Welcome!
We will be starting soon.
Best Practices for Bringing Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Co-Benefits to Low-Income Communities

Victoria Ludwig, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

December 13, 2016
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. ET
LIFE, the Low-Income Forum on Energy, is a unique statewide dialogue that brings together organizations and individuals committed to addressing the challenges and opportunities facing low-income New Yorkers as they seek safe, affordable and reliable energy.

Supported by the New York State Public Service Commission and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), the LIFE dialogue encourages an interactive exchange of information and collaboration among the programs and resources that assist low-income energy consumers.
→ Monthly webinars
Thursday, January 18, 2017 @ 1:30-2:30 p.m. ET
Creating a Nonprofit Hub for Energy Assistance
Jennifer Gremmert, Energy Outreach Colorado

→ Monthly email newsletter
Sign up at nyserda.ny.gov/LIFE – “Join the email list.”

→ Social media
LinkedIn: Low-Income Forum on Energy
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Find more information on the website
nyserda.ny.gov/LIFE

Join the mailing list
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Newsletter suggestions, webinar ideas, event announcements
LIFE@nyserda.ny.gov

Contact LIFE
Phone: 866-697-3732 – Request “Low-Income Forum on Energy”
Email: LIFE@nyserda.ny.gov
Asking and Responding to Questions

Welcome!
We will be starting soon.

Type into the text field and click “send.”
Click on the “Chat” icon to activate the chat function.
Best Practices for Bringing Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Co-Benefits to Low-Income Communities

Victoria Ludwig
LIFE Webinar
December 13, 2016
Helping state and local governments reduce greenhouse gases (GHGs)

- We use co-benefits strategies to achieve GHG and policy goals
  - Environmental, energy, economic, health benefits
- We promote holistic approaches to addressing climate change that tackle emissions from multiple sources, support resiliency, and protect public health
  - Energy efficiency (EE), renewable energy (RE), transportation, waste, land use
- We foster inter-agency collaboration
  - States – air offices, energy offices, public utility commissions
  - Locals – planning, environmental services, energy and many other related departments
- We help state and local governments make the case for action
  - Best practice-based policy approaches
  - Analytical tools and information
  - Communications resources including peer exchanges, lessons learned.
- **All our resources are available at:** [epa.gov/statelocalclimate](http://epa.gov/statelocalclimate)
Resources for Local Governments and Communities

- **Key Guidance and Tools**
  - **New Resources on EE/RE in Low-income Communities**
    - Local Climate Action Framework
      Step-by-step guidance on how to plan, implement, and evaluate programs
    - Local Government Climate and Energy Strategy Series
      Documents on EE, RE, transportation, waste management, and community design topics
    - Local Greenhouse Gas Inventory Tool
    - Newsletter updates on new funding opportunities, tools, and events
  - **Climate Showcase Communities**
    - 50 models of local climate change action
    - Case studies, templates, and other resources to support replication
  - **Peer Exchanges**
    - Local Climate and Energy Webcast Series on mitigation and adaptation topics
New Resources on EE and RE in Low-Income Communities

EPA is developing several resources to help bring the benefits of energy efficiency and renewable energy to low-income communities:

1) “Guide to Energy Efficiency in Affordable Housing”
   [http://www.epa.gov/statelocalclimate/resources(strategy-guides.html](http://www.epa.gov/statelocalclimate/resources(strategy-guides.html)]

2) Guide to relevant EPA EE/RE and climate programs that can benefit low-income communities

3) Series of profiles and case studies of successful efforts by state and local agencies, non-profits, and utilities to bring EE/RE to low-income households

4) Webcast series showcasing best practices and successful programs delivering EE/RE to low-income communities

All resources housed at: [www.epa.gov/statelocalclimate](http://www.epa.gov/statelocalclimate)
Guide to EPA Energy and Climate Programs

- Designed to help state and local governments and low-income stakeholder groups connect with EPA programs that can help them expand or develop their own EE/RE initiatives in ways that benefit low-income communities

- Example programs:
  - ENERGY STAR for Congregations (www.energystar.gov/congregations)
    - ENERGY STAR Action Workbook for Congregations
  - RE-Powering America’s Lands (www.epa.gov/renewableenergyland)
    - RE-Powering Mapper
  - Combined Heat and Power Partnership (www.epa.gov/chp)
    - Forthcoming guide on CHP in low-income communities
Webcast Series on EE/RE Programs for Low-Income Communities

**Bringing Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy To Low-Income Households: What’s Working**

**Part 1** – Better Together: Linking and Leveraging Energy Programs for Low-Income Households
- National Energy Assistance Directors’ Association, Energy Outreach Colorado, DTE Energy

**Part 2** – Beyond the Light Touch: Next Steps for Improving Energy Efficiency in Multifamily Affordable Housing
- HUD, National Housing Trust, Elevate Energy, Maryland DHCD

**Part 3** – Solar for All: Making it Happen in Low-Income Communities
- Vote Solar, GRID Alternatives, NY PSB
Case Studies and Profiles

- Demonstrated ability to achieve multiple benefits for homeowners, renters, and landlords
- Have potential to be replicable, scalable, and sustainable over time
- Diverse range of communities, geographic areas, types of programs, implementing organizations
- Profiles (4-5 pages) describe key features, partners, funding sources, and achievements
- Case studies (6-8 pages) include these and more
Featured Programs

IN-DEPTH CASE STUDIES

- California Multifamily Affordable Solar Housing Program
- Duluth Flood Recovery and Energy Efficiency Program
- Efficiency Vermont’s Low-Income Services
- EmPOWER Maryland’s Low-Income Programs
- Energy Outreach Colorado’s Comprehensive Program

SHORT PROFILES

- Chumash Community Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Project
- DTE Energy’s Low-Income Energy Efficiency Assistance Program
- Duke Energy Neighborhood Energy Saver Program
- Elevate Energy’s Energy Efficiency Services for Affordable Multifamily Buildings
- GRID Alternatives’ Solar Services
- Help My House Program
Best Practices

• Create a one-stop hub for energy assistance
• Eliminate or reduce up-front costs
• Address eligibility gaps
• Adopt a whole-building approach
• Partner with trusted organizations
• Address split incentives
• Consider community solar
Help My House Program

Removing the Barrier of Up-Front Costs in Rural Areas

- Financing approval determined via one year of good bill payment history; credit scores are not checked
- Participants received whole-house EE upgrades
- Installed measures will give an average net savings of roughly $8,500 over 15 years through a 34% reduction in energy bills
- 95% participant satisfaction rate
- Three of the eight co-ops involved in pilot expanded their projects to permanent on-bill financing programs
Elevate Energy: EE Services for Affordable Multifamily Buildings

Full Service Support for Property Owners

- One-stop hub offering free suite of services for all steps of the process:
  - Energy assessment, guidance on measures, access to financing, quality assurance, follow-up
- Helps overcome barriers of lack of time, money, and expertise
- Hands-on approach, speaking owner’s language
- Single point of contact
- Works with CDFIs and other financial partners to provide low-interest loans
- From 2007 to 2016 supported 620 buildings, comprising 29,000 units
Adapting to Serve Low-Income Residents

- Existing program was successful because of its “case manager” approach:
  - Energy assessments, customized incentive packages, finding contractors, overseeing upgrades
  - Between 2011 and 2014 number of households undertaking upgrades after an audit increased from 2% to 65%
- Adapted approach when 500-year flood hit low-income neighborhoods in 2012 to ensure EE was included in rebuilding
- Innovative emergency bridge loan
- 168 households received upgrades
- White House Champion of Change for Building Resilient Communities
GRID Alternatives’ Solar Services

Making Solar Energy Accessible to All

- Strategic funding partnerships to reduce up-front costs
- Engage trusted community organizations to instill trust
- Hands-on job training and placement services – national resume bank, workshops, job fairs, fellowships
- Virtual net metering to remove split incentive
- Average of 50-80% reduction in energy bills
- 30,000 people trained
Cultivating Partnerships in a Tribal Community

- Door-to-door education and energy audits by trusted tribal members
- Tribal members help with installations and upgrades, helping to overcome mistrust of outside contractors
- Solar panel giveaways
  - Had to complete EE upgrades
- EE/RE jobs training and apprenticeships:
  - Customized training to fit specific needs and skill level of trainees
  - Worked with contractors to place trainees in permanent jobs
- Completed 62 audits, with 88% performing upgrades
- 50 tribal members received training, 10 got jobs
Duke Energy Neighborhood Energy Saver Program

Neighborhood-Based Approach to Increase Success

- Target neighborhoods with 1,000 low-income households
- Get buy-in of local leaders first and enlist their help with promotion
- Walk door-to-door to explain program, send letters, use door hangers
- Hold community events where residents can speak with energy specialists
- Spend about 1 hour in each home and explain the measures to residents as they do them
- Served 76,000 homes in 127 communities since inception
- Customers save an average of $150-200 per year
California Multifamily Affordable Solar Housing Program

Benefitting Both Owners and Tenants

- Reduce owner costs through a one-time, up-front rebate. Rebate is higher for upgrades to tenant units.
- Address split incentive by offering a virtual net metering tariff
- Private developers began offering attractive bundled incentives, helping nonprofits that don’t have a tax appetite
- Participants must enroll in state’s weatherization and appliance replacement programs
- Tenants saved an average of $480 in their first year (VNM)
- 23 MW generated, with 216 projects in the pipeline
EmPOWER Maryland’s Low-Income Services

Benefitting Both Owners and Tenants

- Department of Housing and Community Development uses its deep understanding of low-income communities, long-standing partnerships, and existing housing assistance programs to reach more customers and ensure success
- Offers a whole-house approach, including health and safety measures
- Multifamily approach overcomes the split incentive
- Advanced QA/QC
- Served 21,000 customers since inception
- Average participant saves $340 per year
Thank you!

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Creating a Nonprofit Hub for Energy Assistance

Join us for the next webinar:

January 19, 2017 @ 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. ET

Jennifer Gremmert, Energy Outreach Colorado

nyserda.ny.gov/LIFE-Webinar-Series
Find more information on the website
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