooklyn. UPROSE works to implement a Just Transition in Sunset Park through community organizing, education, leadership development, and cultural/artistic expression. At UPROSE, we fight and we build. We fight, because we resist patriarchal extractive models of leadership that are funded to helicopter into frontline communities to ride on a local body of work. We build every day to keep community needs at the forefront of all of our work because the status quo or “business as usual” ways do not inherently prioritize community needs and wellbeing.

In all of our campaigns we are not only working on innovative solutions, but also setting new precedent for the kind of clean energy future that honors frontline communities and is centered on equity and justice. UPROSE has promoted energy democracy in Sunset Park for many years from stopping the siting 520-Megawatt fossil fuel power plant in 2003 to creating New York’s first cooperatively-owned community solar project-Sunset Park Solar, advocating for offshore wind development, and many more projects that we are working to operationalize. Collectively, we are creating local solutions that benefit our community while also serving as a model for citywide, regional, and national clean energy work.

Peaker Power Plants in Sunset Park

The Gowanus Re-powering campaign is another example of how UPROSE and our partners are working on Energy Democracy in Sunset Park. Astoria Generating Company (AGC) is the private owner of two peaker power plants (the Gowanus and Narrows plants) in Sunset Park. Peaker power plants pollute more than regular power plants, and AGC plans to build a new fossil fuel peaker plant or “re-power” the two peaker plants that are at the end of their lifetimes. UPROSE is engaging in the re-powering application process as an intervenor through Article X that allows community participation. UPROSE with the technical support of New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI), Earthjustice, and NYC Environmental Justice Alliance is advocating for AGC to develop clean energy and energy storage alternatives instead of their planned proposal to invest in a new fossil fuel facility.

UPROSE is also a co-founding member of the PEAK Coalition that published the “[Dirty Energy, Big Money](#)” report in May 2020. PEAK Coalition is working to replace fossil fuel peaker plants across the city and targeted in environmental justice communities with renewable energy alternatives. [Just Relationships](#) are at the core of Energy Democracy work to make local renewable energy accessible, affordable, and to stop billions of dollars from maintaining fossil fuel energy systems that threaten the livelihoods of millions of New Yorkers. If any group has questions about how to support and be in solidarity with UPROSE, please contact us at info@uprose.org or call 718-492-9307.