



*Better Buildings Residential Network
Peer Exchange Call Series*

Increasing Low-Income Upgrades and Decarbonization

October 24, 2024

Agenda and Ground Rules

- Moderator
 - **Jonathan Cohen**, Better Buildings Residential Network
- Agenda Review and Ground Rules
- Residential Network Overview and Upcoming Call Schedule
- Opening Poll
- Featured Speakers
 - **Jennifer Amann**, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE)
 - **Kelly O'Connell**, Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnership (NEEP)
 - **Justin Barry**, Green & Health Homes Initiative (GHHI)
- Open Discussion
- Closing Poll and Announcements

Ground Rules:

1. **Sales of services and commercial messages are not appropriate** during Peer Exchange Calls.
2. Calls are a safe place for discussion; **please do not attribute information to individuals** on the call.

The views expressed by speakers are their own, and do not reflect those of the Dept. of Energy.

Better Buildings Residential Network

Join the Network

Member Benefits:

- Recognition in media, social media and publications
- Speaking opportunities
- Updates on latest trends
- Voluntary member initiatives
- One-on-One brainstorming conversations

Commitment:

- Members only need to provide *one number*: their organization's number of residential energy upgrades per year, or equivalent.

Upcoming Calls (2nd & 4th Thursdays):

- *11/14: Water Heaters that Shift Load, Combine with Heat Pumps, and More*
- *12/12: TBA*

Peer Exchange Call summaries are posted on the Better Buildings [website](#) a few weeks after the call



Jen Amann
ACEEE

Strategies for More Equitable Housing Decarbonization

Jennifer Amann

BBRN Peer Exchange webinar
October 24, 2024





About ACEEE:

The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE), is a nonprofit research organization that develops policies to reduce energy waste and combat climate change. Its independent analysis advances investments, programs, and behaviors that use energy more effectively and help build an equitable clean energy future.

Learn more at [aceee.org](https://www.aceee.org)



How can building upgrades benefit underserved communities?



Increase climate resilience

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution
- Lessen reliance on fossil fuel equipment
- Enable families to maintain safe indoor temperatures during extreme weather



Improve health, comfort, and safety

- Reduce exposure to mold, moisture, and lead
- Improve indoor air quality
- Lower risk of gas leaks or explosions
- Reduce ER visits and missed days of work and school related to asthma and other respiratory diseases
- Improve mental health



Increase affordability

- Reduce energy bills for people with low and moderate incomes
- Improve long-term housing affordability and stability
- Free up household budgets for essential needs such as food and medicine



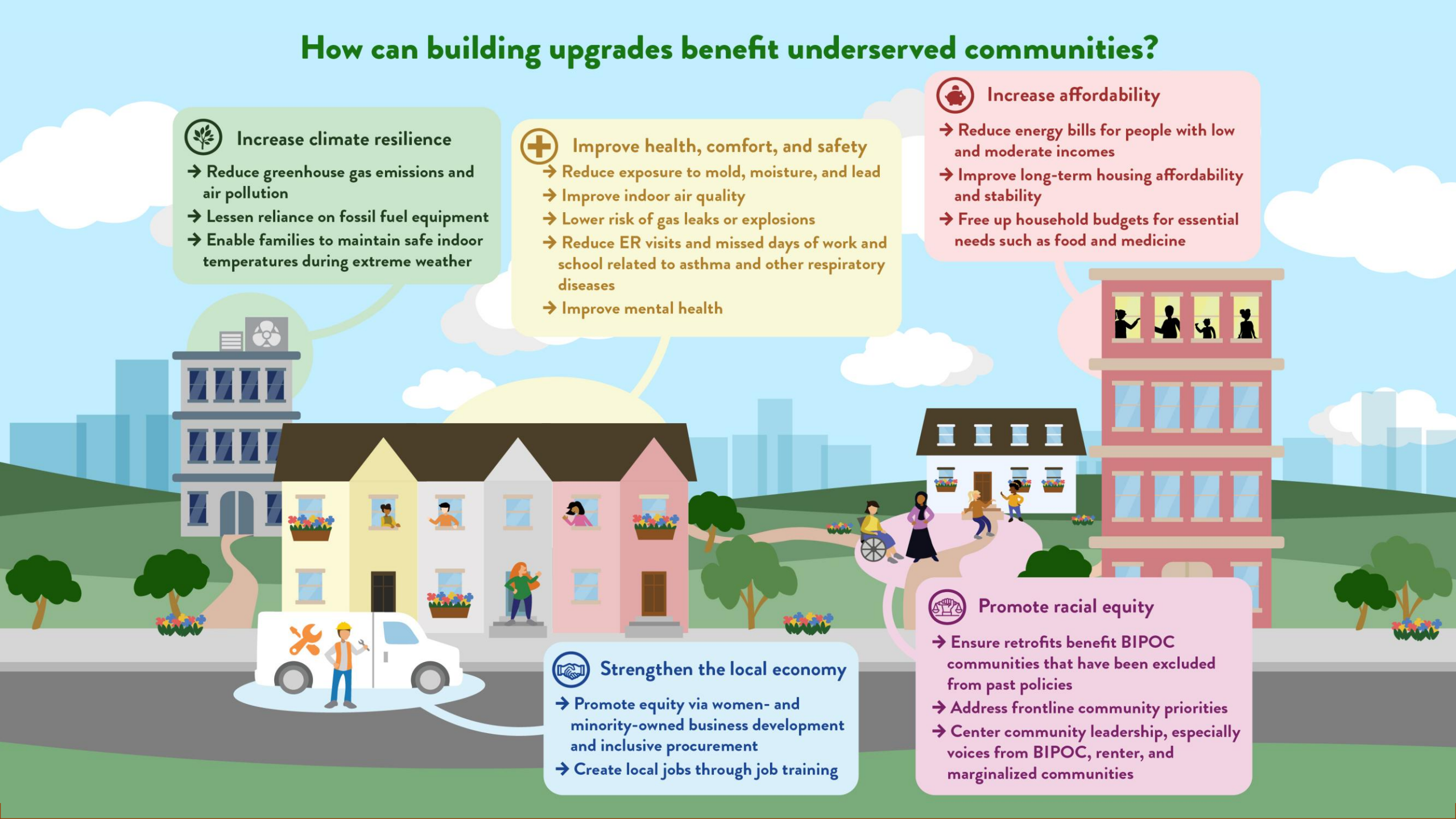
Strengthen the local economy

- Promote equity via women- and minority-owned business development and inclusive procurement
- Create local jobs through job training

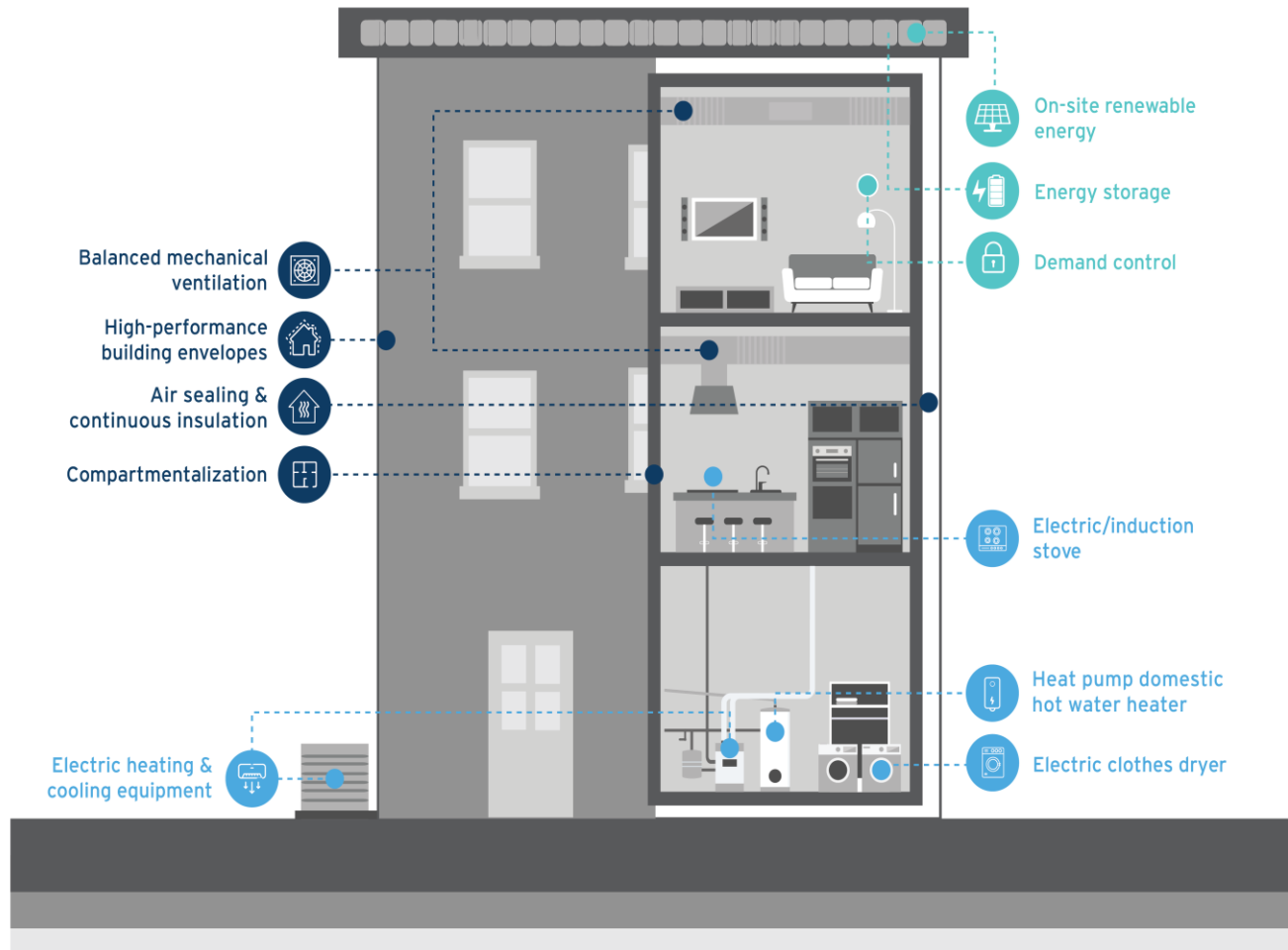


Promote racial equity

- Ensure retrofits benefit BIPOC communities that have been excluded from past policies
- Address frontline community priorities
- Center community leadership, especially voices from BIPOC, renter, and marginalized communities



Energy upgrades and electrification are intertwined strategies for decarbonization



- Decarbonization encompasses strategies for reducing building-related carbon emissions
- Key approaches include energy efficiency, beneficial electrification, distributed generation (e.g., solar), and/or use of carbon-free fuels
- Beyond reduced greenhouse gas emissions, other benefits may include improved indoor air quality, reduced utility bills, and greater ease of maintenance

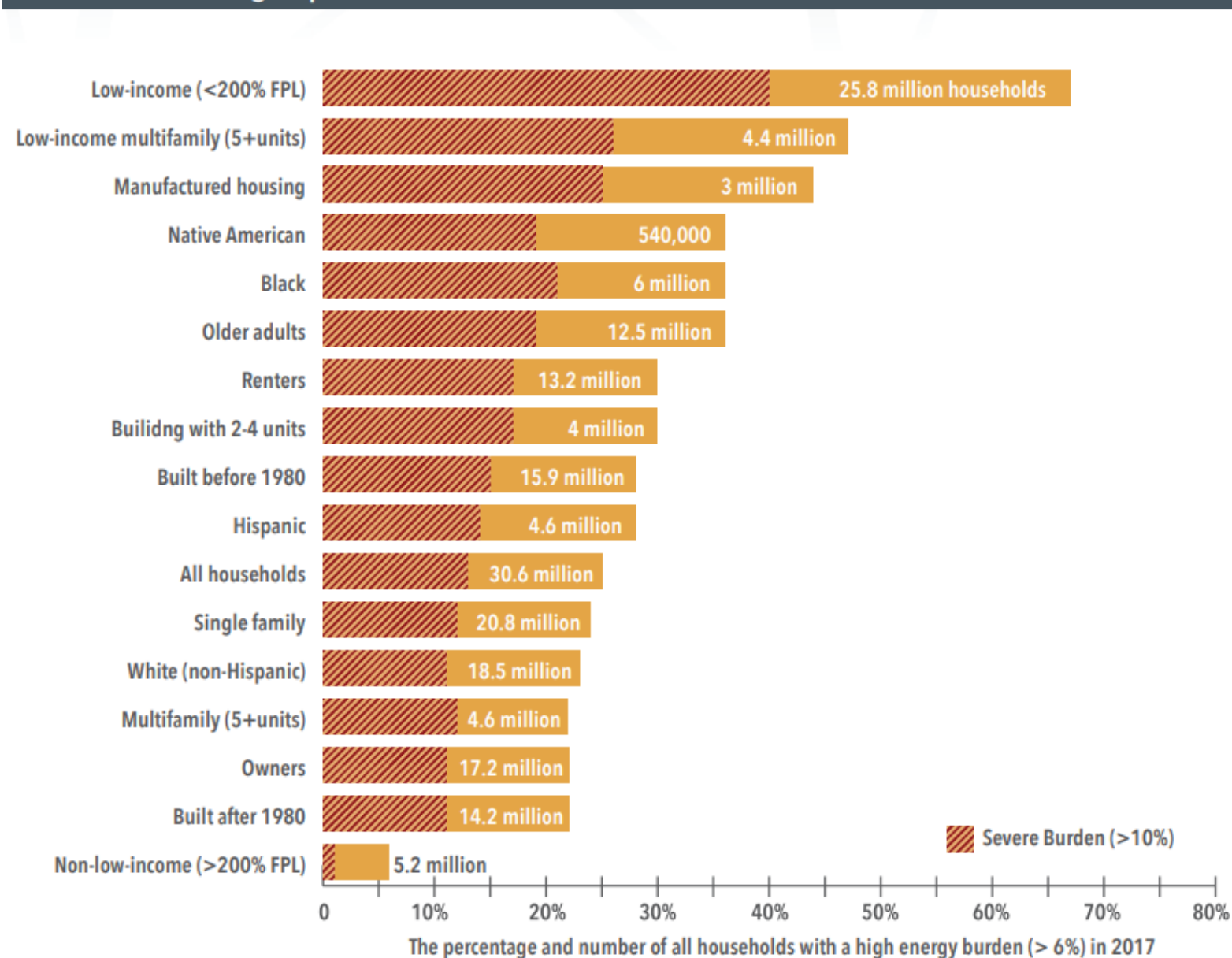
Source: <https://rmi.org/creating-a-one-stop-shop-for-whole-home-retrofits/>

Energy burdens

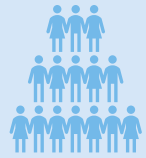
Source: *How High Are Household Energy Burdens? An Assessment of National and Metropolitan Energy Burdens across the U.S.*

<http://www.aceee.org/research-report/u2006>

FIGURE 2. The percentage and number of households nationally with a high energy burden (> 6%) across different subgroups in 2017



Underserved groups



Untargeted programs result in low participation from underserved communities



CA program participants were found to be disproportionately white (72% vs. 39% of the state population), had annual household income over \$100,000 (53% vs. 28%), or had attained a college degree (74% vs. 39%)



Rural residential customers in WI receive \$2.75 in incentives per capita compared to \$4.83 per capita for nonrural customers

Barriers to participation



- Lack of targeted outreach efforts
- Disparate eligibility requirements across programs
- Administrative burden
- Physical limitations: structural deficiencies, electrical capacity, space limitations
- Upfront costs and lack of affordable financing
- Limitations from utility program offerings
- For renters: split incentives
- Customer perceptions and willingness to adapt



The Strategy Toolbox

ACEEE::

The Strategy Toolbox

Getting to Know

Identify underserved households

Community engagement

Serving

Targeted outreach

Engage partners

Broad and deep solutions

Scaling Up

Transform markets

Overcome cost barriers

Combine strategies:
One-Stop Shop

Strategy #1: Identify underserved households

- Gather demographic data from an array of sources (government, utility, community groups)
- Field test/truth quantitative datasets
- Use qualitative as well as quantitative data
- Keep data limitations in mind
- Compensate for time and work
- Publish to build transparency and trust



Strategy # 2: Community engagement

- Develop relationships with trusted organizations and community leaders
- Conduct research with target communities to understand:
 - Information needs
 - Current purchasing practices
 - Household priorities: health/safety, aging appliances
 - Perceptions of utility or other program providers
 - Access to online resources
- Identify and plan to mitigate potential negative impacts from building upgrades, such as higher rents, gentrification concerns

Strategy #3: Targeted outreach

- Match outreach efforts to group needs
 - Online vs mail
 - TV/Radio vs print media
 - Community networks
- Invest in accurate and culturally-appropriate program materials in different languages and real-time interpretation service
- Individualized assistance based on specific household needs

Case study: Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD)



Fason ki pi fasil la pou fè ekonomi: On Call®
Ekonomize plis pase \$90 pa ane lè ou enskri nan pwogram On Call la

ÈKONDISYONE SANTRAL \$42

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PONP PISIN NAN \$18

Ede kliyan nou yo fè ekonomi e satisfè demann kouran demen an se de bagay ki enpòtan pou nou. Pwogram On Call nou an pèmèt nou atenn de objektif sa yo. Lè ou volontè pou enskri nan pwogram On Call la, se ede ou ede nou voye kouran bay tout kliyan nou yo ki bezwen lè demann pou kouran an wo anpil. Ann echanj pou patisipasyon w, n ap redwi sa w gen pou peye sou bòdwo kouran w lan.

FPL.com

CHANGING THE CURRENT. 

Strategy #4: Build partnerships

- Leverage common interests and goals as well as resources
- Reduce program complexity and overlap
- Enhance customer engagement and program accessibility
- Increase availability of products, services, and financing
- Resource-sharing with community agencies to offer different services as part of holistic approach

Strategy #5: Broad and deep solutions

- Ensure program offerings with broad reach across the target communities
 - Low-cost DIY measures, flexible appliance vouchers
 - Expand program eligibility to address gaps
 - Reduce common barriers to participation (higher incentives; priority access)
- Offer comprehensive suite of measures and services to deliver deep savings to those in greatest need or best positioned for deep retrofits

Case study: Efficiency Vermont

Strategy #6: Transform markets

- Increase the number and availability of low-price point products
 - Develop and implement retail promotions for efficient, low-cost models
 - Engage manufacturers to increase the number of low-cost models made
- Develop and market products to meet unique needs
 - High-efficiency heat pump replacements for room air conditioners
 - Apartment-sized appliances
- Include equity considerations in product labeling and endorsement programs

Case studies: NY Clean Heat for All Challenge; Shift Consortium



Strategy #7: Overcome cost barriers

- Address first cost issues
 - Match incentives to first cost barriers
 - Offer programs with low- or negative buy-in
 - Get the timing right: make incentives available upfront or align with project payments
- Provide innovative, affordable financing
 - Zero- or low-interest loans
 - Microfinance
 - Incorporate strong consumer protections
- Consider alternatives to rebates

Case study: Enervée Eco-financing

Strategy #8: One-Stop Shop

- Utilize multiple strategies from the toolbox
 - Build on successful program strategies (e.g., from pilots or other programs)
- Reduce barriers to participation
 - Streamline requirements
 - Single point of contact
 - Technical assistance
 - Financing and funding coordination
 - Quality assurance

Wilmington, DE: Climate Smart Homes

A one-stop shop for naturally occurring affordable housing with strong community engagement and goals of electrification and workforce development



Partners:



With guidance from:



With funding from:



Climate Smart Homes: Retrofit Opportunity

Need: Capital constraints of affordable housing development limited efficiency to code compliance with gas-fueled equipment

Opportunity: Increase efficiency and eliminate gas-fueled equipment

Climate Smart Homes offering:

- Air sealing & insulation
- Windows
- Heat pumps
- Ventilation (Energy Recovery Ventilator)
- Heat pump water heater
- Basement Water/Moisture Management
- Meet Energy Star and/or DOE Zero Energy Ready Home standards



Climate Smart Homes: One-Stop Shop Model

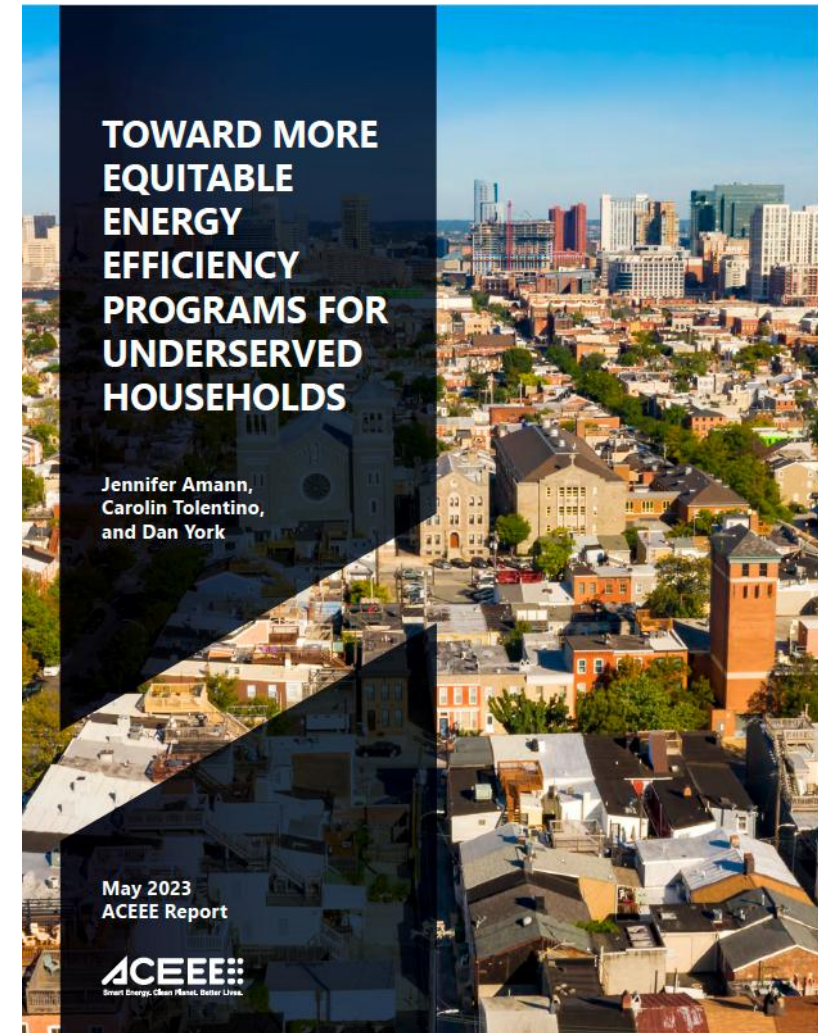
- Technical Assistance provided by New Ecology from project conception through construction and occupancy
- Individual attention for intake and alignment of owner needs with efficiency measures
- Efficiency assessment and roadmap to help understand efficiency potential
- Contractor coordination and upgrade implementation support
- Incentives and financing coordination
- Tenant engagement at the beginning on goals/priorities and at the end to educate on green practices

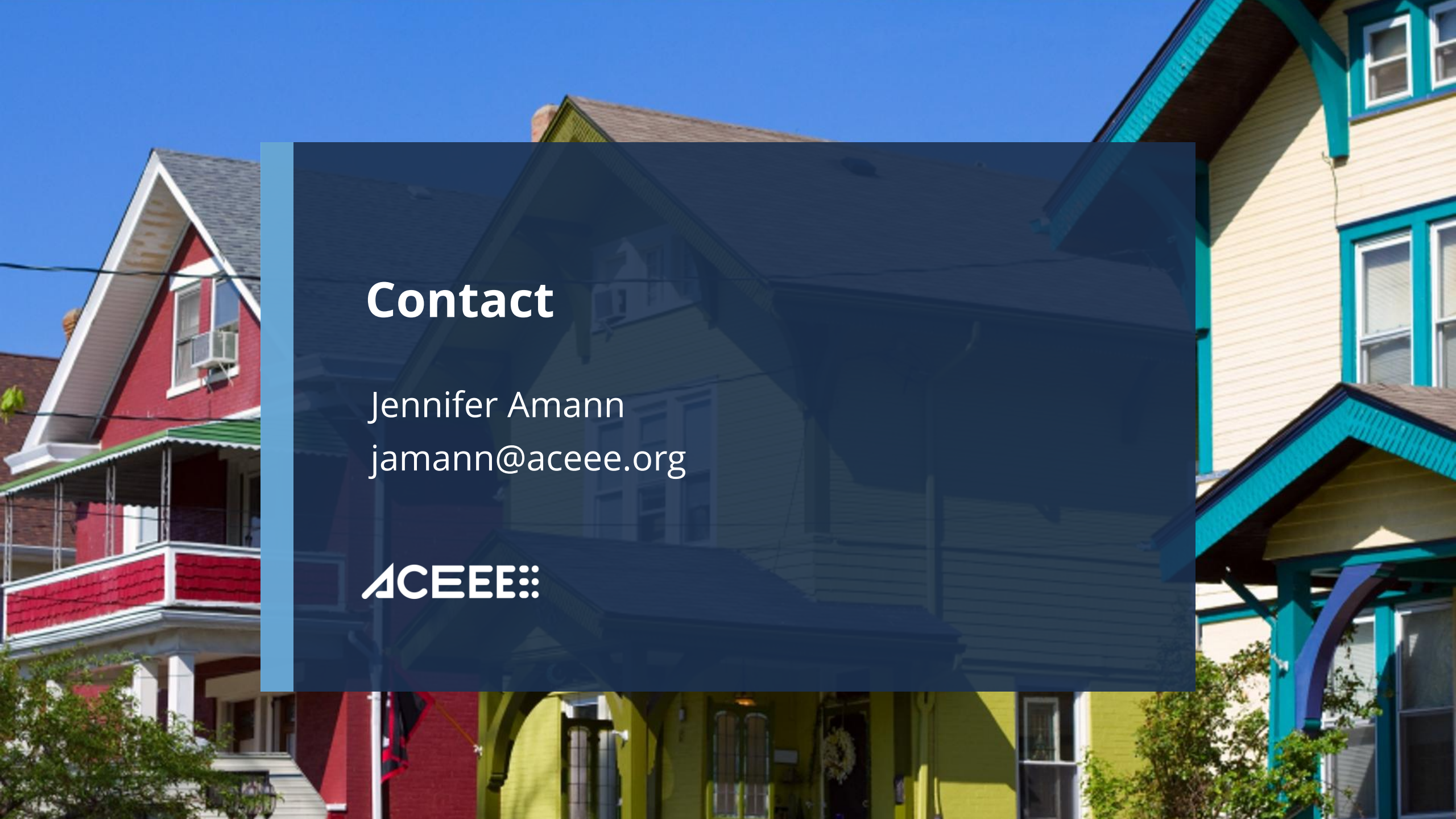
For more info, see our report:

Towards More Equitable Energy Efficiency Programs for Underserved Households

Jennifer Amann
Carolyn Tolentino
Dan York

<http://www.aceee.org/research-report/b2301>



The background of the slide is a photograph of several colorful houses. On the left, there is a red house with a white balcony. In the center, there is a yellow house with a dark roof. On the right, there is a yellow house with bright blue trim around the windows and roofline. The houses are set against a clear blue sky.

Contact

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ACEEE::



Kelly O'Connell
NEEP



Building Out a Multifamily Strategy for Decarbonizing Low-Income Communities



Kelly O'Connell

Senior Associate, Community Solutions

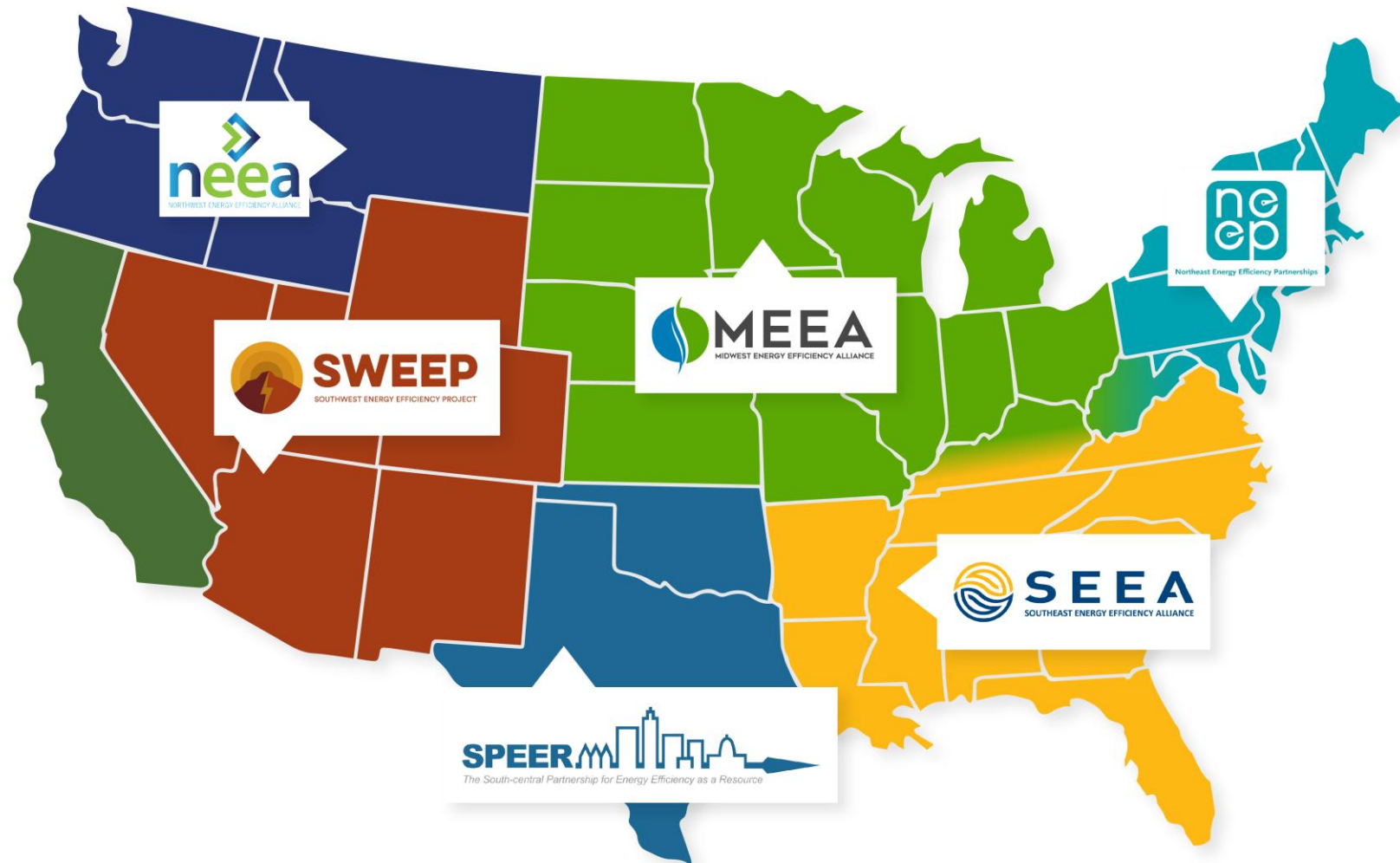
About Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships



- Non-partisan, non-profit organization founded in 1996
- One of six Regional Energy Efficiency Organizations
- We drive market transformation regionally by fostering collaboration and innovation, developing research and tools, and disseminating knowledge



Regional Energy Efficiency Organizations (REEOs)



■ Alaska is Served By MEEA ■ Hawaii is Served By SEEA ■ California is Served By Multiple Convenors & NGOs

Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships



- **Vision**

- We envision the region's homes, buildings, and communities transformed into efficient, affordable, low-carbon, and resilient places to live, work, and play.

- **Mission**

- NEEP drives regional collaboration so that the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic can equitably and affordably reduce building sector greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency, electrification, and grid integration.

- **Goal**

- Assist the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states to equitably and affordably reduce building-sector greenhouse gas emissions in alignment with their goals.

- **Approach**

- Drive market transformation regionally by fostering collaboration and innovation, developing research and tools, and disseminating knowledge.



Why a NEEP Multifamily Strategy

- Buildings and homes account for approximately three-quarters of the electricity used in the United States, with 20% of this total attributed to residential properties ¹
- Multifamily rentals make up about 39% of total housing in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic ²
- Potential to reduce CO2 emissions by over 123 million tons annually ³
- Regionally, multifamily buildings contain nearly 73% of rental units. Approximately 41% of renters are low-income ^{4, 5}

1. *Equitable Decarbonization in the Affordable Multifamily Sector* (2024) <https://neep.org/blog/equitable-decarbonization-affordable-multifamily-sector>

2. *The Problem in Multifamily Energy Data Access* (2024, April 26) <https://neep.org/blog/problem-multifamily-energy-data-access>

3. *Residential Building Electrification in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic* (2023) <https://otcair.org/upload/Documents/Reports>

4. *United States Government Accountability Office* (2020, May) <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-20-427.pdf>

5. *America's Rental Housing* (2024) https://www.jchs.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/reports/files/Harvard_JCHS_Americas_Rental_Housing_2024.pdf

Multifamily Strategy Objectives

1. Ensuring historically underserved communities benefit from current and future funding opportunities
2. Developing a comprehensive regional understanding of program investments
3. Identifying gaps in investment and narrowing the scope of our strategy
4. Cultivating SME on federal/state/municipal resources to connect these resources to community level programs and initiatives, e.g. HER, HEAR, and WAP
5. Facilitating active stakeholder participation in program design and implementation
6. Increasing regional energy efficiency investments and improving energy affordability in the multifamily sector

Current Portfolio

Buildings Upgrade
Prize

Community
Geothermal Heating
and Cooling Design
and Deployment

Community-Driven
Transportation Plans
for the Northeast

Energy Equity for
Renters Learning
Group

Buildings Upgrade Prize Specifics

- Capacity-building prize to accelerate building upgrades, demonstrate scalability and replicability, and benefit underserved communities
- Four phases with cash prizes
 - **\$22 million** was available in Phase 1
 - Equity-centered winning teams were awarded \$400,000 and 140 hours of TA
 - Open-innovation winning teams were awarded \$200,000 and 100 hours of TA
 - **\$17.2 million** will be available in Phase 2
 - Teams are encouraged to braid funding from a variety of sources in addition to the prize money

Buildings UP Network

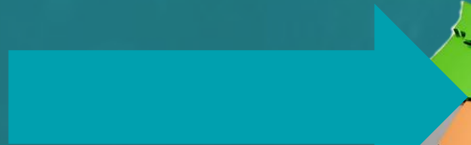
Funded by:



Administered by:



45 Prize
Teams



Fill gaps with RN
provided TA



Direct teams to
Technical Assistance
Providers (TAPs)



Buildings
Upgrade Prize



Northeast Prize Teams



Blueprint15 *Syracuse, NY*



In the 15th Ward neighborhood, the team will strengthen community-wide relationships to create sustainable pathways for generational wealth building by connecting minority contractors to training and upgrading the aging housing stock.

City of Everett *Everett, MA*



To overcome linguistic and cultural barriers to electrification adoption, the team will leverage their CBO network, providing utility support, educational opportunities, and energy saving products for frontline communities.

Centennial Parkside CDC *Philadelphia, PA*



A resident-led initiative to upgrade rowhomes by engaging residents and contractors on high performance upgrades, ultimately identifying a path toward a scalable framework and forging long-term investment and ownership.

College of the Atlantic *Bar Harbor, ME*



In Maine's coastal Great Cranberry Islands, the team will work to retrofit entire communities by bundling buildings and finding contractors willing to stay on the island for stretches of time.

Prize Teams Continued



Energy Efficiency Empowerment (E3)

Millvale, PA



To address aging, energy-inefficient housing, this project will implement a focused intervention to the building envelope while increasing occupant comfort and reducing energy bills in environmental justice communities.

Green & Healthy Homes Initiative

Baltimore, MD



Addressing the deteriorating and unhealthy housing stock, the team will continue to expand the organization’s programming to include whole-home electrification retrofits in LMI housing.

Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions

Reston, VA



Leveraging their faith community partner network, the team will perform upgrades, support the financing of projects, and offer access to vetted contractors.

PassivhausMAINE *Freeport, ME*



This project aims to upgrade low-income homes to passive house standards by aggregating existing sources of funding, expanding trainings, and connecting partner organizations with homeowners in the towns of Freeport and Lewiston.

Urban Green Council *New York, NY*



In Justice40 designated census tracts, this initiative will catalyze heat pump water heaters in multifamily buildings, lowering energy bills and increasing grid stability.

Buildings
Upgrade Prize

Community Geothermal Heating and Cooling Design and Deployment

- Design a district ground source geothermal system
- Serve at least 50% of 132-unit affordable housing complex in Wallingford, Connecticut named Ulbrich Heights
 - 155 tons of annual CO₂ savings and air quality improvements
 - Located in an environmental justice block group
 - Currently heated by 132 natural gas boilers, cooled by window AC units



Project Accomplishments

- Drilled a test borehole
- Conducted a Workforce Needs Assessment for the state of Connecticut and a corresponding Geothermal Workforce Plan
- Two on-site engagement events
- Detailed a Community Engagement Plan
- System modeling and design
- Analyzed three conceptual network geothermal plant configurations
- Publishing a project case study on the system design

Geothermal Test Drill at Ulbrich Heights

Who: W.H.A. has funding from the U.S. Department of Energy to work with the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and the partners below

What: Certified drillers will drill a test hole 450-500 ft deep at Ulbrich Heights. The hole will be just 6 inches across

Why: To explore the possibility of clean, reliable, safe geothermal heating and cooling for Ulbrich Heights

When: This winter. Drilling will last just one day, tests will be completed in approx. one week

Join Us!



Project team will be on-site with sweet treats to meet you and answer questions

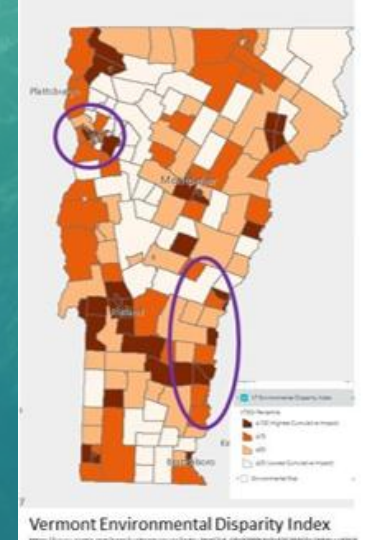
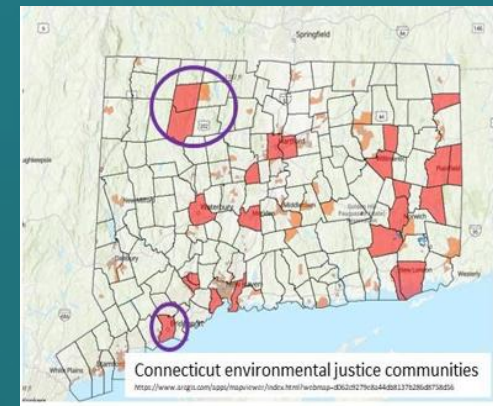
Questions, comments, or concerns? Reach out to ulbrichgeothermal@neep.org

Scan to learn more



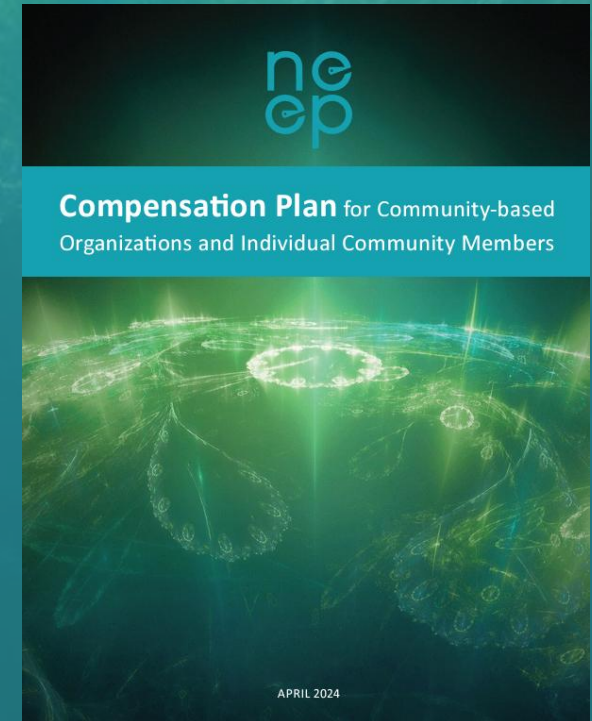
Community-Driven Transportation Plans for the Northeast

- **Purpose:** develop community-led clean transportation plans
- Communities will have implementation plans that they own and can use to...
 - Improve mobility options
 - Increase reliable and efficient access to health care, food, education, and employment
 - Increase clean transportation employment
 - Identify paths for future economic development enabled by transportation decarbonization
- Champlain Valley and Upper Valley, VT and NH, Bridgeport, CT, and Winchester/Winsted, CT



Project Accomplishments

- Compensation Plan developed
- Model Implementation Plan published
- Online Resource Center live
- Transportation Needs Assessments/Audits underway
 - Surveys, listening sessions, and community forums



Energy Equity for Renters Learning Group

- Virtual peer-to-peer learning group for New England local governments
- Focused on local governments and local housing markets
- **Goals:**
 - Increase participants knowledge of rental housing electrification affordability issues
 - Guide participants in creating a set of potential solutions to address the problems and inequities associated with these projects in their communities
- Monthly sessions beginning fall 2024 through summer 2025
- Provide technical assistance as needed for participating municipalities

Learning Group Topics

- **Topics covered:**
 - Funding options
 - Renter protections
 - Incentive selection and design
 - Tracking program outcomes
 - Retrofit financing for rental properties
 - Property owner and renter engagement
 - Energy insecurity
 - Tenant-landlord split incentive
 - New England housing affordability policy landscape





Thank you!

koconnell@neep.org



Justin Barry
GHHI



Green & Healthy Homes Initiative®

Addressing Barriers to Low-Income Participation in Energy Efficiency and Decarbonization Programs

**DOE Better Buildings Residential Network
October 24, 2024**

Mission

GHHI is dedicated to addressing the social determinants of health and the advancement of racial and health equity through the creation of healthy, safe and energy efficient homes. By delivering a standard of excellence in its work, GHHI aims to eradicate the negative health impacts of unhealthy housing and unjust policies for children, seniors and families to ensure better health, economic and social outcomes in historically disinvested communities – with an emphasis on communities of color.



The Need for a Whole-House Model

34 Million Families Live in Unhealthy Homes in the U.S.

Lead poisoning costs \$43B+ annually

Primary cause is lead-based paint in homes built before lead paint was banned in 1978

Leads to learning disabilities, ADHD, lower IQ, higher crime rates, lower lifetime earnings

Asthma costs \$81B+ annually

40% of asthma episodes caused by triggers in the home

Primary reason kids miss school-14.4M days

3rd leading reason kids are hospitalized

Fall hazards cost \$50B+ annually

30% of adults age 65+ fall annually, mostly at home

Energy inefficiencies cost \$20B annually

Energy burden for low-income households 3x higher than that of other households

Burning fossil fuels in buildings contributes to unhealthy air pollution

In Maryland, fossil fuel equipment in residential & commercial buildings emit more than three times as much NOx as the state's power plants.

Gas stoves have significant effects on childhood asthma and are especially a risk in smaller units

National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week:

Childhood Lead Poisoning Facts

- **2.5%** of U.S. children aged 1-5 years are diagnosed with an elevated blood lead (EBL) level of 3.5 micrograms per deciliter or higher
- The Department of Housing and Urban Development estimates that roughly **35%** of U.S. homes contain some lead-based paint.
- Any home built before **1978** may contain lead paint
- Children are estimated to lose approximately two IQ points for every **3.5 micrograms** of lead per deciliter in their bloodstream (for most children, this is equal to less than one grain of salt)
- Children poisoned by lead are **7x** more likely to drop out of school and **6x** more likely to interact with the juvenile justice system



How Lead Gets in the Body

Ingestion

- Kids may touch leaded surfaces and then put their hands in their mouths.
- Or they may swallow paint chips from lead-painted surfaces.

Inhalation

- Breathing in lead dust from renovations, demolition or dry sanding of lead-painted surfaces.

Risk for housing upgrade programs

- Deeper retrofits increase risks of creating lead hazards

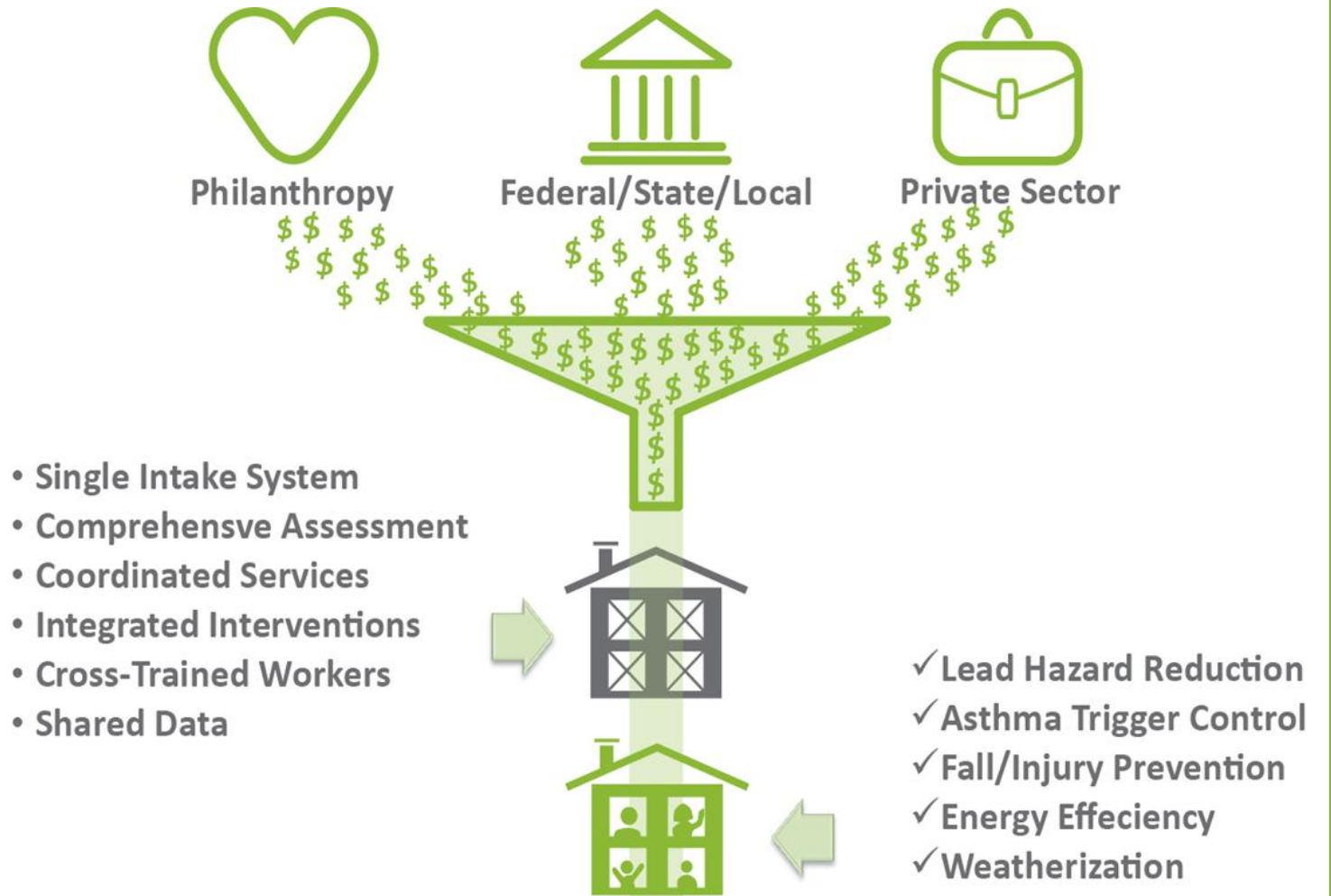


Whole House Model: Aligning Resources to Advance Holistic Retrofits

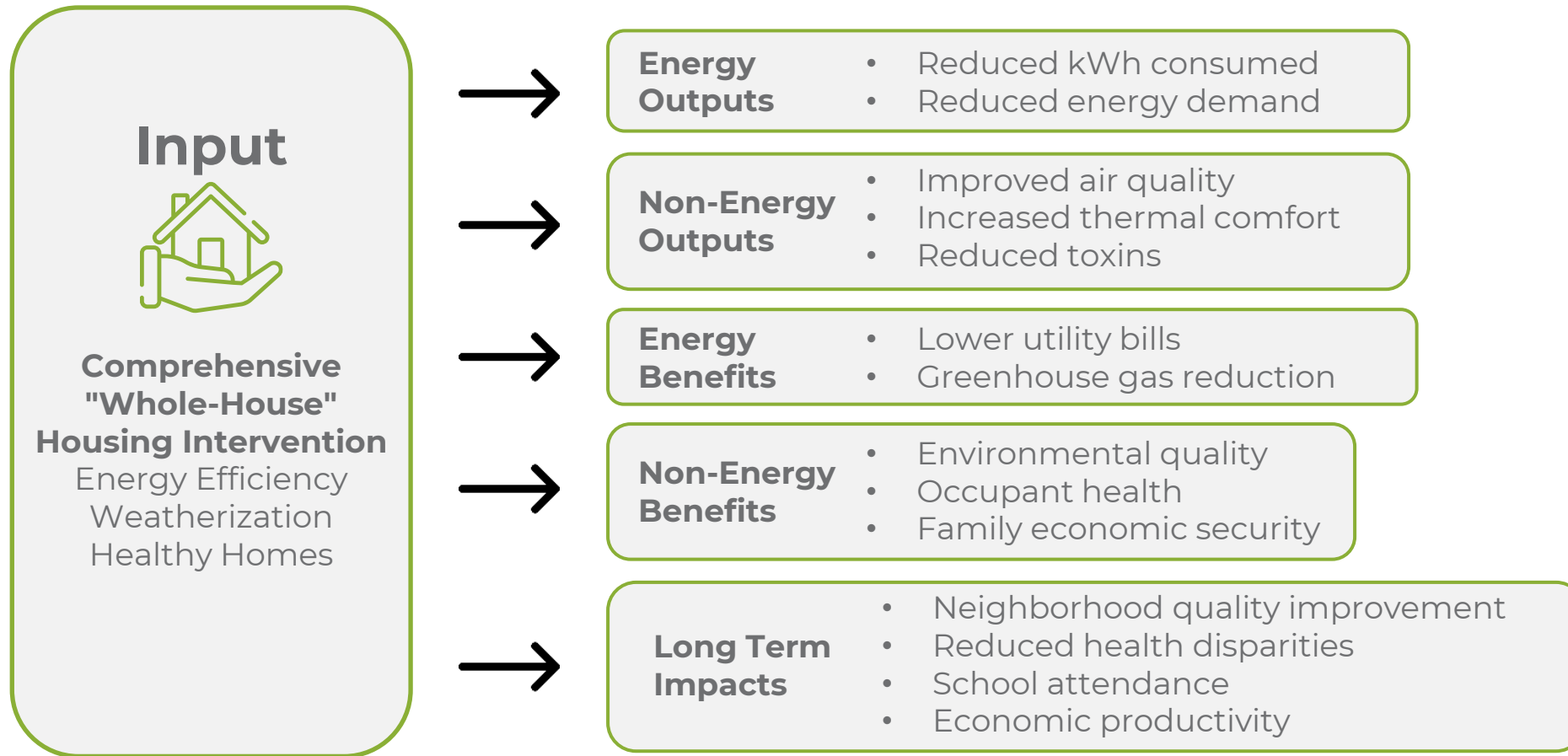
Align
Services & funding

Braid
Relevant resources

Coordinate
Service delivery



Whole-House Interventions Produce **Broad Impacts**





The NJ BPU Trenton Whole House Pilot

Addressing deferrals in a low-income energy efficiency program by remediating health and safety issues, while also developing electrification protocols to deliver in homes

Our Partners





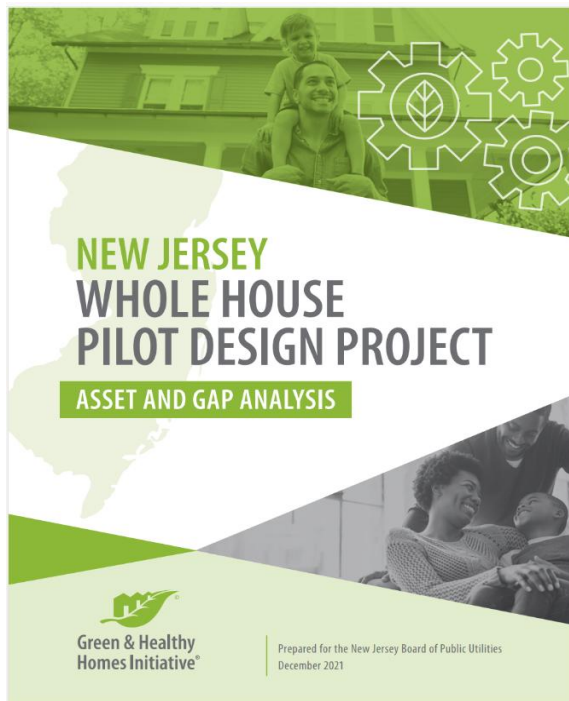
Our Challenge: Addressing Equity and Energy Efficiency

- Weatherization cannot be performed in a home if the process or result can make the house more dangerous. This leads to a high number of **deferrals** from **Comfort Partners**, New Jersey's weatherization service for **low-income households**.
- Meeting the state's **climate goals** requires scaling up residential energy efficiency and electrification services, particularly for under resourced and historically excluded communities.
- These residents often occupy older, deteriorated housing, with conditions that negatively impact health and financial stability for families. **These are often the same conditions that result in deferral from weatherization programs like Comfort Partners.**
- Investment to reduce deferrals from weatherization programs and coordination with other housing programs is necessary to create equitable access to weatherization, energy efficiency, electrification, and decarbonization opportunities.

Implementation Site – Trenton

In 2021, GHHI published an Asset and Gap Analysis that found high rates of lead poisoning, asthma related hospitalization, poverty, and high energy utility burden in Trenton.

Homes were also being deferred from the Comfort Partners program in Trenton due to health and safety issues. These homes are being served by the Whole House Pilot.



	Trenton
Percent of Children Under 6 With EBLL	6%
Asthma Hospitalization Rate	2,350
Percent Pre-1980 Housing	91%
Percent Pre-1950 Housing	70%
Percent of Families Below FPL	25%
Energy Utility Burden in Households 0-60% AMI	8%

Hazards causing deferrals in WHP homes	Hazards Identified (%)
Mold	28%
Roof Leak	12%
Asbestos	14%
Foundation Leak	14%
Unsafe Wiring/Knob and Tube	4%
Structural Issues	2%
Sewer Leaks	1%
Other	4%

Trenton Whole House Pilot

- **Goals Include:**

1. Streamline and integrate programs that provide services for single and multi-family residences occupied by low- to moderate-income residents to improve energy savings and health and safety outcomes
2. Support progress towards NJ goal to make 10% of low to moderate income housing stock "electrification ready" by 2030.

- **Pilot Objectives:**

- Complete Whole House interventions in 100 units, and electrification or electrification readiness measures in a subset of 20 units.

- **Braided Resources:**

- State Energy Plan – pre-weatherization health and safety and electrification measures.
- Department of Community Affairs Lead Remediation & Abatement Program – lead paint remediation and abatement.
- Comfort Partners – weatherization and energy efficiency measures.

How does the Trenton Whole House Pilot Work?

Client is deferred from Comfort Partners due to hazard in home



Outreach + Referral 	Intake 	Client Assessment 	Resident Education + Referrals 	Comprehensive Assessment 	Housing Intervention 	Quality Assurance 	Follow Up & Close Out 
<p>Clients are referred to Green and Healthy Homes Initiative by Comfort Partners.</p> <p>Intake specialist conducts outreach to client to determine eligibility using eligibility criteria.</p>	<p>Client Intake Specialist works with Program Coordinators to perform centralized intake.</p>	<p>Assess client's needs through Knowledge Gain survey, Comfort Score assessment, and Health assessment performed by Program Coordinators.</p>	<p>Program Coordinators provide home/virtual visits. At least one visit at program start, and one at program end for educational services and light-touch referrals.</p>	<p>Program coordinators perform comprehensive home assessment to identify household hazards, including those that block energy efficiency work.</p>	<p>Program crew, partners, and relevant subcontractors are retained to ensure all healthy housing needs are met and complete repairs/improvements.</p>	<p>Upon completion of home repairs, the Program Coordinator conduct a quality control inspection to ensure that services provided meet the established program standard of excellence.</p>	<p>The Program Coordinator conducts a final visit to ensure that needs have been met and all recommended referrals have been provided.</p> <p>The client is re-enrolled in Comfort Partners, and their progress is tracked</p>



Client receives weatherization from Comfort Partners. Subset will receive electrification measures. GHHI collects post-intervention data

What's Next?

- **Implement electrification plan** and process and identify priority electrification candidates from our pool of clients.
- **Return 100 units to Comfort Partners** to complete weatherization services
- Align and coordinate **community health services** in Trenton
- Develop further **housing rehabilitation and repair service partnerships** to direct more resources towards existing and future clients
- Complete **evaluation** and document challenges and successes
- **Scale the program**





GHHI Baltimore Programs and Buildings Upgrade Prize Initiative

Strengthening the whole-house model through community-driven planning with the goal of scaling electrification.



Electrifying Homes

Since spring of 2022, GHHI has electrified select homes in our Baltimore direct service programs braiding multiple funding streams to deliver healthy housing, energy efficiency, any necessary electrical work, and appliance replacement.

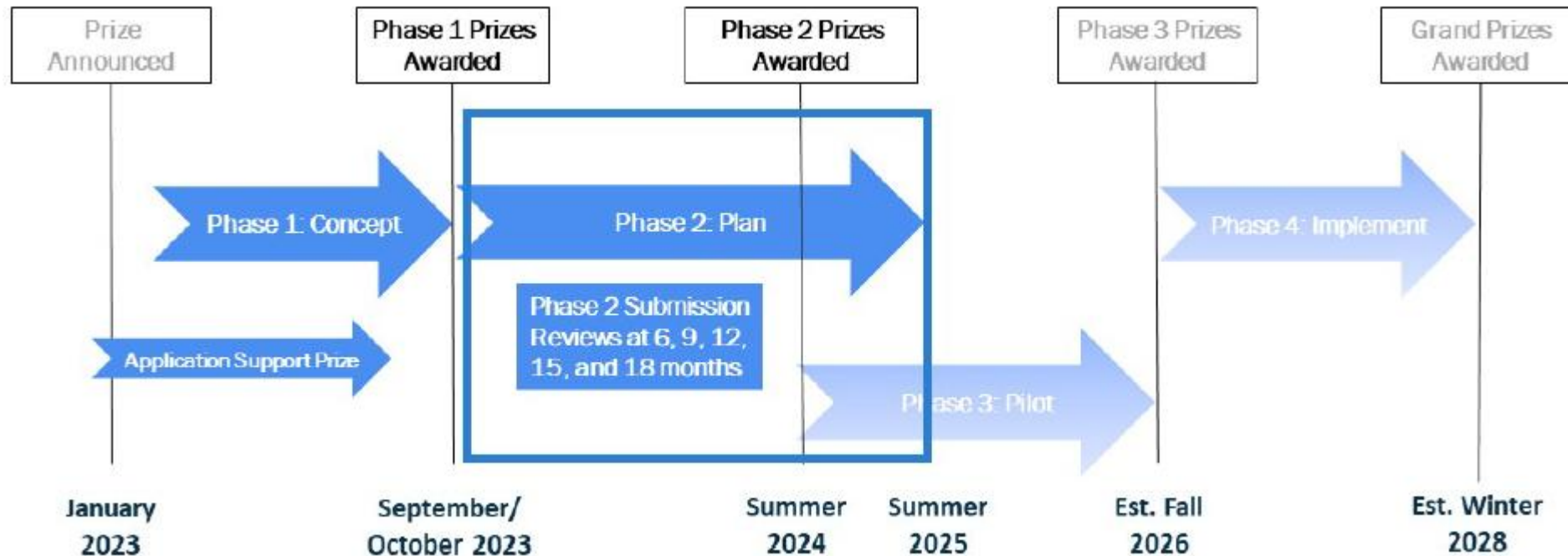
In support of this work, a GHHI-led team was awarded the [Buildings Upgrade Prize](#) (or “Buildings UP”), a team-based cooperative competition through the DOE Better Buildings and American Made programs.



Buildings UP Prize Overview

In partnership with the East Baltimore community, Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) looks to build a sustained model for the city, state and nation to reach low-income homes through a whole-home with electrification program, braiding multiple funds in East Baltimore. This will be done through a robust community engagement program design and delivery while measuring health outcomes of interventions.

The Prize has four phases over approximately 5 years, and we are currently in Phase 2 “Plan.”



Community Engagement – Electrification Community Advisory Board

- Spring 2023: Recruited 14 East Baltimore community residents to meet monthly to learn about, discuss, and—in some cases—receive household electrification services
- Received initial input that informed GHHI's Buildings UP Concept submission
 - Health and finances are key concerns
 - Important to build trust by being clear with challenges of programs and terms of engagement by being a part of the board
 - Take time to carefully design, recruit, and launch a board of this kind so that it can be sustainable
- Spring 2024: Collaborated with Buildings UP community project partners to co-develop proposed mission and vision of a new advisory board in the context of the Buildings UP initiative. Key changes arising from this process included:
 - Expanded vision beyond just GHHI/Buildings UP programs
 - Expanded mission to "serve as knowledgeable ambassadors of information, resources for their communities, and act as a link between the community and electrification services"
 - Expanded recruitment focus – identified key groups and demographics to target, not just potential or former clients
- Set budget to support member stipends and staff time, as well as potentially language interpretation, childcare, transportation, or other needs
- Received 20 applications for 11-15 slots. Interviewed each candidate and reviewed with community partners. Preparing to launch next month!



Community partners planning the Electrification Community Advisory



QUESTIONS?

If you are interested in learning more about these programs, GHHI recently hosted and recorded a series of training webinars available on our GHHI YouTube channel.

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 GHHInational

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 Green & Healthy Homes Initiative

Explore the Residential Program Guide

Resources to help improve your program and reach energy efficiency targets:

- [Handbooks](#) - explain *why* and *how* to implement specific stages of a program.
- [Quick Answers](#) - provide answers and resources for common questions.
- [Proven Practices](#) posts - include lessons learned, examples, and helpful tips from successful programs.
- [Technology Solutions](#) **NEW!** - present resources on advanced technologies, **HVAC & Heat Pump Water Heaters**, including installation guidance, marketing strategies, & potential savings.
- [Health + Home Performance Infographic](#) – spark homeowner conversations.



<https://rpssc.energy.gov>

Health + Home Performance Infographic



DOE's Health + Home Performance Infographic reveals the link between efficiency and health – something everyone cares about. Efficiency programs and contractors can use the question-and-answer format to discover a homeowner's needs.

The infographic is ideal for the “kitchen table” conversations where people decide what to do – and who they want to do it. It also has links for homeowners to find a qualified contractor if they do not already have one.

[Download](#) this infographic from DOE's Better Buildings Residential Network.

Looking for photos to help tell your energy efficiency story? Visit our image libraries:
<https://www.energy.gov/eere/better-buildings-residential-network/articles/image-libraries>

Thank You!

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Please send any follow-up questions
or future call topic ideas to:
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