

Clean Power to the People!

November 15th, 2018:

Early Actions for Local Development



The Clean Power to the People event on November 15, 2018 was a workshop on early actions for local renewable energy resource development over the next two years. These actions are called for in the [Local Development Business Plan](#) (LDBP) adopted by [East Bay Community Energy](#) (EBCE) back in July.

Participants/Attendees

Representatives from about 15 different community organizations participated in the workshop held at the offices of Asian Pacific Environmental Network and organized by the East Bay Clean Power Alliance. Participants included community members and representatives of environmental justice organizations, faith communities, renewable energy businesses, environmental organizations, labor and others.

Purpose/Goal

The goal of the November 15th workshop was to help the community learn about the early actions for local development. In preparation for the workshop, we researched, analyzed and prioritized 9 of the 12 early actions in the LDBP based on their potential to provide benefits to the communities that often get shut out of the clean energy economy. The workshop was focused on four specific early actions that we considered the highest priority for local development: Community Shared Solar, Energy Efficiency, Community Investment Fund, and Community Net Metering.



Program/Discussion

In our workshop, Jessica Tovar, Coordinator of the East Bay Clean Power Alliance took participants through [a slide presentation](#) that described each of these four early actions, after which everyone joined a break-out group focused on the action about which they were most interested to learn more.

Here is a short description of each of the four early actions highlighted in the workshop:

- *Community Shared Solar* is a way to provide solar for those who do not own their roof or cannot afford to go solar. An example of this could be a solar cooperative, where many individuals own a share by investing and participating with their vote on the governance of the cooperative.
- *Community Innovation Fund* is an initiative to provide both money and staff help to energy-related projects proposed by community organizations, like solar cooperatives.



- *Energy Efficiency* is a way to speed energy savings by financing building upgrades using “on bill repayment,” where your new savings actually pay towards an energy efficiency upgrade to your home.
- *Community Net Energy Metering* is a program that would allow nonprofits to solarize their own buildings and produce local solar that can be sold to EBCE. It is a way for EBCE to aggregate projects to reduce costs, and purchase the energy to provide true clean and affordable energy to our East Bay communities.

Take-aways from the Workshop

We anticipate that this winter, these four early actions for local development will be at the center of our advocacy and organizing. The goal is to ensure that EBCE prioritize early actions that most benefit our communities, and we can succeed in that effort only if community organizations understand these actions and advocate for their implementation. We hope to help inform the community and encourage community organizations to become more engaged in this effort.

For more information and Notes from the different break-out groups:

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Addendum: Notes from the Breakout Sessions

Community Shared Solar Programs

- Identifying appropriate site
 - Municipal buildings
 - Large community centers: churches or other houses of worship
 - Affordable housing centers , especially for new buildings
 - Couple with energy efficiency
- Larger, community-scale program enables workforce development opportunities, labor agreements and reduced costs.

Community Innovation Fund

Steps in the grant process:

1. Submission/application
 - Could be by invitation only to limit the number of applications, especially in the beginning. This would be a way for EBCE to reach out to groups they were interested in or knew about. This would be frustrating to local groups that did not get invited.
 - Vs an open process for submissions. Very democratic but requires good marketing of submission possibility and deadlines.
2. Review and deliberation of submissions
 - Reviewing committee should include community members, Community Advisory Committee members, Board members and EBCE staff members.
 - Maybe the Community Advisory Committee makes an initial cut after workshop session to hear submissions, then finalists get considered by full committee. The public could weigh in.
 - Applications should be reviewed according to the pillars, economic, environmental, social justice. Grants should result in regenerative process.
 - Committee members need to be approved by the board.
 - Brown Act implications.
3. Decision
 - Must be made by the Board, recommendations need to come from Community Advisory Committee.
4. Implementation
 - EBCE Staff to support at all steps of the process.

Energy Efficiency

- Check out AB33 BRITE
- Data management for *cost causation*. Cost causation is the principle that costs should be borne by those who cause them to be incurred.
- Energy efficiency aggregation can help get private investment. Helps with bond rating
- Work with organizations currently administering energy efficiency programs
- Two main types of payment methods: direct install and pay for performance
- California Hub for Energy Efficiency (CHEEF)
- EBCE energy efficiency program: Community groups are important for advocacy around scaling up programs and making sure they are accessible to low income communities and communities of color.
- Job training
 - Need a California state certification program for Energy Auditors
 - Need local projects and labor agreement to promote good jobs where needed.

Community Net Energy Metering

- Who: Property owners' roofs
(home-owners associations, Multi-unit >10 housing units)
 - Should start in the most disadvantaged areas
 - Use the roofs of the biggest polluters
 - Parking lots (reduced cost of installation)
 - Roofs of local non-profits- can become Anchor Partners
 - Can be a county-wide program
 - Community-based organizations (small bill) or NGOs with big bills: schools, churches, community centers, health clinics-for enrollment as "energy programs"
- Customers
 - Save money \$\$
 - Lower carbon footprint
- Barriers
 - Who's going to do the work?
 - Who guarantees against problems, risks?
 - Who are the trusted partners?