
Bridging Climate Change and Public Health
Energy Insecurity Workgroup Meeting
Meeting Notes – | May 26th | 2:30 PM -3:30 PM

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 Berisha**
 - **Community Choice Aggregation presentation and discussion (20 mins) – Shelly Gordon**
 - The PowerPoint presentation is attached in the email

 **Discussion**

- APS already has a program with model in place for large corporations called AG-X
 - There are 3rd party providers who work with large corporations in Arizona and APS to reliably provide power. Large utility companies are not keen on this model, but they are already working on it.
 - CCE's across the country are planning for reliable and secure energy across cities and counties.

- In Pima county with the heat, the concern is risk of power failure. CCE metrics are in terms of costs, are there differences in the risks of having power failures?
 - No, utilities are still the one's delivering power so they handle the power outages. CCE's only focus on the energy portion.
 - Reliability should not be an issue because utilities have the infrastructure that delivers the energy.
 - One of the benefits of microgrids is that you can have cooling centers set up and have them be off the grid. Microgrids can create safety nets for people during blackouts.

- Shelly Gordon: If you are available on June 6th (meetings are once a month) you can ask questions to Laury Mitchell, the director of the Community Choice Energy (CCE) of San Jose.

- In this workgroup on energy insecurity, we looked at the distribution of energy burden in the county. Based on the community surveys we have done; we see the distribution where there are areas of high and severe energy burdens. How can we help high and severe energy burden communities through community choice?
 - Examples—One thing CCE's will do with surplus revenue is put solar panels on the top of low-income buildings. With the surplus revenue, CCA'S and CCE's do all kinds of things to benefit everyone in the community, not just the people who can afford their own solar.
 - There was one example of a CCE that contracted with a company called Sunrun, a home solar and battery storage company, they approached several low-income apartment dwellers and offered to put solar panels on their roofs while paying the apartment dwellers 100\$.
 - Another example is a CCE entered into an agreement with a municipal landfill and were able to produce biofuel to add to the grid. It is not just solar and wind that CCE's and CCA's work with.

- Right now, Arizona Corporation Commission guarantees utility monopoly approximately 10% profits every year. The profits could be managed by a community agency with some of the savings going to rate payers and the rest staying in the community, so the rates are stable for people.

- **Workforce Development Project update (20 mins)- Rhonda Seifert and Emma Viera**

- Workforce Development Action Team met on Tuesday 5/24 and continued discussion for a plan on how to connect and send people from low-income communities through a system that will employ them in weatherization work.
- Cynthia Zwick made suggestion of creating a cohort of potential weatherization training applicants. Go over what process might look like, how to apply to training program, mentoring cohort on how to go through process of reaching weatherization employment.
- Travis shared an infographic from Colorado on weatherization as a career. Will work on creating an Arizona infographic that can be easily disseminated.
- After our team learns more about the process, the goal is to have a meeting between the subcontractors that find the contractors who do the work and some of our community organizations.
- What does weatherization work include? Insulating houses, sealing windows, fixing doors, insulating water heaters, and installing low-flow devices
- The purpose of developing the weatherization workforce is to hit multiple issues with the same solution and source of funding. A way to reduce emissions and help communities that need it the most through a system of gaining employment.

- **Future of the EI workgroup discussion (10 mins) – Vjollca**

- Energy Insecurity project and workgroup is supported by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and more specifically Interdisciplinary Research Leaders (IRL) program. The funding is ending September 2022. As a result of the network we formed and utilizing the findings of the energy insecurity survey, 26 applications were sent to FSL for a free A/C program. Some of the survey participants have received their free A/C.
- Need to think about future of EI workgroup. Thinking of having a workshop in the coming months to discuss how we should continue the EI workgroup and who would be the leaders of the workgroup. Talk about funding.
- Last two workshops we had were on mission and vision and the other on strategies led by Allie Mcgranaghan. She agreed to lead the future of EI workgroup workshop in either June or July.
- Not all of us in the workgroup are in Maricopa County, it is possible in the future we could be a statewide workgroup. Bring in other counties and get some rural representation.

- **Wrap-up (5 mins) –**

- Thank you everyone for participating! Have a great Memorial weekend!