

Designing a resilient comeback - Justin Skootsky

Panelist Introductions

Patrice Hicks- Program Manager for Rise Homes Program

- Rise program is funded by CPUC through 2029
- Rise is for people who want to build all electric homes, effectively capping their gas lines

Enayet Miah - LADWP Distributed Energy Solutions Division

- LADWP HOME LA was created to support homeowners rebuild after the recent wildfires in the city of Los Angeles
- HOME program includes special incentives for whole-electric homes and incentives for a-la-carte home appliance electrification (e.g. induction cooktops, in-wall ovens, heat pump water heaters, etc.)

Lily Bui - Social GrantMakers (a non-profit that convenes philanthropy)

- \$1B was raised through philanthropy after the recent wildfires (some insurance loss estimates are around \$30B)
- Philanthropy money is usually used for the initial emergency response and support, and then housing Programs follow-on for additional recovery support

Across the panelist programs, they allow stacking with other state incentive programs

Panel Q&A

What are the opportunities in the midst of witnessing pain and trauma?

- Enayet — RESPONSE. To rebuild healthier, safer, more efficient, energy producing, homes and communities for the next 50 years.
- Patrice — FINANCE. Feasibility of rebuilding from a financial perspective with incentives
- Lily — UNDERSTANDING OF ROLES. Backdrop is SB254 report, which defines who is responsible and who should pay

Context: Federal Post-Disaster Relief Funds (FEMA) - Los Angeles is still waiting for FEMA funds

So, how can LA manage without this support?

- Lily — UNCERTAINTY PREVAILS. Gaps exist with Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), a program run by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Standard CDBG grants do not have to be repaid. However, Section 108 loan guarantees – a provision of the CDBG program – are loans, but these require payback. All this uncertainty from Federal Funding leads to creativity at the local level on how to combine and stack incentives

- Patrice — **USE PROGRAMS TO FILL GAPS.** Expansion to low-income equity eligibility (e.g. income qualification to receive funds for a set of induction cookware, backup batteries, etc.)
- Enayet — **LOCAL LEADERSHIP CRITICAL.** LADWP programs are funded through generosity of ratepayers.

Do you do field programming (going door-to-door)? What are the learnings and cost-effectiveness of field vs. digital outreach?

- Patrice — Not door-to-door, but Rise Homes leverages partnerships with Community Based Organization (CBO). Rise Outreach staff focused on the Alta Dena town council meetings and performed application intake at this community meetings.
- Lily — Door knocking doesn't get so far, especially when people haven't returned home. Institutional trust has eroded, so going to the trust-based CBOs is where the time should be invested.
- Enayet — So many homes are gone there are few doors to knock on. So, for HOME LA, there has been strategic coordination with USGBC to showcase rebuilding materials that are more fire resistant and how equipment looks and is used. Additional partnership with SCE to showcase food preparation with induction stovetops. LADWP also has a temporary office in the Palisades.

What other disaster support is included in Programs?

- Lily — Rise homes covered all natural disaster types declared at state, local, or federal level (e.g., flooding in San Diego, high wind damage without fire, etc.)
- Enayet — LADWP HOME LA today is just for fire survivors. Will help for 4,000 homes impacted in the fires in LADWP service territory.

How many people are using the programs?

- Lily — 30 homes completed, many permit applications, and still many others not applying for permits. Also a lot of speculation. Also a lot of anti-displacement initiatives to bank land that will live in a trust to support residents who can't afford to come back today, but may come back in the future.

Cost of rebuilding dwarfs prevention. How to address the issue of weak prevention funding of \$9M in LA vs. \$400M at state level

- Lily — Look at wildfire solutions coalition and see that \$400M is nowhere near enough and too much is being spent on the tail-end of the damage. The bounds of the SB254 study is that it is just for IOUs, but the collective action problem is being pointed at for lack of preparation. Some studies show that \$1 of preparation is worth \$13 in response. Undergrounding is also being talked about.
- Enayet — LADWP is focused on undergrounding in the palisades and is waiting for federal funds to help with this undergrounding.

- Patrice - CPUC is funding the Rise Homes program through state ear-marked funds on rebuilding, not prevention