

Progress Report

Workgroup #3: Low Income

Background

- Excerpt from Scoping Document: “Problem Statement – The current framework may not ensure adequate EEI funds (separate from other sources of BPA funds for low income energy efficiency) are adequately dedicated to low income residential energy efficiency, in particular, weatherization. For low income energy savings acquired through the work of Community Action Agencies, customer utilities may not be receiving credit for those savings occurring in their service territories.”
- Some Stakeholders have said that there needs to be more Low Income EE measures installed in the Region.
- Some Utilities have a long-standing working relationship with their local Community Action Program (CAP Agency). However, other Utilities have not worked closely with the CAP Agency that serves people in their service area.
- There are two Low Income programs (see handout for details):
 1. The Low Income Grant Program which is managed by each State (ID, MT, OR, & WA).
 2. The Utility Program found on page 104 of the Implementation Manual.
- Funding levels for the BPA-funded Low Income Grant Program should be addressed in the Integrated Program Review (IPR).

Summary of Progress to Date

- We walked through a typical project done by a CAP Agency (CAPECO in Pendleton) and a Utility (Eugene Rosolie from Cowlitz PUD). That discussion developed some ideas on how CAP Agencies and Utilities could work closer together.
- The workgroup has identified many issues and discussed possible solutions, that it will continue to work on, including:
 - Better coordination, communication and collaboration between the CAP Agencies and the Utilities is needed. *At this point there is some support to continue the workgroup beyond Post-2011 Review on an on-going basis; meeting quarterly or bi-annually.*
 - There has been a proposal that the Utilities be required to spend a set portion of their EEI on the Low Income based on the percentage of low income residents in their service area. The proposal has had some discussion in the workgroup and it will be taken up at the next meeting.
 - Utility credit (kWh savings) for the work the CAP Agencies are doing in their service area -especially the I-937 utilities. A Sub-group called “Data Streamlining” has been

formed to discuss this and the first meeting was held on March 17. That group reviewed the reporting documents that one CAP uses and EWEB. They are working on finding the “common denominators” for reporting energy savings to both the State and BPA.

- There is a need to understand better the level of engagement on low income of Northwest utilities and CAP agencies. Workgroup members crafted and distributed a survey for utilities. The CAP Agencies also said that they would like to survey their CAP Agency members to learn how they work with their local Utilities.
 - There was one suggestion to consider a new program model that may reduce the administrative burden on utilities, especially small utilities, and increase the level of participation in low income programs through agencies. One possibility was having utilities designate a portion of their EEI to a low income program that BPA would manage in hope of reducing the burden on some utilities.
- The third meeting will be held at PNGC in their Portland office, located at 711 NE Hasley Street, Portland. We will start at 9:30am to 3:30pm on April 3 and this meeting is also available by conference call and LiveMeeting.

What would the workgroup like input from all stakeholders on at this point in time?

- Do you think there is a need for an ongoing regional low income workgroup?
- What is the best strategy for getting more EEI to the low income segment?
- What are there opportunities for streamlining reporting so that utilities may more easily capture savings from work of CAP agencies?
- Would you be interested in having BPA manage EEI directed at low income sector for you?

Please contact your Energy Efficiency Representative or the co-chairs directly for follow-up

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