

# Meeting Notes

## Pre-forum Meeting: State and Local Coordination on Energy and Climate

*A conversation between State and local agencies | June 13, 2023*

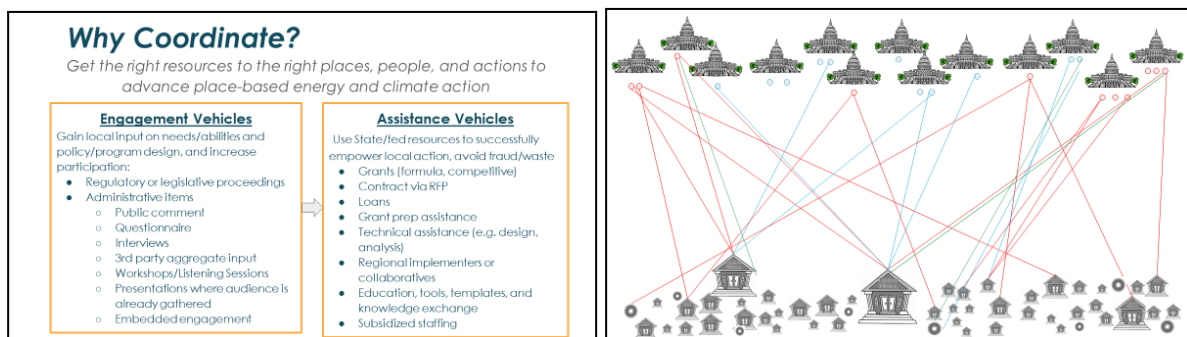
### About the Meeting

[Eighty \(80\) local government representatives](#) registered to attend the June 13, 2023 meeting co-hosted by Civicwell's [California Climate and Energy Collaborative \(CCEC\)](#) and the [Local Government Sustainable Energy Coalition \(LGSEC\)](#). The meeting occurred the morning before the 14th Annual CCEC Forum. It was facilitated by Angie Hacker, CCEC Statewide Best Practices Coordinator in partnership with leadership from Forum sponsors California Energy Commission (CEC) and California Air Resources Board (CARB), as well as Strategic Growth Council (SGC).

### [Slide deck](#)

#### Purpose of the Meeting

- Help State and local leaders increase coordinated efforts to more rapidly unlock the unique potential of California regions and communities
- Brainstorm ways to elevate/activate the voices of strengths of California and ensure that funding and other programs reach the places that need them without diverting limited capacity away from action



Intro slides

# Segment 1: Improving State/Local Coordination

## Questions discussed

Why does your organization believe it is important to improve communication, coordination, and assistance on clean energy and climate issues between State Agencies and local and regional governments?

What's not working as well as it could?

- CEC Commissioner Noemi Gallardo: As a State agency, serving all Californians and local governments are living with Californians in a special way – you're there, you see what they're experiencing, you're also experiencing it... while the State is based in Sacramento and not as nimble. IEPR serves as the primary vehicle to gather information on energy issues to provide recommendations to the Governor's Office and the Legislature. Has seen success getting input from regions through the IEPR, more is needed.
- CARB Shannon Hatcher: Appendix highlighting local actions in the Scoping Plan that identifies actions that need to be taken with local partners. Trying to better understand local conditions and needs and better engage with local partners.
- SGC Sean Kennedy: Embarking on a new effort to help clarify what the State is doing in the climate, housing, and energy space from the perspective of local governments working on planning and implementation.
- Jody London, Contra Costa County: County convenes with cities on a quarterly basis – open invitation to State agencies to engage. County wants to support State climate goals, but the current engagement process makes it difficult – streamlining engagement pathways and providing data would be immensely helpful.
  - For example, the State has access to data for GHG Inventories.
  - Hate having to compete with other local governments – block grants should be turned to as a model.
  - Use CCI funds to set aside funds for schools to implement solar and green schoolyards – schools in particular do not have the capacity (even more so than local governments) to engage in these programs.
- Tom Butt, former mayor of City of Richmond: Huge disconnect between local government and State agencies involving CCAs, which have led the way in moving California to clean energy. CCAs have continued to fight with the CPUC (which seems to have been set up to protect IOUs...); it seems like CPUC is trying to put CCAs out of business. Would like to see State agencies in Sacramento to find a way to deal with this issue with the CPUC.
- Erin Brewster, Town of Truckee: Small, rural town that is not served by a REN or a major IOU – three different utilities in their small town with different programs. Difficulty communicating consistently about programs to residents. Small POU that does not have

time-of-use rates or other features of larger IOUs. Messaging about available programs continues to be a challenge. Need support from the State to provide programs that RENs provide to communities that are not served by a REN (although RuralREN in the works).

- *Whova poll results:*
  - To make the most of existing resources, avoid waste, not duplicate efforts; include the residents.
  - Yes very important
  - Support speed and scale of actions. Lack of opportunity to have conversations in person(post Covid).
  - To most efficiently and effectively make energy improvements on the ground.
  - Opportunistic communication means that the voices that can participate most are heard most
  - to most effectively access grant money for a low capacity county
  - Our small city has little bandwidth for planning and managing grants. Assistance is badly needed.
  - So local governments are aware of the evolving resources available Many NEED to meet statewide goals
  - It is important to help improve coordination and communication for efficiency of efforts.
  - State agencies don't understand how understaffed cities, not just climate staff, but ALL staff
  - To avoid duplication and leverage each other's efforts.
  - Local Staff are unaware of the resources and it's how to navigate public input from diff agencies.
  - A lot of work to accomplish and needs to be coordinated to stay efficient and avoid duplication.
  - Implement effectively and meaningfully for community.Effort needed lacks funding and capacity.
  - Government work becomes siloed and nothing gets done, communication and coordination solves this.
  - Integrate state framework through regional to local funding, programming, staffing, and scoping.
  - Need to coordinate with city organizations (LGSEC, green cities california)
  - templates, libraries of project descriptions, consultant, and vendors ed. materials including videos
  - risk of duplicative services and competition for funding and the ability to serve customers
  - To know what is coming down the pipeline and how to best leverage resources
  - in Rise South City, we believe that the community are the experts in the community
  - Confusing messaging regarding energy resiliency VS efficiency.
  - Access to grants, new tech, new policy, best practices, 50k view
  - We need to eliminate redundancies and take a regional approach to regional problems (e.g. public tra

- interaction and bureaucracy

What ideas do you have to improve State/local coordination on the design and delivery of place-based programs and policies in a way that: streamlines participation and doesn't divert capacity away from action, and allows for consistent engagement and an accumulation of understanding of local/regional needs?

- Angie Hacker, CCEC: Briefing introduction of potential Regional Energy and Climate Hubs (REACH) operating structure.
- CEC Commissioner Noemi Gallardo: For IEPR regional engagement process, first connected with key regional leaders to co-design engagement activities. Helpful to have local help to connect with other stakeholders.
- CARB Shannon Hatcher: Conducting public workshops to solicit input from public stakeholders on where they need assistance, what works, what doesn't, etc. This direct feedback is then shared with CARB leadership to identify resources, tools, support, etc. that CARB can provide to support local action. Looking for bottom-up feedback to elevate local solutions that work.
- SGC Sean Kennedy: Key takeaways Climate Catalyst Conference – so much great work happening, particularly at the local level, that could be better coordinated. In this environment of competitive grant programs where people work in silos, information goes to State agencies that could be a better custodian of data and serve as a coordinator.
- Marc Costa, LGSEC: How can we find ways to offer customers value in ways we interact on energy. In 1912, Great Western Power was fighting with PG&E on who should serve this area – CPUC found that Great Western Power's service was not reliable (once again, siding with IOUs). Can learn from Europe – establishing Citizen Energy Committees – estimating that half their energy will come from their customers. Need a fundamental paradigm shift in how we engage people – how citizens can be involved and local governments can serve as a connector; need to choose people over profit.
- Jake Mackenzie: Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority (RCPA) brought 9 local governments together in a formal capacity (modeled after Sonoma County Transportation Authority board structure). New legislation that enables local governments to establish Climate Resilience Financing Districts. RCPA has been effective in disseminating information, coordinating, etc. New legislation allows districts to put measures on the ballot, which RCPA is exploring.
- Susan Wright, County of San Mateo: Biggest barrier to helping communities move toward electrification is huge fear around what's happening with the grid, not understanding it; extremely complex. Clear, simple communication needed around where we're going to support local government engagement with the public (locals need cover). COVID-19 messaging was clear (orange, yellow coding, etc.) – while underlying

data and information was complex, messaging was clear and the public understood what was going on.

- *Whova poll results:*
  - Include grassroots leaders in the process.
  - Focus on building lasting relationships as opposed to sporadic engagement around programs
  - To provide a message that would connect and speak their language so that it resonates.
  - Consistency across state in strategy/messaging allows us to do education, planning, provide feedback
  - State take stronger leadership on legally tenuous issues like new building electrification.
  - Block grants. Attend existing meetings, ask us to host you.
  - CARB should provide GHG inventories for each city and county.
  - Engage regional support (COGs, RENs) that can help effectively communicate state resources
  - the inability to hire staff to manage complex grants due our poor tax
  - Funding. Energy and climate block grants instead of competitive grants
  - Better communication and collaboration between state and local agencies
  - State agencies could hire people who have significant experience in local government
  - State agencies are proactive and cities are busy being reactive to emails from residents to Council
  - Pilot groups- pairing cities together?
  - Awarding grant funds w low reporting requirements & less competition could improve relationship
  - Use existing meetings. More flexible funding, learn from apps local jurisdictions submit for funding
  - Block grants > competitive awards
  - Community engagement
  - Need to focus on customer pipeline, moving customers from Direct Install to rebates to financing
  - Query local home/ biz owners on their needs. Then create programs that target specific needs.
  - Block grants, and for competitive grants make visible # of applicants and org name of all applicants
  - More training with local govt. staff
  - cut the red tape
  - Competitive grants cause barriers
  - There is a disconnect between state agencies and the work of CCAs
  - Rural communities not served by a REN lack access to some programs that would otherwise fill haps. There is a lack of consistency in which programs are accessible.

From your vantage point, what are the key topics State/local stakeholders need to coordinate around?

- *Whova poll results:*
  - Long term funding visioning and planning
  - energy efficiency
  - Coordinate data collection and sharing, notably for GHG inventories and EV/infrastructure.
  - grid planning & reliability & communications around what is happening
  - More block grants, less competitive grants!
  - Staff capacity and funding
  - Leverage EXISTING networks (LGSEC, Green Cities California, etc.).
  - Federal funding opportunities
  - Electrification, grid reliability, funding available for munis and residents, climate goals, engagement
  - Grant requirements and creating sustainable funding streams
  - GHG emissions. Energy usage data. Streamlined access to \$.
  - Funding opportunities; communication; policy creation
  - Clear messaging on climate science and map the policies and programs that aim to address the problem
  - State funding and build capacity for locals. Locals more focus on implementing and engaging community
  - positive impacts of climate work on health, well being, and personal resilience
  - Support for electrification at grid level and controlling costs for electricity. bring in CPUC
  - Funding streams, technical assistance, data/resources
  - Building electrification- state-planned action and resources available for communities and residents
  - Integrating climate action & adaptation strategies in standard government operations
  - Equity goals, and inclusion
  - lowering energy costs, providing long term solutions for providing energy to rural communities.
  - tax reform
  - More Sustainability Staff
  - community engagement

Participants and State representatives overwhelmingly indicated interest in continuing the discussion via regular State/local coordination meetings (next meeting would be web-based).

## Angie's Analysis

- After reviewing Segment 1 meeting discussion notes, these are Angie's key takeaways:
  - **State** can regulate and invest in ways that meaningfully empower and support local action, but ...
    - Can't: Design policies and programs as successfully without an accurate understanding of local needs. Need: Local input to ensure its policies and programs meet local needs and are accessible. (a,b,c,d - see below)
    - Can't: As easily reach key community stakeholders to increase awareness, education, and participation in climate and energy matters. Need: Local/regional partners with existing relationships, knowledge, workshop sites, and trust. (a,b,d)
    - Can't: Overstep their agency or existing policies, or act without authority. Need: Direction to manage interagency policy matters. (d)
    - Can't: Bypass statute or existing engagement pathways that are often siloed without a better process in place up front. Need: New engagement/funding processes, possibly legislated. (d)
    - Can't: Spend tax-payer investments that lead to waste/fraud, poor outcomes, or failure to benefit communities of need. Need: Improved funding processes that are both accessible and accountable. (c, d)
  - **Local governments** can successfully innovate and implement a wide variety of place-based energy/climate solutions targeted by need; work together via regional collaboratives; and serve as key connectors with other key local stakeholders (e.g. grassroots/EJ/CBO leaders) but...
    - Can't: Tackle statewide policy matters on their own. Need: Facilitated engagement/advocacy and agency support (e.g. building codes, CCA regulations, data access, utility load capacity/grid and EV planning, energy affordability)(a,b,c,d).
    - Can't: Keep up with all the fragmented communications and requests for input (multiple per agency), including being asked the same questions repeatedly. Need: More streamlined, easier, and earlier information and engagement opportunities (a,b,c). A way to bank and accumulate local input (e.g. regional databases, learn from applications local jurisdictions submit for funding). (d)
    - Can't: Afford to implement everything with only insufficient local tax base, or spend all their limited time pursuing complex competitive grants with low probability of funding. Need: Flexible, recurring funding sources/contracts for core permanent staffing of program administrators that match local/regional needs (e.g. formula grants, regional contracting, Climate Resilience Financing Districts, or at least cut the red tape on competitive grants) (d)
    - Can't: Move fast enough with current capacity to identify and scale up best practices. Need: More templates, case studies, learning materials, TA, peer sharing/pilot pairing and regional implementers. (a,d)

- Can't: Avoid duplication/waste from their vantage point. Need: Statewide strategy for program and resource deployment to help ensure coverage and consistency, and ensure customer-centered approach (e.g. single application, intake/pipeline of services) (d)
- Can't: Simplify messaging and outreach to constituents for all Statewide matters (e.g. programs, grid/energy resilience reliability) on its own. Need: Coordinated Statewide messaging and materials that are ready to deploy. (a,d)

Possible solution administration:

- (a) CCEC does some of this already
- (b) LGSEC does some of this already, primarily for CPUC matters
- (c) State does some of this already
- (d) Could benefit from a new State-led (or co-led) statewide regional operating structure (e.g. REACH and standing State/local coordination meetings)

## Segment 2: Listening Session with CARB

*This session will build upon input received from the first listening session. CCEC and CARB will present initial thoughts on the key needs and possible solutions to help local governments overcome barriers to climate action. Attendees will be asked to provide feedback to modify or add to our understanding of needs and possible solutions, including those that could be led by CARB.*

**Identified barriers:**

- Planning Capacity: Too much capacity (staff time/ resources) and technical expertise is needed to develop/track/update GHG inventories and CAPs (takes away from implementation)
- Source Data: Problems accessing GHG source data (e.g., utility or VMT data) cause long delays in developing, updating, and monitoring CAPs
- Legal Hurdles: Locals are discouraged from developing or implementing CAPs due to potential lawsuits, litigation, and compliance enforcement of CEQA mitigation measures in an EIR
- Transitioning to Action: Implementing emission reduction measures is difficult due to budgetary and structural constraints limiting individual action and regional collaboration
- Load Constraints: Transitioning vehicles and buildings to electric fuels is challenging due to electrical capacity constraints coordinated by the utilities

CARB Shannon Hatcher: In Scoping Plan, encourage local governments to prepare CAPs that demonstrate how emissions will be reduced in ways that provide community benefit. Received a range of feedback, from capacity/resource constraints, and more.



Have heard that CAPs are important, but also wondering if anyone has taken action without a CAP. Exploring tools that CARB can create to take climate action (e.g., model ordinances) to streamline inventory preparation, etc.

## **Breakout discussions by Top Barriers**

### Legal Hurdles:

Locals are discouraged from developing or implementing CAPs due to potential lawsuits, litigation, and compliance enforcement of CEQA mitigation measures in an EIR.

1. *Share local examples/ stories of how this barrier looks across different communities. How has it kept you from implementing local climate action?*
  - a. Large proposed development prevents us from updating a CAP until an EIR is completed and can be aligned
  - b. Lack of resources at the city legal team results in a lack of understanding with our CAP - our legal team is 100% consultants and are not familiar with it or do not have the delegated time to work on it
  - c. Cities need to prioritize delivery of day to day services and cannot begin to plan for GHG mitigation
  - d. Lack of understanding on GHG inventories and GHG reduction measure
2. *Please add ideas for solutions that can be implemented locally or by the State. Be Bold!*
  - a. **Locally-Led Solutions**
    - i. Aspirational goals in a Climate Emergency Declaration & continuing to try to implement “obvious” solutions
    - ii. Regional Collaboration
  - b. **State-Led Solutions**
    - i. GHG reduction measure toolkit
    - ii. Building electrification ordinance pathways +NOx + GHG approaches
    - iii. Prepare GHG inventory on behalf of jurisdiction
    - iv. Support for local electrification efforts, including messaging
    - v. Wait & see on Berkeley ruling from courts on electrification
    - vi. State guidance + support/ measure examples/ help with litigation

### Transitioning to Action:

Implementing emission reduction measures is difficult due to budgetary + structural constraints limiting individual action + regional collaboration.

3. *Share local examples/ stories of how this barrier looks across different communities. How has it kept you from implementing local climate action?*
  - a. Staff capacity & turnover
  - b. Climate action as a technical exercise vs a social exercise, barriers in community needs to community services

- c. Climate action plan is ambitious - not as many resources available to implement the ambitious actions
  - d. Need more upfront discounts rather than rebates
  - e. Once policy doc is produced, just becomes a doc and there really is no funding to implement the priority projects
  - f. Lack of charging stations & hydrogen filling stations
  - g. Coordination of so many departments all stakeholders need to hold similar levels of motivation
  - h. Barrier of Human Behavior (specific to transportation, industry & building decarbonization)
  - i. Skill set of staff hired: focus on the technical lack of awareness of context
  - j. Technology isn't there for some CAP goals
  - k. Lack of staff (bandwidth)
  - l. Long wait times for fleet transition, market is not meeting the need. In rural private sector not providing investments
  - m. Need more funding for implementation!
  - n. Grants for natural & working lands projects are too narrowly focused - impede planning and project design
  - o. Construction project costs are inflating, all climate funding going towards disaster relief, not enough for implementation
  - p. Severe workforce shortage in construction/ contractors
  - q. Human behavior barriers - difficult to motivate to make all of the massive behavior changes
  - r. Limited capital out the region makes regional collaboration difficult to implement
  - s. Lack of consistency in utility programs, lack of interest from utilities
  - t. Small cities - lack of funding, staff capacity, and expertise
  - u. Grid capacity and IOR connection delays
  - v. Mendocino COG moving towards implementation, working to become member of the RuralREN
  - w. No consistency in the programs that are offered!
  - x. Carbon Tax
  - y. More flexibility in Grant Programs
  - z. Zero % on-bill Financing for climate solutions
4. *Please add ideas for solutions that can be implemented locally or by the State. Be Bold!*
- a. **Locally-Led Solutions**
    - i. Collaboration across regions and matching scale of collaboration to implementation
    - ii. Cross-departmental collaboration is necessary. Some cities do not have sustainability departments, just offices within departments
    - iii. Local: Building smaller plans (i.e. EV charging, Vehicle Miles reduction, reforestation, etc.) That can be immediately implemented with local money, or is ready to go as soon as funding is available.
    - iv. Delivery mechanisms for sustainability staff, streamlines implementation
    - v. Cross-departmental implementation teams that are prepared to deploy!

- vi. Humboldt County created website to connect consumers to contractors
  - vii. Sonoma County RCPA: Regional effort to bring multiple jurisdictions together to apply for grants, resources, identify projects or similar strategies
  - viii. Prioritize your measures and focus ≈3 only
  - ix. Hire staff attuned to social, cultural, dynamics of change
  - x. Have pilot programs like City of Denver/ Bay Area where low-income households are given funds for home upgrades
- b. State-Led Solutions**
- i. Transitioning to a block-grant style funding environment for climate
  - ii. Zero % on-bill financing for climate solutions! (customer-based)
  - iii. Additional time and resources for under-resourced rural areas to meet climate/ compliance goals
  - iv. Does the state build funding/ programs based on local CAPs (Could help fill funding + TA CAPs)
  - v. Establish a point of contact from CEC & CARB for COGs to contact. Create clear line of communication
  - vi. Mechanism of funding for regional actions such as better public transportation

### Source Data:

Problems accessing GHG source data (e.g. utility or VMT data) cause long delays in developing, updating, and monitoring CAPs

5. *Share local examples/ stories of how this barrier looks across different communities. How has it kept you from implementing local climate action?*
- a. Raw CARB data requires too much technical expertise to process
  - b. No one-stop source for updating GHG emissions data
  - c. Can't get electricity use data for small jurisdictions, res vs. non-res because of privacy constraints
  - d. Access to utilities data specifically methane leakage from natural gas pipes
  - e. Natural gas energy use data from buildings from gas companies
  - f. Capacity to have reliable self-reported data. Enforcement vs voluntary
  - g. Complicated and time consuming when trying to access data and information
  - h. Navigating who to go to or where to go
  - i. Timing! Any data can take 3 months or longer, misaligned with project/ budget timelines
  - j. Often have to go back to revise due to changes in calculation methodology (electric supply, waste, etc.)
  - k. Scope of inventory - what data to include?
    - i. Story: Sonoma County: transboundary VMT emissions
  - l. SANDAG's most recent VMT estimate for LGs is for 2016, need to reference old data without funding to conduct city's own analysis

- m. San Diego Region receives GHG inventories from SANDAG. There are delays in transportation data, would prefer to spend time on implementation
  - n. No consistency in VMT methodology
    - i. VMT data is a mystery (methodology is shaky)
  - o. Would like more meaningful transportation data
    - i. Gasoline data, annual mileage, MPG
    - ii. GPS/ mobile data
6. *Please add ideas for solutions that can be implemented locally or by the State. Be Bold!*
- a. **Locally-Led Solutions**
    - i. Work together in collaboration, join resources together to cross collaborate
    - ii. GHG inventories for own cities
    - iii. Building energy models at scale of cities/ counties
    - iv. Local solutions to existing data CAP access. Barriers include:
      - 1. Volunteer drafted inventories
      - 2. CEQA lawsuits! (to fix inadequate CAP inventories from damaging the climate)
    - v. Help to shape the customer data delivery mechanism (portal-data-etc.), delivery for IOUs to local governments
  - b. **State-Led Solutions**
    - i. SB-511
    - ii. Building energy use and counter factual estimates that are specific and reliable
    - iii. Create natural gas pipeline modeling/ planning tools to support zonal/ targeted electrification
    - iv. Technical assistance & training go to person
    - v. I don't know if everyone receiving GHG inventories from CARB is the perfect solution, cities will receive it, and won't think it's accurate and there will be issues. Give cities funding or a specific consultant they can work with to create their GHG inventories
    - vi. CARB provide jurisdictions with calculated transportation emissions factors
    - vii. Require utilities to report usage data to jurisdictions annually
    - viii. The need to rewrite reach codes every 3 years to align with building code cycle
    - ix. Scope consistency - can CARB/ state provide template + detailed guidance? Aggregate + assign emissions
    - x. More support for state wide reach code so they can model NEM 3.0, fixed fees retrofit possibilities

### Load Constraints:

Transitioning vehicles and buildings to electric fuels is challenging due to electrical capacity constraints coordinated by the utilities

7. *Share local examples/ stories of how this barrier looks across different communities. How has it kept you from implementing local climate action?*
  - a. Long Quells
  - b. Implementing technologies and waiting months-years. A bit of back and forth with unclear ask for local governments. Unreasonable process to even get microgrid approved. Technicians/ engineers at IOU that give incorrect info/ setting to operate microgrid, troubleshooting to fix error
  - c. IOUs are a barrier to local DER solutions. IOUs are inflexible + will not embrace local solutions that save on grid upgrades
  - d. IOUs are too slow to review and provide feedback on interconnection requests, on EV charger plans, on power upgrades. \$ available (e.g., CALeVIP) but lost because utility can't meet deadlines
  - e. Reasonable/ Consistent Fire Code
  - f. Builders say they may not be able to sell all-electric homes and are concerned - we're a growing city
  - g. Concerns from our local building companies that the grid won't be able to handle all the potential new all-electric homes/ buildings
  - h. Need more clean info on capacity and timelines
  - i. Bad Data
  - j. Changing rule procedures / fire code
  - k. Barrer is understanding our existing capacity
    - i. Difficult to know the transformer capacity (long response finance)
    - ii. Transformer transportation
  - l. 6 months to year for EV charging
8. *Please add ideas for solutions that can be implemented locally or by the State. Be Bold!*
  - a. **Locally-Led Solutions**
    - i. Pilot Programs (e.g. streetlight charging stacking)
    - ii. Uncertainty! Does not encourage investments in new ways of building
  - b. **State-Led Solutions**
    - i. Charging stations expansion
    - ii. Storage
    - iii. Grid Capacity
    - iv. Hydrogen
    - v. IOU Connection Delays
    - vi. Bring PUC into the room
    - vii. Proactively plan the distribution grid upgrades for communities with consideration of how to iterate & upgrade
    - viii. Change the microgrid rules to allow freer power transference within a community to shift load as needed
    - ix. Meter installs - 1 ½ - 2 years
    - x. Engineering review: cost & long wait
    - xi. Interconnection review & AApproval
    - xii. Project Approval
      1. Communication: CEC & PG&E... work together to approve project

## Planning Capacity:

Too much capacity (staff time/ resources) and technical expertise is needed to develop/ track/ update GHG inventories and CAPs (takes away from implementation).

9. *Share local examples/ stories of how this barrier looks across different communities.*

*How has it kept you from implementing local climate action?*

- a. Lack of time/ capacity for long-term planning
- b. CAP work often gets contracted to technical consultants who produce plans that are very technical & unrelated to local context not part of general plan
- c. Prioritization concerns, don't have time to be proactive, busy being reactive
- d. GHG inventories can be economized - not consistent
- e. Unfunded strategies
- f. Technical planning for measure
- g. CAPs stand alone and aren't integrated
- h. Can't hire staff especially rural structured tax base
- i. Understanding of State officials lack of tax base to support staffing scarcity of quality staffing with technical expertise
- j. Too much detail goes into inventory
- k. Value of planning is transformational and relational
  - i. Needed to deploy
  - ii. Community & decision makers
- l. Missing planning link, CAP - implementation (implementation plans)
- m. Inventories drive, duplicate CAPS across jurisdictions. Missed opportunity for cross-jurisdictional coordination

10. *Please add ideas for solutions that can be implemented locally or by the State. Be Bold!*

**a. Locally-Led Solutions**

- i. Leverage regional orgs
- ii. Invest in regional collaboration
- iii. Working groups to help provide other solutions
- iv. MPO's strategize or do inventories
- v. SLO rapid update
  1. Workplan, extending time before inventory (5 - 7 years)
- vi. Pool funding for share of planning and cross-jurisdictional conversation and action
- vii. San Diego City Implementation Plan
- viii. Support Grassroots Organizing

**b. State-Led Solutions**

- i. Technical Assistance
- ii. CARB does all inventories
- iii. Block Grants (Not Competitive)
- iv. State-led GHG inventories
- v. Single point of contact, state advisor
- vi. Everyone will hate inventories but will be better off

- vii. Barriers between state agencies Aggregated input among all state agencies
- viii. Fully fund people to attend in person workshops to give feedback because I can't prioritize attending a virtual workshop
- ix. Alignment work for items happening at state-scale
- x. State template for climate action plans for cities to access consistent resources and data from the state
- xi. Electrification code and state legal leadership
- xii. Scoping Plan and AB-32 have some teeth to push local government to create/ pass a CAP - match with resources and funds to fund work

### **Top Needs**

“Data Access” and “Transitioning to Action” were voted by the group to be the highest priority areas.

### **Highest Ranked State-led Solutions**

(\* indicates voted as highest priority by participants)

1. Data
  - a. More support with modeling
  - b. SB-511 as potential solution, but some mixed feedback
  - c. Consistency in collection of data
2. Legal Hurdles
  - a. Uncertainty with Berkeley ruling, unclear the impact on local ordinances
  - b. Toolkits!
3. Local Constraints
  - a. Need to bring CPUC into conversation
  - b. Homeowners might not be clear themselves
  - c. IOU connection delays
  - d. Consistency in rules
4. Planning
  - a. GHG inventories would create consistency & capacity
  - b. Single point of contact between locals and state
5. Transitioning
  - a. Consistency in programs being administered
  - b. Collaboration between agencies administering these programs
  - c. Transitioning away from competitive grants

## **Segment 3: CEC Listening Session: Equitable Building Decarbonization**

### **Questions discussed**

## What are your community's energy equity and healthy home challenges?

Whova poll results:

- A large percentage of homes are very old
- Lack of staffing due to structural deficits and poor tax base
- Limited administrative bandwidth
- Disparity between rural and urban households
- First addressing affordable housing. Talking about anything related to housing is difficult
- Indoor air quality, wildfire smoke. Proper cooling and filtration.
- Facing an affordable housing issue. Half of buildings have AC and don't have adequate insulation.
- Old housing stock, not built with large temperature swings in mind.
- Very old buildings not designed for year-round occupancy, high % fixed income
- Outdoor/indoor air quality (especially during wildfire season). Need for AC.
- Service to rural communities, basic home improvements needed, little knowledge to decarbonize
- Limited new development for housing/ industrial buildings. Renovations and EV chargers will be focus
- Rural/mixed political options object to climate language, public health more readily accepted
- codes that do not protect renters
- Decarbonization
- renters don't have rights
- Overcrowded housing with multiple families living in one home and causing high energy load

## What criteria should the program use to identify initial communities?

Whova poll results:

- population size, avg. income/education lvl, existing programs in area
- Lack of capacity to run programs
- DAC within city
- Low income communities
- Look for commonalities and typologies with either systems (ie least efficient equipment), population
- Identify the most rural, disadvantaged, and low income communities.
- Income, building age, pollution burden
- Race, income, but not just CalEnviro screen
- Low electric rates that won't create higher post-elec. bills. Need for air quality improvements
- Income, vulnerable populations (youth, elderly), language, highest energy bills
- Ones with the largest number of constraints
- Low income, POC, rural location >300 miles from population center, homes with children
- Community Safety



- communities of color
- Ability to cost effectively drive market formation.

What organizations should the program partner with in your region?

*Whova poll results:*

- Santa Barbara Co. Assoc. Govt, Santa Barbara Co. Climate Collab., Central Coast Community Energy
- LIWIP providers
- County Housing Department/Authority
- AMBAG, central coast community energy, ecology action, central coast energy services
- Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy, Housing Authorities
- County of Sonoma, climate Action and Resiliency. Also RCPA
- CBOs in equity priority communities, Small Businesses, associations, trade unions. . . All
- Napa Climate Now!, Napa Resource Conservation District, BayREN
- 3C-REN
- CPUC, RCPA, Sonoma clean power, PGE, county and city gov
- Partner with CCAs who can work with local governments directly. Do not go through IOU direct install
- local CBO'S
- Cool Petaluma
- small CBO's

What types of services should program implementers (and CBOs) provide?

- Reach out with public health in mind; prioritize households with children. Can enter more conservative communities through a public health lens.
- Should be leading technical analysis for cost-effectiveness, particularly necessary for mobile home set-aside. Most mobile home tenants are on a fixed income... no flexibility in their budgets to absorb additional costs.

*Whova poll results:*

- Application help for homeowners and renters. Dedicated staff person accessible via phone and text
- Work at the state level to bring money together for a whole home/public health approach
- Translation, transportation
- Upfront funding, tenant protection, workforce training
- Capacity building, marketing outreach capacity
- Education, finance and technical support
- Coaching, financial assistance and advising
- Require installers to coordinate with local government then LG can provide access to services

- Protection for renters
- Consider wraparound services when working w frontline/low income communities - complex needs
- Planning
- Education
- Depends what's the audience

What should the CEC know about your community's energy equity and healthy home needs?

*Whova poll results:*

- Indoor air quality, wildfire smoke. Proper cooling and filtration.
- Service to rural communities, basic home improvements needed, little knowledge to decarbonize
- Old housing stock, not built with large temperature swings in mind
- Outdoor/indoor air quality (especially during wildfire season). Need for AC.
- Lack of staffing due to structural deficits and poor tax base.
- Very old buildings not designed for year-round occupancy, high % fixed income
- Disparity between rural and urban households
- A large percentage of homes are very old
- Limited administrative bandwidth
- First addressing affordable housing. Talking about anything related to housing is difficult
- Facing an affordable housing issue. Half of the buildings have AC and don't have adequate insulation.

This program will be implemented in phases, where should it start? What criteria should be used to identify initial communities?

*Whova poll results:*

- DAC within city
- Population size, av. Income/education level, existing programs in area
- Low income communities
- Low electric rates that won't create higher post-elec. Bills. Need for air quality improvements
- Identify the most rural, disadvantaged, and low-income communities
- Income, building age, pollution burden
- Look for commonalities and typologies with either systems (ie least efficient equipment), population
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Is the existing workforce in your region familiar with electrification measures? How should the CEC define the local workforce?

- In more rural regions, the workforce is not ready, particularly with existing workers being pulled into more urban areas. Important to invest resources to help the local workforce Develop.
- Consider the local radius of a project to assess, engage, and develop the local workforce.
- Regions organized by County (rather than IOU territory) – any feedback?
- Concerns with how some regions are defined (i.e., rural areas being in the same region have major metropolitan areas). Tendency for the State to focus on areas with greatest demand, but often leaves rural areas out.
- How to move from a 'popcorn' approach to a more strategic/smarter strategy
- Design program to serve smallest, most rural, most underserved communities – program will then be designed to serve all communities