

Workshop 2: Notes Document

November 16th, 2021

Session 1:

Group 1:

Facilitator: Lauren Ross

Note-Taker: Tony Bishop

Stakeholders: Stacey Champion, Teresa Sosa, Michelle Lehman

1. What solutions or tools did you find the most inspirational and motivating?

- Utility disconnect policies that help residents
- Heat illness/death data (indoor)
- Outreach to residents at risk of disconnection and connection to assistance programs
- Pilot programs in partnership with DES
- Information and education provided to residents is making a difference

2. What solutions would you create/choose to use to address energy insecurity in your area?

- Address utility disconnects (not relying solely on extreme weather alert days...other days are still very hot and deadly too)
- Low-income assistance
- LIHEAP funding - address cold weather too
- Grassroots community outreach
- Energy efficiency education / energy bill literacy
 - Demand charges
 - Seniors
 - Folks on fixed incomes
- Increased data collection on heat illness and deaths...specific to indoor injuries / energy insecurity issues
- Increasing methods to contact people experiencing heat illness indoors
- Increased strategies to reach vulnerable households
- Weatherization efforts decrease energy use and reduce energy costs
 - Mobile homes
- Think of/address housing policy

3. What were the main challenges you encountered while developing or implementing solutions and how were these combatted (how will they be combatted)?

- Helping residents experiencing multiple crises at once (need to address more than just energy insecurity - holistic approach needed to target all root causes)
 - Need to expand partnerships and awareness to other services that aren't just energy insecurity specific.
- More LIHEAP funding
 - Only a finite amount of funding exists
 - Can only serve ~4-5% of people that qualify
 - Current funding formula favors cold-weather states, not extreme heat-states like AZ
- Utility companies have to work in their service territory
- Can only weatherize mobile homes to a certain degree
 - Mobile home Infrastructure can only support some weatherization strategies, especially older mobile homes
- There is a need much greater than available resources
- Data on heat illness and deaths from other AZ counties would help form solutions
 - Heat is a state-wide issue and so is energy insecurity

Group 2:

Facilitator: Diana Hernandez

Note-Taker: Tianna Baker

Stakeholders: Bonnie Temme, Tawsha Trahan

- 1. What solutions or tools did you find the most inspirational and motivating?**
 - Stakeholders know what the problems are but there is survey fatigue. People want to see action at this point- real tangible solutions. It can start with very small action.
 - Surveys done in Phoenix, especially mobile home parks, are very impactful. Teresa and Emma have connections with these communities and did a 2-hour workshop for community members on utility discount programs and mobile home energy saving tips.
 - Building upon the relationship and building off of the trust between the community and the community-based organization helped make the workshop successful

- 2. What solutions would you create/choose to use to address energy insecurity in your area?**
 - Solutions that are smaller and focused on the neighborhood scale that are built off of trust and uses existing resources are very valuable.
 - Community-based approaches seem to work for the long-term
 - A form of universal basic income or a universal energy allowance
 - Universal energy allotment that is built into our policy framework

- 3. What were the main challenges you encountered while developing or implementing solutions and how were these combatted (how will they be combatted)?**
 - Person to person relationships
 - Policy implementations
 - Community members need the time to learn the information which they may be short on

Group 3:

Facilitator: Vjollca Berisha

Note-Taker: Allie McGranaghan

Stakeholders: Venus Ramirez (APS), Ronda Seifert (public health nurse), Michael Denby (ASU sustainability), Jackie Castellon (SRP), Emma Viera (Unlimited Potential)

- 1. What solutions or tools did you find the most inspirational and motivating?**
 - There was some interest in the GRID Alternatives solution which was very interesting.
 - Community solar for low income neighborhoods
 - Workforce development/mentoring
 - Agrovoltatics. Emma is currently working on an agrovoltaic project that is promising and community centered.

- 2. What solutions would you create/choose to use to address energy insecurity in your area?**
 - Decrease overall energy consumed (Busy Bus - Fridays families bike to school rather than drive)
 - Discount plans for utilities; however many families haven't heard about these programs.
 - For rebate and energy efficiency projects offered by utilities, many renters have difficulty enrolling in these programs due to landlords. Landlords refuse to do or allow any upgrades to properties. What solutions may combat this?

3. **What were the main challenges you encountered while developing or implementing solutions and how were these combatted (how will they be combatted)?**
 - SRP is investing in long-term gas turbines. How might these investments slow down progress to achieve reliable and clean energy?

Session 2:

Group 1:

Facilitator: Lauren Ross

Note-Taker: Tony Bishop

1. **What solutions need to be implemented in the short-term vs long-term? What would a timeline look like for solution implementation?**
 - Long-term and short-term: Statewide data collection on heat illness and deaths -> data collected in same way for comparison purposes and further examine where statewide issues exist/what issues may be specific to which counties
 - Long-term: Provide education and information to future generations and support an energy secure future for the next generations
 - Short-term: pilot projects -> long-term: expanding efforts from pilot projects
 - Long-term: consistent and similar funding/bundled funding/assistant programs throughout the country -> trickle down federal funding to states -> counties
 - Need long-term solutions to utility assistance
 - Long-term: work on holistic approaches (example: address housing issues in addition to energy insecurity)
 - Short-term and long-term: make heat exposure just as pressing of an issue as cold exposure
 - A/C access is just as important as heating access
 - Long-term: sustained funding for energy insecurity programs/solutions
2. **Are there any solutions you are particularly interested in pursuing?**
 - Statewide solutions based on statewide data
 - Education to youth
 - More data on vulnerable populations/energy insecure areas
 - Continue to bring awareness to heat issues and advocate for more funding and programming to address these issues and their impacts on residents
 - Utility disconnect policies are lifesaving
3. **What do you imagine should be the next steps in solution implementation?**
 - Creating standardized heat illness/death data collection processes
 - Pilot-projects
 - Engage different service providers

Group 2:

Facilitator: Diana Hernandez

Note-Taker: Tianna Baker

1. **What solutions need to be implemented in the short-term vs long-term? What would a timeline look like for solution implementation?**
 - Long term: Universal energy allotment
 - What is the household income?
 - What is the structural integrity of the dwelling? Will impact the energy usage

- Utility companies offer different plans, tailor the plan to the residents' circumstances. Informing customers of pricing plans
 - Some programs have payment forgiveness.
 - Simple knowledge tips such as not leaving the ceiling fan on when you leave the room
- Short term: Community members had their houses weatherized and had their evaporative cooler sealed off. This increased the efficiency of the cooler systems.
- Long term: Lately, utility companies do want customers to be more energy efficient due to rising natural gas prices. This feeds into how governments regulate energy at a national or global scale.
- Increased interest among utility companies on low income communities. Are there rates that would be more appropriate for these groups? Are there efforts to ensure that regardless of income, each household is on the best plan based on their energy behavior → ties back into the education element of learning what resources are currently available.
- Short term: Energy literacy
- Knowledge plus tools (education plus something tangible such as energy efficient lightbulbs)

2. Are there any solutions you are particularly interested in pursuing?

3. What do you imagine should be the next steps in solution implementation?

Group 3:

Facilitator: Vjollca Berisha

Note-Taker: Allie McGranaghan

1. What solutions need to be implemented in the short-term vs long-term? What would a timeline look like for solution implementation?

Short-term: WAP, cool roofs, painted pavements, utility relief programs, possibly donated solar

Middle -term: Programs similar to California's Grid Alternatives (Can the project be replicated in Arizona?)

Long-term: Changing utility payment structures

2. Are there any solutions you are particularly interested in pursuing?

- There is desire for more hands-on efforts and concrete solutions. What next steps need to be accomplished to create change today?
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- There was interest in repurposing technology for solutions such as using old car batteries for solar storage or using older decommissioned solar panels. There is some concern that communities would then be responsible for these technologies once their life span surpasses them. They would be required to dispose of them safely, something that is quite expensive.

3. What do you imagine should be the next steps in solution implementation?

- The next steps should include my hands-on, solution oriented work. As a workgroup we need to explore solutions everyone can collaborate on and work towards. Increase call to actions.