



**BUILDING ENERGY  
EQUITY & POWER**

# **Building Equity into the Appliance Standard: An Update from the BEEP Coalition**



Presentation to the AB 32 Environmental Justice  
Advisory Committee | **May 15, 2025**



## BUILDING ENERGY EQUITY & POWER



Photo by Brooke Anderson | @movementphotographer

The **BEEP Coalition** represents environmental justice communities in Los Angeles, Bay Area, and the San Joaquin Valley. Our mission is to ensure low-income consumers and consumers of color benefit, and are not adversely impacted by, building decarbonization efforts in California.



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COMMUNITIES  
FOR A BETTER  
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established 1978



# Our Energy Justice Principles

The first priority must be keeping power on and keeping people housed.

A just transition will provide “High Road” jobs and meet basic needs.

Equitable policy means all ratepayers benefit.

Energy is a public good.

Understanding the urgency of the public health and climate crisis - we must not rush to false solutions.

Cost impacts must be analyzed at a more nuanced level, and solutions must not have regressive impacts.

There is no “one size fits all” or “low hanging fruit” solution.

Energy policy must be informed and led by community experts and community organizers who are paid to do that critical work.

Make space for building allies and unity.

No Sacrifice Zones - be intentional about benefits and burdens.

The goal is resilient communities and energy systems.

# Ongoing Efforts

- Supporting the ongoing implementation of the **San Joaquin Valley Affordable Energy Access Pilot**
- Starting new pilots in **San Francisco, Hayward, Richmond, and Los Angeles**
- Administering the **CEC Equitable Building Decarbonization Program** in two of the three regions
- Conducting **new community listening sessions** across the state in partnership with the California Public Utilities Commission and with participation from the California Energy Commission and CARB
- Participation in the **Bay Area AQMD Implementation Working Group**
- Engaging monthly with staff from CARB and quarterly with staff from CEC

# What We've Learned

**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.**

**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 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.

**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.

# What We've Told CARB

**We have seen the following barriers in our local outreach around building decarbonization:**

- Lack of adequate electrical grid capacity for households to transition to all-electric appliances, particularly in rural areas;
- Costs of substantial upgrades to accommodate the new appliances;
- Lack of ability or time to obtain an appliance and/or make substantial upgrades in emergency scenarios, particularly for seniors, those with disabilities, and medical baseline residents;
- Risk of higher energy bills without additional upgrades to the home (e.g. weatherization) or additional bill support; and
- Risk of tenant evictions without meaningful tenant protections to prevent landlords from evicting tenants through construction or passing down the costs of adhering to the regulation as rent increases.

**It's going to take more than a rule to get us to equitable decarbonization.**



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# What We're Seeing with Other Agencies

Proposing broad exemptions that leave our communities behind.

Focusing on incentives - which also leaves our communities behind.

Leaving our communities behind is more than an equity issue - reduced throughput on gas lines makes those lines more dangerous for those left on them, and *more* dangerous when the lines are older.



# What We've Told CARB

## Before CARB adopts an appliance standard, they should:

- Summarize Existing Best Practices to Address Known Barriers
- Identify/Rank Target Communities (high vulnerability, high opportunity)
- Quantify Necessary Resources and Identify Necessary Policies
- **Convene air districts, other state agencies, and community representatives to identify policies and resources to support implementation**





# What's Next?

- Present findings from our latest round of listening sessions to CARB and the EJAC, including appliance-standard specific findings.
- Continue building capacity and identifying best practices by supporting the implementation of local pilot projects
- Convene interagency discussion on data, policies, and resources needed for successful decarbonization
- Continue to work with CARB to design a successful appliance standard

**Questions?**