

# 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Energy Efficiency Forum

## Session Block #4 – Aligning Municipal Policies and actions with Energy and Carbon Goals

Barcelona/Casablanca  
Level: Intermediate– Track: Policy & Planning

Thursday, June 27, 2019  
1:30 – 2:45 PM

Notes prepared by **Gina Mongiello-Lope**, Undergraduate at University of California, Davis

### Speakers:

*Cathy Higgins*, New Buildings Institute

*Sharon Patterson Grant*, Eco Edge

*Susan Freed*, County of San Diego

*Mike Grimm*, City of Carlsbad

### Session Summary:

Although the United States has pulled out from the Paris Agreement, still in is a leadership agreement of voluntarily signed on entities (such as organizations, governments, counties) to adhere to the goals set in the Paris Accord. Want to facilitate transparency between these entities so that best practices can be shared to improve building energy performance. Mainly worked with mid-sized cities, trying to get them on the path to reducing emission and achieving their goals while developing a replicable process between cities. Can clump together building types to see what methods work best. Want to get to that major goal through increments by making data-based decisions. Want to know baselines and track performance. Want to incorporate many areas (admin, finance, comms) to get these things to happen, and view utilities as partners. We find there is a disconnect between goals and budgeting. Measuring and tracking results is important to know savings and how much can be reinvested. Running virtual energy audits tells us where to prioritize efforts in reducing emissions. Have found that Portfolio Manager can be incomplete, Maalka is a fee-based software that can provide more complete data. NBI's Action Paths to Zero is a really good tool for public sector, consultants, NGOs engaged in municipalities; most effective options.

In order to meet energy goals, good strategies to consider are being in constant contact and good relation with IOUs and isolating municipal CAP measures, performing costing studies early, identifying goals and responsibilities, and setting intermediate milestones so people can track progress and maintain enthusiasm. Municipal leadership is important to rally cooperation from the people; they need to see their city taking action and making progress. Challenges with city related things are deadlines. May not reach deadlines, need to remind people that progress is still being made and that those goals are still a priority.

### What was inspirational or hopeful about this session?

What was most inspirational about this discussion is the emphasis on cooperation and collectively figuring out what works best for the majority. It eludes to a more connected network between local governments, communities, and schools. This connection will be key to the success of these efforts to get to net zero emissions, since everyone is responsible for participating and working together makes it easier for everyone.

### Quotes:

“Tools won’t communicate to constituents for you” (Audience member)

