

10th Annual Statewide Energy Efficiency Forum

Morning Plenary I – Energy Efficiency Policies, Planning, and Funding for Climate Vulnerable Communities

Salon A/B
Level: Intermediate

Thursday, June 27, 2019
8:45– 9:45 AM

Notes prepared by **Dario Bobeda**, Corpsmember at California Conservation Corps

Speakers/Panel:

Leah Fisher (Moderator), California Strategic Growth Council

Nuin-Tara Key, California Governor's Office of Planning and Research

Jodi Pincus, Exec. Director Rising Sun Center for Opportunity

David Jacot, Director of Energy Solutions, Los Angeles Department of Water & Power

Amee Raval, Asian Pacific Environmental Network

Plenary Summary:

The climate crisis has uneven impacts on communities and efforts must be made to increase outreach to vulnerable communities. While data is helpful to identify these communities, it shouldn't be the only way to identify them. Engaging with communities by providing services and educating local constituents can help identify more at-risk vulnerable communities. Emphasizing non-energy benefits should be a priority; you can't quantify the health of families, but that should take precedence over any economic cost benefit. The idea of non-SILO funding was brought; this would increase the reach that CCAs and EE would be able to provide.

Nuin-Tara Key, California Governor's Office of Planning and Research

- Adaptation and resilience
- Talks about state perspective on climate change and how climate adaptation and resilience are being incorporated
- Disadvantaged communities: environmental justice perspective, state law defines what this means, SP 535 and AB 550
- What definitions don't include: climate risk, future climate perspective ex.: heat days, broader socioeconomic factors ex.: wildfires and safety evacuation routes
- Definition of climate vulnerability defined by three key components
 1. Risk
 2. Sensitivity to exposure
 3. Capacity (adaptive capacity): ability to respond to and thrive in the face of climate impacts
- Many state agencies are defining vulnerability soon
- Must overlay future climate projections to understand vulnerability

David Jacot, Director of Energy Solutions, Los Angeles Department of Water & Power

- Looking at extreme heat increasing and pollution
- Dramatic changes in weather all throughout LA
- Look at load growth due to A/C
 - Must provide energy at an affordable rate
- Layered look at vulnerable and disadvantaged communities using CalEnviroScreen
- Looking forward to a more defined vulnerable and disadvantaged communities
- Efforts:
 - Direct install program for small businesses and LAUSD
 - Extensive tree planning program
 - 100 million dollars (\$20m/year) over the next five years to IMPROVE insulation throughout homes
 - Partnering with gas and state to drive roof

Amee Raval, Asian Pacific Environmental Network

- Asian refugee areas throughout the year
- Programs to target disadvantaged communities
- Helped advocate for investments
- Reflective data driven approach
- What's missing in CalEnviroScreen:
 - Climate impacts
 - Unique demographic characteristics
- Launch for mapping resilience soon



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- Landscape analysis of climate vulnerability programs
 - Looks at strengths and weaknesses to identify what data is “actionable”
- Climate adaptation = protecting environment, built infrastructure
 - But third piece, neighborhoods and people are important
- Key takeaways:
 - Climate crises has uneven impacts in communities
 - Must think about targeting more vulnerable communities
- Data is important, excited about promoting data driven report. Public officials must ground truth with engaging with the community and getting what they’re experiencing that data can’t capture.

Jodi Pincus, Exec. Director Rising Sun Center for Opportunity Works at the intersection of climate change and economic equity

- Lead with the need for adaptation and resilience, climate crises is beyond mitigation
- Definitions drive resource allocation, but it’s important not to get lost in the data and economic costs
- Programs must be broad enough to reach disadvantaged communities
- Not a statewide definition, but would really drive policy implementation
- What works for Rising Sun and other things that work:
 - Hires young adults and teaches them to be more environmentally friendly. They then go into the communities to educate and help
 - Easy access, no barrier
 - Youth paid, workforce development program, become climate experts

What are some words, phrases, or ideas that capture what practitioners need in order to successfully meet California’s energy and climate goals?

A clearer definition of what a vulnerable community is, one that is broad enough to allow for funding to be allocated to efforts to help them. A holistic approach to funding would be cheaper over time and will help meet California’s energy goals. Energy efficiency can help address climate adaptation and resilience.

What was inspirational or hopeful about this plenary?

Jodi Pincus brought up the idea that working at the intersection of climate change and economic equity is a human and moral imperative. It’s refreshing and inspiring to see that many others are thinking this way. I think if we are to be successful in adapting to climate change, we must put aside economics and money and focus on what is good for people, or at least have that be a main driving factor, and other, more important people are thinking that way, which makes me hopeful.

