

Energized Communities: Empowering Local Governments to Reimagine a Decarbonized Future (Gold, 1:30 - 2:45pm)

Best practices for troubleshooting common challenges for municipal electrification and building decarbonization programs:

- Be upfront about increased responsibilities on facilities and maintenance
- Make it easy to access and stitch together funding
- Put out an RFP for an implementer
- Costs are still too high for commercial customers, provide financing options and support for contractors
- Consider on-bill financing and other creative financing options to replace federal and state funding that is going away
- Offer zero interest payment plan for zero emission appliances
- REN funding for multi family retrofits includes an energy audit
- Include costs of technical assistance and installation support in program costs, including support with electrical service panel upgrade issue
- Provide support for property owners to navigate gaps in code implementation and with getting other permits (Title 44, cal green compliance, getting permits, inspection)
- Provide training for public works and building inspectors who are unfamiliar with zero-emission technologies and work with them to account for discrepancies in how they calculate electric load capacity
 - 3CREN hosted and inspector breakfast training to get to know these folks, all it took to get people in the room was breakfast burritos
- Electrifying city facilities can be a good test run
- Leverage multiple programs from start to end

Examples of lessons learned from clean appliance programs:

- City of San Francisco direct install pilot on single family DACs is up a running but is lacking
 - When serving multifamily rental units or working with affordable housing developers, projects only move forward when multiple funding sources line up, and usually individual programs are oversubscribed
 - Small developers have more trouble accessing funding
 - However funding is becoming more difficult to finance
- City of Palo Alto has a goal to install 1,000 heat pumps
 - Provided training for contractors to help sell zero-emission products
 - Building relationships with trusted plumbers was helpful
 - Added emergency hot water program which delivers heat pump install in 3 days (a lot of lessons for faster install learned from first 30-50 installs)
- Examples of working with CCAs: Silicon Valley Clean Energy Santa Monica innovation fund,