
Bridging Climate Change and Public Health
Energy Insecurity Workgroup Meeting
Meeting Agenda – | February 24th | 2:00PM -3:00PM

Purpose of Meeting:

1. Discuss the connection between energy insecurity and public health, climate change, and vulnerable populations through the lens of health equity.
 2. Discuss the need for community and stakeholder engagement: establish the energy insecurity workgroup
 3. Facilitate communication and collaboration across different community sectors
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Welcome and agenda overview (5 mins) – Vjollca

2021 Heat Death Numbers (10 mins) – Tianna, Vjollca

- Heat associated deaths -338, 4 cases pending
 - 82 indoor heat deaths compared to 46 in 2020
 - 52 heat deaths involved a non-functioning AC, last year 25 deaths involved a non-functioning AC
- Post comments:
- Regarding more information on households without electricity (service provider, length without electricity, etc.), MCDPH does not have that information, but the Medical Examiner may have some additional details
 - Indoor heat deaths prompt the question of how we can better work with other orgs and utilities to prevent this.
 - Could ask individual households in energy vulnerable areas if they know and have applied to LIHEAP.
 - Could target school districts in the energy vulnerable zip codes and do educational outreach on LIHEAP.
 - CBOs help fill out assistance applications.

- Arizona Dept. of Housing received a substantial amount of funding for LIHEAP
 - Problem on supply-side (material shortage) and labor (construction) shortage to complete the measures for LIHEAP.
 - Addressing weatherization labor shortage should be action for workgroup
 - LIHEAP funding favors cold-weather states
 - From the National Utility Affordability Coalition—AZ received about 47 million dollars. LIHEAP eligible households- about 637,000. Only about 20,000 received LIHEAP funds (3.19% of eligible households got LIHEAP assistance.
 - AZ is at the bottom in receiving LIHEAP funds.
 - Weatherization work requires skilled labor, but the state does not have people who can do the work.
 - How do people get trained to do weatherization work?
 - Certified training center facilitated through Southwest Building Center
 - If you go to the Building Performance Institute website or Dept. of Energy weatherization website, it details the credentials and requirements needed for the program. Provides the level of certification a person would need.
 - Individual needs to be hired by contractor, vendor and then become certified to conduct weatherization.
 - Could reach out to communities and develop a flyer to get the word out about the need for weatherization work and resources.

Policy Assessment Tool introduction and feedback (20 mins) –Roxana

- Roxana Ayala is a local policy research analyst at ACEEE where she conducts research and writes on local level energy efficiency, policies, initiatives w/ a focus on energy equity, and workforce development. Roxana also leads a workgroup on low-income energy efficiency.
- The goal of the presentation is to introduce the assessment tool and gain feedback from the EI workgroup on how to make it work best for the workgroup members.
- It is a resource that would enable partners to address energy insecurity issues across the state by allowing users to benchmark their state's policies and programs with leading state models.
- Users can assess their state policies and programs across 20 policy metrics spanning 6 topic areas: climate risk management, affordable housing policies, energy cost assistance, electric utilities, healthy homes, and cross-agency collaboration.

- In the results tab, users gain insight into what services, programs/policies, and incentives are available in their state.

Metrics Tab:

Example—“Are there any statewide policies or programs to reduce energy burdens?”

- Users will go through resources to educate themselves on the topic.
- User selects one of the inputs (yes, partial, no, I do not know).
- User then responds in column C to how they could best establish new policies or what actions they could take.
- The tool features a leading state model in which the user can look further into.

There is no funding associated with the policy assessment tool.

The goal is for stakeholders to leverage this framework to drive action in their state, use it for advocacy work, and/or gain insight on leading states they can model.

If you have additional questions, comments, or feedback contact rayala@aceee.org

Commitment to action discussion (20 mins) – Allie, Diana

- Taking action has been the general interest of the group.
 - Start thinking about what kind of role you want to play regarding actions and how much time you are willing to commit in terms of time and resources.
- Energy insecurity is a wicked problem—there are many causes and there are many systems that are allowing energy insecurity to continue.
 - Immediate need solutions-LIHEAP, cool roofs
 - Solving energy insecurity- fixing broken systems, addressing poverty, some solutions more loosely related to EI than others
- Proposal to tackle EI through short term and long-term solutions
 - Long-term solution example: Workforce development and gauging interest of the public.
 - A lot of solar panels get decommissioned when solar panels reach 80% efficiency threshold. Conversation on repurposing those and donating to community solar.
- How can we hit multiple issues with the same “stone”?
- How can we decrease energy use, increase clean energy, and bring jobs to areas that need it?

Many solutions are available. Which one do we want to dedicate our time and energy to?

Wrap-up (5 mins) – We will resume the commitment to action discussion in the next meeting.

Links shared during the presentation:

- Arizona Department of Housing—Weatherization Assistance Program
<https://housing.az.gov/general-public/weatherization-assistance-program>
- Southwest Building Science Training Center- FSL-Weatherization requirements new field employees and/or contractors
<https://swbstc.org/training-courses/weatherization-requirements>
- Press Release: New Bill Will Help Coloradans Get High-Quality Jobs in Renewable Energy Sector
<https://cdle.colorado.gov/press-releases/press-release-new-bill-will-help-coloradans-get-high-quality-jobs-in-renewable>
- US Department of Energy--Weatherization Assistance Program
<https://www.energy.gov/eere/wap/weatherization-assistance-program>
- US Department of Energy—Careers and Education
<https://www.energy.gov/eere/education/careers-and-education>
- US Department of Energy—Guideline for Home Energy Professionals
<https://www.energy.gov/eere/wipo/guidelines-home-energy-professionals>
- ACEEE- Expanding Opportunity through Energy Efficiency Jobs: Strategies to Ensure a More Resilient, Diverse Workforce
<https://www.aceee.org/research-report/u2010>
- ACEEE- State and Local Policy Database
<https://database.aceee.org/city/ee-renewable-workforce>
- New Illinois Clean Energy Bill Includes Investments in Workforce and Equity
<https://cjc.net/new-illinois-clean-energy-bill-includes-investments-in-workforce-and-equity/>
- Commercial Energy Policy Toolkit-Fact Sheet for Local Governments
https://www.imt.org/wpcontent/uploads/2018/02/Commercial_Energy_Policy_Fact_Sheet_-_Green_Workforce_Development.pdf
- Green Jobs in Los Angeles—Opportunities for Economic Recovery Through Equitable Workforce Training
<https://laincubator.org/wp-content/uploads/LACI-GREEN-JOBS-REPORT.pdf>

