IMPROVING HEALTH THROUGH ENERGY EFFICIENCY

AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL EFFORT TO PROMOTE UTILITY & HEALTH JUSTICE IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

PURPOSE

Connect Energy Efficiency resources to Health Services’ staff to:

- Connect medically vulnerable patients & low-income residents to Energy Efficiency programs
- Improve the built environment
- Reduce health & utility inequities

BUILDING CAPACITY & RESILIENCY

Partnership between County departments

Incorporate Energy Efficiency training into Health Department programs to:

- Lower carbon emissions to meet County’s Climate Action Plan goals
- Improve residents’ capacity to withstand and respond to the negative impacts of Climate Change
- Increase homeowner and landlord education on Energy Efficiency

LESSONS LEARNED

- Lack of landlord understanding hindered program participation
- Coordinating with Community Based Organizations & trusted programs leads to improved resident participation in Energy Efficiency programs
  
  Cultural competency increases accessibility to “disadvantaged” communities

Health is impacted by our built environment. Energy efficiency measures can improve health & the built environment.

Demian Hardman
Senior Planner
Department of Conservation & Development
Contra Costa County