

**BEEP Coalition**  
Building Energy, Equity & Power

# Overview of BEEP & Recent CEC Efforts

For the Environmental Justice  
Advisory Committee (EJAC)

November 9, 2023

# Overview of BEEP

# Who we are

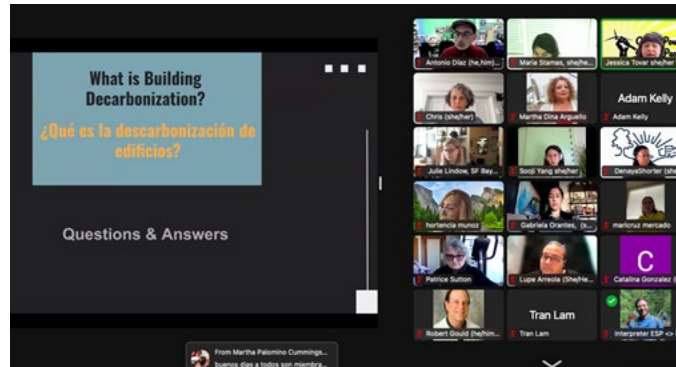
The BEEP Coalition represents environmental justice communities in various parts of California.

*Our mission is to ensure low-income consumers and consumers of color benefit, and are not adversely impacted by, building decarbonization efforts in California.*

# How we serve

*What we advocate for and how we do it comes directly from members of our communities.*

Last year, BEEP hosted five virtual listening sessions and more than **200** residents attended and shared their input. From these sessions and our collective, extensive experience on this issue, we developed a [Preliminary Report](#) under the framework of our [Energy Justice Principles](#).



## How we serve (cont.)

We engage with state agencies and institutions working on building decarbonization and related initiatives by elevating what we learned from the listening sessions and from our own experiences working within our communities.

### **So far, we have engaged in/continue to engage in:**

- Equitable Building Decarbonization Program at the CEC,
- 2030 Scoping Plan and subsequent appliance standards policy development at CARB,
- Research partnership with UC Berkeley, and
- Santa Nella mobile home electrification proceeding at CPUC.

# Energy Justice Principles

1. The first priority must be keeping power on and keeping people housed.
2. Equitable policy means all ratepayers benefit.
3. Understanding the urgency of the public health and climate crisis - we must not rush to false solutions.
4. Cost impacts must be analyzed at a more nuanced level, and solutions must not have regressive impacts.
5. There is no “one size fits all” or “low hanging fruit” solution.
6. Energy policy must be informed and led by community experts and community organizers who are paid to do that critical work.
7. Make space for building allies and unity.
8. No Sacrifice Zones - be intentional about benefits and burdens.
9. The goal is resilient communities and energy systems.
10. A just transition will provide “High Road” jobs and meet basic needs.
11. Energy is a public good.

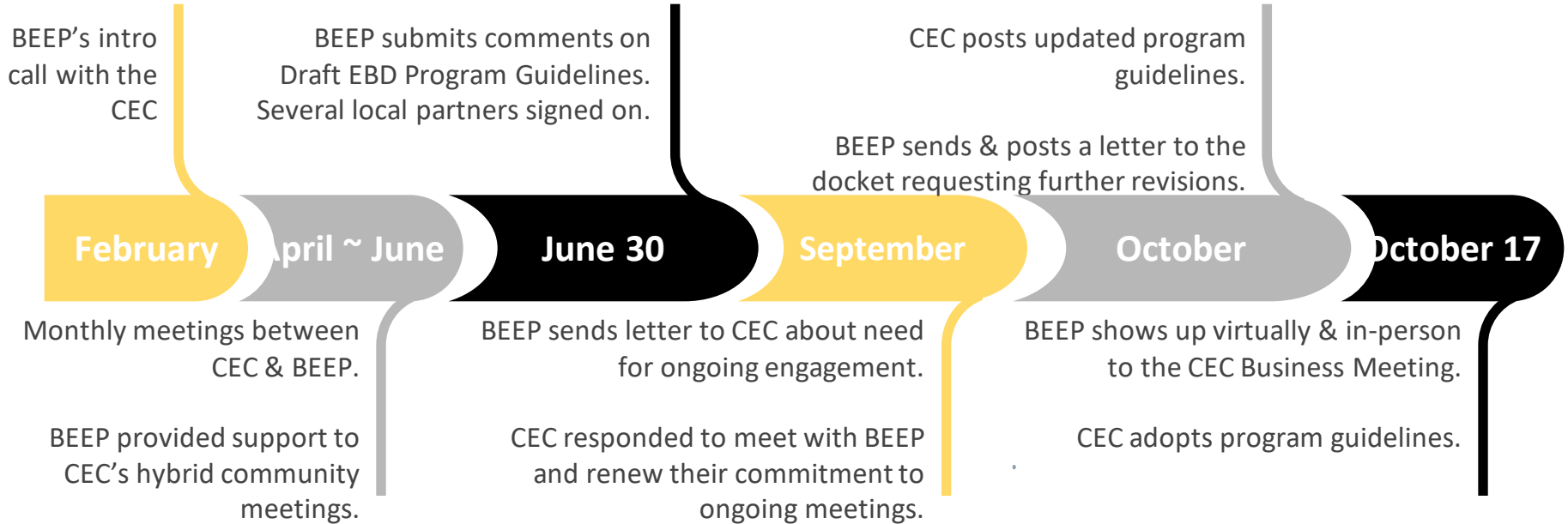
# Preliminary Report Key Findings

- **There are extensive barriers to participation in clean energy programs that are rooted in historically racist practices and disinvestment**, as well as ongoing lack of investment in community-based organizations who can help identify and address those barriers.
- **High levels of utility debt, rising housing costs, and barriers to high-road employment opportunities further prevent Environmental Justice communities from participating** in and benefiting from building decarbonization efforts and other clean energy programs.
- **Holistic building upgrades are necessary to ensure households see lower energy bills with all-electric appliances.** Coupling all-electric appliances with energy efficiency measures and other building improvements, such as battery storage and locally-sourced power generation, will provide bill savings as well as long-term health benefits. These measures would also provide resiliency benefits by addressing the threat of heat waves, wildfires, and power shut-offs.
- **California must identify significant funding to help finance no-cost improvements for low-income households, and payment plans for middle-income households who need assistance.** The state should follow the successful model of the [San Joaquin Valley Pilot](#), which funded well-established and trusted community-based organizations to implement building improvements in communities that lacked access to natural gas infrastructure.
- **The path forward will not be “one size fits all”** – it must be a regional approach that is led by community-based organizations with expertise and relationships with low-income communities and communities of color. Statewide rebate or incentive programs will continue to fail to reach those communities without significant investment in community-led efforts to provide culturally-specific and targeted outreach.
- **Successful design and implementation of building decarbonization means working with communities from inception to evaluation**, which means funding local community-based organizations to engage in co-designing building decarbonization strategies and to provide culturally-specific outreach.

# Recent CEC Efforts



# Timeline of BEEP's engagement efforts



# BEEP's engagement efforts

## Before draft program guidelines were due:

- CEC & BEEP held **monthly meetings**, discussing these areas of feedback:
  - Quality vs. Quantity
  - Tenant protections
  - Criteria for community selection
- BEEP helped develop and speak at the **hybrid community engagement events**.
- BEEP submitted **comments** on the draft program guidelines, emphasizing healthy holistic home upgrades, attention to mobile homes, and stronger tenant protections. Several local partners signed onto this letter.

## After the draft program guidelines were due:

- CEC discontinued monthly meetings with BEEP and its other partners → BEEP submitted a letter requesting to meet before the final program guidelines were posted.
  - **This request was granted.**
- When CEC posted updated program guidelines, BEEP coordinated with partners to submit and post a letter requesting further revisions.
- At the October 17 Business Meeting, BEEP coordinated with partners on talking points and showed up at the meeting in-person and virtually.

***Though the CEC did not adopt the further revisions, the CEC ensured that CBOs can further engage with program implementation and updates to the guidelines as the program rolls out.***

October 17, 2023

California Energy Commission  
1516 9th Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
*By Email and Online*

Dear Commissioners and staff:

We are writing as a broad coalition to request changes to the draft guidelines for the Equitable Building Decarbonization (EBD) Program. Specifically, the Commission must seriously consider increasing the average household cost, identifying enforcement mechanisms for tenant protections to ensure equitable implementation of this critical program, and addressing some technical issues detailed below.

Sincerely:

Building Equity, Energy and Power (BEEP)  
Coalition

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PODER

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Dr. Mary Williams  
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James Nolan (Individual)

Bret Andrews (Individual)

# Key Outcomes

- **The adopted EBD program guidelines incorporated several BEEP comments, including:**
  - Stronger tenant protections (e.g., rent increase limits placed on participating landlords, extensions of existing deed restrictions, eviction prohibition w/o just cause)
  - Requirement for PAs to compensate partner CBOs
  - Enforcement of prevailing wage laws
  - Preference for hiring locally and people from disadvantaged communities
  - Evaluation of project quality, including a way for residents to uplift any grievances
  - Expanded qualifiable holistic home upgrades (e.g. lead and asbestos removal, etc.)
  - Commitment to working with CARB about developing refined metrics + methodologies for quantifying econ, enviro, and public health benefits.
- **The CEC committed to continued engagement with CBOs on program implementation and updates to the guidelines.**

## Key Takeaways

- 1. Procedural equity is critical to ensuring community priorities are centered throughout the development process.** *This means continuous transparency with CBOs about process, timeline, and constraints, as well as a commitment to prioritizing EJ voices (even if it means less time/capacity to engage with other historically involved stakeholders).*
- 2. Recognize that engaging with/building relationships with CBOs should not end with the adoption of the program guidelines.** *The CEC committed to continued engagement with BEEP, including evolving the guidelines as needed.*
- 3. Though many EJ requests were new to the CEC, they committed to learning, considering, and incorporating these requests by checking in with CBOs and other stakeholders and agencies.** *Though not all requests were incorporated at the time of adoption, BEEP appreciated the effort staff had made to significantly update the guidelines and commit to continuously updating the guidelines.*



Thank you!

