

# Thumbs up, thumbs down

Editorial Board 6:50 p.m. EST December 4, 2015



(Photo: Mike Bradley)

**Thumbs up:** For an [executive order \(/story/news/2015/12/03/cuomo-sets-renewable-energy-mandate/76735226/\)](/story/news/2015/12/03/cuomo-sets-renewable-energy-mandate/76735226/) signed by Gov. Andrew Cuomo. By 2030, half of all electricity consumed in New York will have to come from **renewable sources**. New York state continues to be a leader in moving toward clean energy. Earlier this year, the state [committed to three major energy benchmarks \(http://energyplan.ny.gov/-/media/nysenergyplan/2015-overview.pdf\)](http://energyplan.ny.gov/-/media/nysenergyplan/2015-overview.pdf) for the next 15 years: reducing all greenhouse-gas emissions by 40 percent from 1990 levels, decreasing energy consumption in buildings by 23 percent from 2012 levels and making sure half of the state's energy is produced from renewable sources. With the mandate, New York would join California as one of the few states with laws requiring aggressive conversion to renewable energy.

**Thumbs down:** For **Jim Boeheim's reaction** to news that NCAA is [upholding his nine-game suspension \(/story/sports/college/2015/12/03/jim-boeheim-syracuse-suspension-ncaa/76729712/\)](/story/sports/college/2015/12/03/jim-boeheim-syracuse-suspension-ncaa/76729712/) but is allowing the suspension to be immediate. The decision means the Syracuse University men's basketball coach will miss only three Atlantic Coast Conference games instead of nine. That's seems like good news for the coach, since conference games are the most important of the regular season. Yet he lamented via a statement that he is "extremely disappointed" in the decision. Boeheim and the university are facing sanctions and suspensions after an eight-year investigation of Syracuse's athletic department. Boeheim should count his lucky stars that he's still employed.

**Thumbs up:** For some [adjustments in the way city of Rochester will deal with snow and ice. \(/story/news/2015/12/03/four-things-know-citys-snow-plans-rochester-mayor-lovely-warren-des-commissioner-norman-jones/76735776/\)](/story/news/2015/12/03/four-things-know-citys-snow-plans-rochester-mayor-lovely-warren-des-commissioner-norman-jones/76735776/) The adjustments will include better use of GPS-equipped plow trucks to tell residents when their street was last cleared and when another pass is expected. This comes as welcome news after residents complained, a lot, about impassable streets and sidewalks last winter.

**Thumbs up:** For the **annual Liberty Pole Lighting** (<http://www.cityofrochester.gov/LibertyPoleLighting/>), the city of Rochester's kick-off event to the holiday season. The Liberty Pole lighting tradition brings families together downtown and life to Center City.

**Thumbs down:** To state Sen. Rich Funke's proposal to **eliminate the sales tax on live Christmas trees** (</story/news/2015/12/02/sen-rich-funke-backs-tax-free-christmas-trees/76608688/>) for one weekend in December. Yes, Christmas tree farms are a sizable business in New York state. But does anyone really believe a sales tax holiday will encourage people to toss their artificial trees to the curb and buy live ones?

**Thumbs up:** For the [\\$2,944,184 in funding awarded to eight local projects \(/story/news/2015/11/27/grhf-awards-3-million-grants/76374588/\)](/story/news/2015/11/27/grhf-awards-3-million-grants/76374588/) that have the potential to make a positive impact in prevention and health care delivery. The **Greater Rochester Health Foundation** has awarded grants to Action for a Better Community; Center for Refugee and Immigrant Health; the Children's Institute's GROW Rochester program; HealthVantics LLC; University of Rochester's Center for Community Health; the University of Rochester Medical Center; Rochester Regional Health System; and St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center.

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Dec. 8, 2015, 1:16 p.m.



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Dec. 8, 2015, 1:12 p.m.