# Preliminary Conference Program, November 17 Bringing Energy to the Movement for Justice

#### 9:00-9:30 Opening:

Honoring Ancestors.

Welcome and opening remarks.

#### 9:30-10:30 Morning Plenary 1: The National Energy Democracy Movement

A moderated panel of *Energy Democracy* authors will respond to questions on the current political moment, the forces at play nationally, the significance of the energy democracy movement, and where it needs to go. They will contrast energy democracy to the technical transition to 100% renewables and provide perspectives on what *Bringing Energy to the Movement* means at the national level. The session concludes with an audience Q & A.

# 10:45-11:45 Morning Plenary 2: Energy Democracy and Local Movements

A moderated panel of *Energy Democracy* authors will respond to questions on how building energy democracy addresses environmental, economic, and social justice at the community level. Panelists will provide perspectives and examples of what *Bringing Energy to the Movement* means at the level of local organizing—the kinds of local institutions and initiatives that democratize energy, empower communities, build resilience, and address the critical day-to-day issues that we face The session concludes with an audience Q & A.

## 11:45-1:00 pm Lunch and Networking

#### 1:00-1:15 Introduction to Breakout Sessions

Facilitators for each breakout session will give brief introductions to their topics and some of the issues involved.

#### 1:15-2:30 Breakout Session 1:

How can local ownership and control of clean energy resources address pressing social justice issues in our communities?

- 1. Housing, displacement and other community crises
- 2. Stronger unions and workforce development
- 3. Local economic development

How do we increase local ownership and control of clean energy resources?

- 4. Community Choice energy programs
- 5. Cooperatives, shared solar, and neighborhood microgrids.

#### 3:00-4:15 Breakout Session 2:

Repeat of the same topics as in Breakout Session 1.

#### 4:15-5:15 Report back from Breakout Sessions

Facilitators will present compiled findings from both breakout sessions on their topic.

#### 5:15-5:30 Closing

6:00pm Happy Hour and Socializing at a local venue

(Breakout Session Descriptions on back of page)



# **Breakout Session Descriptions**

The five afternoon Breakout Sessions will be facilitated brainstorms that focus on the community benefits that can come from local ownership and control of clean energy resources.

There are three topics examining how those benefits can be targeted toward developing more resilient, sustainable communities, and two that focus on different strategies for increasing local control and ownership of clean energy resources.

How can local ownership and control of clean energy resources address pressing social justice issues in our communities?

### 1. Housing, displacement and other community crises:

How can clean energy projects be utilized to address soaring rents, reduce evictions and displacement and create cleaner, healthier environments, especially for communities most impacted by fossil fuels. How can the jobs, the revenue, and savings from such projects stabilize our communities? What are ways that communities can use local control of energy resources to address social justice issues in low income communities and communities of color?

#### 2. Stronger unions and workforce development:

How can development of local clean energy projects generate good paying union jobs? How can effective workforce development programs be implemented in local renewable resource development? How can local development spur an increase in project labor and community benefit agreements?

#### 3. Local economic development:

How do local clean energy projects spur local economic development? What measures need to be taken to maximize that impact for local businesses, especially small and emerging businesses, and community residents? What are alternative ways of financing local clean energy projects that keep wealth in our community, other than Wall Street and big corporate banks?

How do we increase local ownership and control of clean energy resources?

#### 4. Community Choice energy programs:

How can a public, not-for-profit alterative to the investor-owned utilities, such as East Bay Community Energy, increase local ownership and control of clean energy resources, including renewable generation and energy efficiency? How can communities ensure that there is equity in policy decisions that determine the operation of the program? How can the design of the Community Choice program maximize community benefits, especially for low income communities and communities of color?

#### 5. Cooperatives, shared solar, and neighborhood microgrids:

How can alternative economic models and technological innovations help communities gain control and ownership of clean energy resources? What are ways to organize, plan and finance community energy cooperatives? How can community shared solar projects benefit renters and others who cannot put solar on their roofs? How can microgrids be utilized to create self-sufficient neighborhoods with regard to electricity, and encourage power sharing and storage capacity?