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**Bridging Climate Change and Public Health**  
**Energy Insecurity Workgroup Meeting**  
**Meeting Agenda – | April 28th | 2:30 PM -3:30 PM**

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**Purpose of Meeting:**

1. Discuss the connection between energy insecurity and public health, climate change, and vulnerable populations through the lens of health equity.
  2. Discuss the need for community and stakeholder engagement: establish the energy insecurity workgroup
  3. Facilitate communication and collaboration across different community sectors
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• **Welcome and agenda overview (5 mins) – Lauren**

- Hearing from the local advocacy group, Vote Solar on creating a renewable energy pathway for Maricopa County
- Vjollca will lead the discussion on the weatherization workforce project

• **Vote Solar presentation (20 mins)- Olivia and Yara**

- Olivia Nedd, Vote Solar-- Sr. Policy
- Yara Marin, Vote Solar – Interior West Regional Director

**PowerPoint with presentation notes is attached in the same email as these meeting notes**

- How to get involved:
  - Low-income policy guide <https://www.lowincomesolar.org/>
  - Visit the Vote Solar website <https://votesolar.org/>
  - Find opportunities to engage at the regulatory and legislative levels
  - Write letters to commissioners and share your stories

SAVE THE DATE: Vote Solar hosting an in-person meeting on 6/30

- Contact information:  
Yaraneth@votesolar.org  
Olivia@votesolar.org

- **Presentation discussion (10 mins)- Workgroup**

Olivia Nedd (Vote Solar)—At Vote Solar, true community solar is true community ownership meaning they have a stake in the outcomes and benefits (such as vocational opportunities). The solar is tailored to the community's needs.

The obstacle is that solar is still very unaffordable.

How consistent someone is with paying their electricity bill should be a way of qualifying for rooftop solar.

On bill financing for solar—we want to see how much solar is offsetting the cost of the monthly installation payment

Yara Marin (Vote Solar): Commissioner Sandra Kennedy pushing for a community solar program. She submitted an amendment to APS asking APS to consider a working group that Vote Solar would be a part of to work on the details of what a true community solar program would look like.

- Consumer protection is very important—Protect low-income customers from expensive solar panels and installation.
  - The consumer experience of purchasing solar and installation can be very complicated. Need consumer education on how to navigate purchasing solar and choosing a good quality company to purchase from.
- Another issue is there can be long leases for solar and consumers are locked into those costs even when solar costs are going down. This can make selling the house more difficult because the next owner must agree to the rates.
- Need a multistakeholder dialogue with SRP/APS to think about what may be open to them.
- Discuss electricity from the community solar project and how to divvy up the savings across the community. The only legal way to go about it is if utilities are involved in the project.
- Utilities have shifted their perspective on solar as their needs shift with the goal of reaching carbon neutrality by 2050. Can start a dialogue with utilities on a pilot project on community solar. Also have cities, counties, non-profits, and academia involved.

- Other states in the U.S. have energy choice meaning some states have deregulated energy markets where consumers can choose their own energy supply and supplier.
    - Anti-choice legislation was just passed in Arizona
    - Actions around solar can still be made while new legislation is pending
    - Always opportunities to provide public comment. Vote Solar can provide resources to help community members speak out for equitable solar.
  - Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) –
    - Programs allow local governments to procure power on behalf of their residents, businesses, and municipal accounts from an alternative supplier while still receiving transmission and distribution services from their existing utility provider.
    - CCAs are an attractive option for communities that want more local control over their electricity sources, more green power than is offered by the default utility, and/or lower electricity prices.
    - By aggregating demand, communities gain leverage to negotiate better rates with competitive suppliers and choose greener power sources.
- **Equity in Action Updates + Discussion (20 mins)- Vjollca**
    - An action team for the Weatherization Workforce Development project has been established
      - There is a labor shortage in weatherization work on homes
      - As a solution, propose that we recruit people from low-income communities to go through the necessary training to prepare them for a weatherization career
      - The goal would be to alleviate poverty and improve home weatherization
    - An action team was created
      - The leaders are Rhonda Seifert and Emma Viera
      - Emma Viera- Executive direction of Unlimited Potential
      - Rhonda Seifert- Co-chair of Arizona Health Professionals for Climate Action
      - The first action team meeting will be on 5/24 at 9 am.
      - Travis Ekenburg, Aaron Gettel, Vjollca Berisha, and Tianna Baker will also be involved on the action team
- **Wrap-up (5 mins) –**
    - Thank you to Yara and Olivia of Vote Solar for presenting
    - A copy of the presentation slides will be sent out to the workgroup