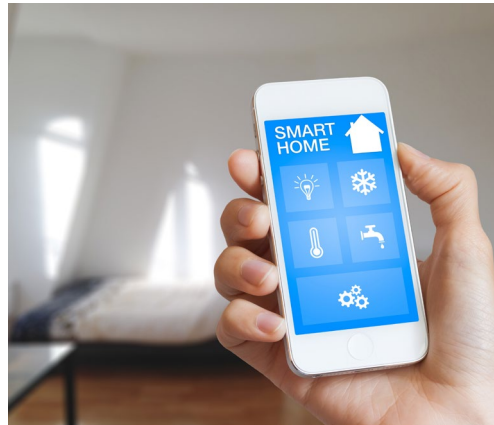


LOW-INCOME ENERGY POLICY BOARD

"Reducing the number of households with unsustainable energy burdens"



Anne Armstrong &
Andrew McNeally

Co-leaders

September 25, 2023



October is National Energy Awareness Month

- ❑ This week, September 25-29th is

Clean Energy Week!

- ❑ October 4th is Energy Efficiency Day
 - The Commission will be releasing its Energy Waste Reduction Report
 - ❑ Program years 2021 and 2022

- ❑ October 30th is

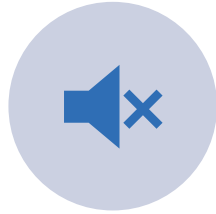
National Weatherization Day!



Meeting Reminders



THIS MEETING IS
BEING RECORDED



PLEASE MUTE
YOURSELF WHEN NOT
SPEAKING



BOARD MEMBERS,
YOU MAY RAISE YOUR
HAND TO SPEAK OR
COMMENT IN THE
CHAT



PLACE
ANNOUNCEMENTS IN
THE CHAT



Welcome and Agenda





Roll Call of Members with Lived Experience & Stakeholder Members

- ❑ Marie Touré– Board Member with Lived Experience
- ❑ Synia Gant-Jordan – Board Member with Lived Experience
- ❑ Rick Bunch - 5 Lakes Energy; Michigan Municipal Association for Utility Issues (MI-MAUI)
- ❑ Alexis Blizman - Ecology Center
- ❑ Briana DuBose- EcoWorks Detroit
- ❑ Martin Kushler – ACEEE (American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy)
- ❑ Patrick Leahy - SEMCO Energy Gas Company
- ❑ Kasey M. Grieco - Superior Watershed Partnership (SWP)
- ❑ Briana Parker – Elevate Energy
- ❑ Wende Randall - Kent County Essential Needs Task Force (ENTF)



Roll Call of Policy and Staff Experts

- ❑ Cory Connolly – Dept. of Environment, Great Lakes, & Energy (EGLE)
- ❑ Nicole Denson-Sogbaka – Dept. of Health & Human Services (DHHS)
- ❑ Rachael A. Eubanks – Dept. of Treasury
- ❑ Jeff Guilfoyle – Dept. of Treasury
- ❑ Kelly Rose – Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA)
- ❑ Ninah Sasy – Dept. of Health & Human Services - Social Determinants of Health Strategy (DHHS)
- ❑ Kris Schoenow – Dept. of Health & Human Services – Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity (DHHS-BCAEO)
- ❑ Derrell Slaughter – National Resource Defense Council; Governor’s Council on Climate Solutions (NRDC)
- ❑ Brad Banks – Analyst, Energy Waste Reduction
- ❑ Elaina Braunschweig - Analyst, Regulated Energy Division
- ❑ Jamie Curtis - Grant Administrator, Michigan Energy Assistance Program
- ❑ Christina Forist – Manager, Compliance & Investigation Section
- ❑ Karen Gould – Manager, Energy Waste Reduction
- ❑ Reka Holley - Voelker – Manager, Communications Section
- ❑ Shatina Jones – MPSC Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer
- ❑ Amy Rittenhouse - Communications Coordinator
- ❑ Jake Thelen - Departmental Specialist, Compliance & Investigation Section
- ❑ Mary Wilkins - Departmental Specialist, Customer Assistance Division

Approval of Minutes – June, July, and August

Please respond to the polls:

- ☐ Board member name, vote for each of June, July, and August
 - Approve
 - Do Not Approve
 - Abstain
- ☐ October Retreat Scheduling
 - If you have not yet done so, please take a moment to express your preference.



Low-Income Energy Policy Board Purpose



□ Purpose

- To guide the process of assessing energy affordability and accessibility holistically, especially through linking energy waste reduction services and energy assistance programs.

□ Overarching Goal

- Reduce the number of households with unsustainable energy burdens

□ Policy Pillars

- Customer Centered Engagement & Coordination
- Affordability & Customer Protections
- Low-Income Energy Waste Reduction

Recap of our Learnings from 2023

May 22 Discussion Highlights

In May we reviewed:

- February Energy Equity Project presentation
- March presentation on Social Determinants of Health
- April presentation on MI-Healthy Climate Plan

- ❑ The Energy Equity Project affirms the experience of inequity; a lot of people are going unseen and unheard.
- ❑ Affording energy isn't just an issue of budgeting or of income; it's really a more holistic long term need that impacts so many other components of people's lives.
- ❑ The cost of “affording” unaffordable energy.
- ❑ Using the Health in All Policies (HiAP) framework allows us to connect our work and develop comprehensive holistic solutions.
- ❑ SDoH are like the “glue” or “connective tissue” that pulls together everything our board is doing.



May Discussion Highlights Continued



As energy generation shifts, efforts are needed to ensure all folks are able to transition into the energy future equitably and affordably.



When investments are made into disadvantaged communities, how are a wide range of supports for grassroots entities provided?



What does collaboration look like to ensure Michigan residents have what they need?



Messaging must be clear and consistent, and when data is collected, there needs to be a feedback loop.

More Discussion Highlights from May

Data would be helpful to show how money is being dispersed.

[Infrastructure Investment Tracker \(michigan.gov\)](https://michigan.gov/infrastructure-investment-tracker)

Smaller organizations should be brought to the table on the front end to be able to say what their needs are.

These presentations reiterate that we need to ensure energy assistance program design reaches underserved communities and that they are receiving their fair share of benefits.

Energy efficiency provides a direct connection between reducing emissions and climate goals with assistance and equity.

Synergistic themes highlighted included active collaboration, data collection and tracking, and working with diverse groups.

What methods could be utilized to overcome trust issues with black and brown communities?

June 26 Electric Reliability and Equity Panel



MODERATED BY:
JOY WANG, PH.D.,
MANAGER OF THE
DISTRIBUTION
PLANNING SECTION
AT THE MICHIGAN
PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION



PAUL PROUDFOOT IS
DIRECTOR OF THE
ENERGY RESOURCES
DIVISION AT THE
MPSC WITH 39 YEARS
OF REGULATORY
EXPERIENCE. HE
MANAGED THE
MODELING OF THE
21ST CENTURY
ENERGY PLAN AND
MPSC'S CAPACITY
NEED FORUM.



KIZZIE KELLY IS A
CARE COORDINATOR
AT ST VINCENT DE
PAUL DETROIT.
WHERE NEIGHBORS
IN NEED HAVE BEEN
TRUSTING HER FOR
SUPPORT WITH THEIR
ENERGY, CRISIS
SITUATIONS, AND
OTHER BASIC NEEDS
FOR THE PAST SIX
YEARS.



VICKI BARNETT IS
MAYOR OF
FARMINGTON HILLS.
ONE OF HER MANY
ACCOMPLISHMENTS
IS FORMING THE
CITIZEN CORPS
COUNCIL FOR
EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS TO
TEACH RESIDENTS
HOW TO CARE FOR
THEMSELVES DURING
CRISES.



LIZ WEBER IS A
PROGRAM MANAGER
AND ANALYST AT THE
NATIONAL
RENEWABLE ENERGY
LAB WHERE SHE
PARTNERS TO
MANAGE RESEARCH
RELATED TO
NATURAL GAS AND
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY
STORAGE, AND
OTHER POWER
SECTOR ISSUES



JACKSON KOEPPPEL IS
A HIGHLAND PARK-
BASED ENERGY
DEMOCRACY
PRACTITIONER WHO
SPENT TEN YEARS
DEVELOPING AND
DIRECTING
SOULARDARITY. HE
TRANSITIONED INTO
CONSULTING
PRACTICE ROOTED IN
ADVANCING ENERGY
DEMOCRACY IN 2021 .

Some Reflections from June

- ❑ What are some household impacts of unreliable energy?
 - We don't often consider the impact on household earnings due to outages for those in low-wage jobs. These jobs have much less flexibility to juggle needs resulting from outages and much less opportunity.
 - It will be a challenge to keep rates lower and at the same time upgrade and improve aging systems.
 - ❑ There need to be realistic expectations.
 - ❑ Updating the grid will create real costs.
 - ❑ Costs must be paid for by rate payers.
 - Rates are not the same thing as bills. Bills can be positively impacted through weatherization services.
 - Michigan needs to maximize incoming weatherization funding.

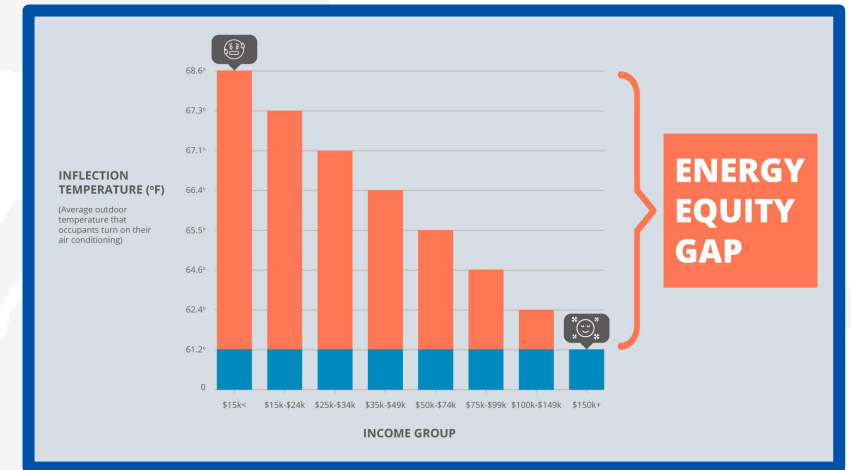
Energy Equity Gap Presentation



Dr. Destenie Nock
Assistant Professor of Engineering &
Public Policy and Civil & Environmental
Engineering
Carnegie Mellon University



Shuchen Cong, Ph.D.
Chief Technology Officer
Peoples Energy Analytics



Some Reflections from July

- ❑ What are some household impacts of the energy equity gap?
 - Behavioral choices to conserve due to affordability concerns can negatively impact health.
 - There are generational differences in the approach to heat and air conditioning.
 - Board members noted that air conditioning is not thought of as a necessity.
 - Government loans require heating systems to be in working order, but air conditioning is thought of as an accessory.

Follow-up Thoughts and Reflections



August Housing and Weatherization/EWR Panel

Meet the Panel

Moderated by: Martin Kushler, Ph.D., Senior Fellow with American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy

Tim Skrotzki, Associate Director, Partnerships at Elevate

Kelly Rose, Chief Housing Solutions Officer at Michigan State Housing Development Authority

Kris Schoenow, Executive Director - Michigan Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity

Karen Gould – Michigan Public Service Commission, Energy Waste Reduction Section Manager

Jake Wilkinson, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, Energy Services Manager

August Panelist Highlights

- ❑ Moderator, Marty Kushler
 - The term “weatherization” included all types of efforts to improve the energy efficiency of low-income homes.
 - There is literally no other government policy that provides so many different benefits in support of public policy objectives.
- ❑ Tim Skrotzki – How can Elevate expand access to the A2Zero HEA pilot?
 - Elevate and EcoWorks are running this cost-free, one-stop shop to help residents make home improvements for health, comfort, energy savings, decarbonization, electrification, renewable energy and to lower utility bills.
- ❑ Kelly Rose – How can MI-Hope not duplicate weatherization assistance but fill gaps?
 - A collaborative approach is required to address Michigan’s housing challenges and create economic opportunities within the state. Key partnerships for MSHDA include the Michigan Housing Council and the Department of EGLE.
- ❑ Karen Gould – shared how far we’ve come and where we’re headed:
 - Utility Spend has increased from \$44.6 million in 2009 to \$517.4 million today achieving savings of 1.98% for electric and 1.0% for natural gas.
 - In 2009, 73% of Michigan’s electric was generated by coal. Today, that number is less than 25%. By 2025, we should see less than 15% of Michigan’s electricity being generated by coal.

Weatherization Priorities and Program Goals

- ❑ Kris Schoenow – Focused on funding impact as well as State and Federal priorities:
 - Meeting Production Goals
 - Weatherization Expansion
 - Multifamily Jobs
 - Justice40
 - Workforce Development
 - Training and Technical Assistance
 - Innovation and Best Practice
 - Braiding Funds to meet goals
 - ❑ Jake Wilkinson – Focused on some key program goals:
 - Streamlined & easy for residents to navigate
 - Integrated with existing programs
 - Training, communication, and partnerships
 - Focus on highest need first
- ❑ All presenters talked about braiding funding.

What's next for Weatherization?

- ❑ Door opening for fuel switching options?
- ❑ More Coordination
- ❑ Continued collaboration within the Low Income EWR Workgroup
 - Workforce Development
 - Health and Safety

A blue-tinted photograph of a baseball team huddle. Several players wearing caps and jerseys are gathered together, with their hands raised in the center, some holding baseball gloves. The scene is set outdoors on a field.

Braiding and Synergy

Creating Synergy

- ❑ Shared Priorities and Goals

- How do presentations intersect with the Board's goal and strategies?

- ❑ Reduce the number of households with unsustainable energy burdens

- ❑ Points of Intersection

- What are examples of how do these show up in your specific work?

- ❑ What does more active collaboration look like?

Board Values – Break Down

□ Actions

- Create measurable impact
- We achieve positive outcomes
- We build solutions

□ To what end

- Affordability
- Inclusion
- Home energy security
- Health
- Housing
- Healthy climate

□ How

- Policy actions
- Collaboration
- Diversity of representation, input, experience, & knowledge
- Respect
- Transparency
- Integrity

□ How are we / can we represent our values?

Reflections on Progress



Announcements and Next Steps

Announcements

- ❑ Next EWR – Low-Income Workgroup Meeting
 - Tentatively October 5th from 9:00 – 11:00 AM

- ❑ May Subcommittee Meetings
 - Health & Safety – October 3rd @ 10:00 AM
 - Workforce Development – October 13 @ 9:00 AM
 - AAA - October 3rd @ 1:00 PM
 - ❑ Consumers Energy presentation on their Low-Income Cost-of-Service Study
 - Definitions – October 18th @ 1:30 PM

- ❑ Voting Item: Board Minutes poll result

Next Steps

1

October 3

- 1:00 PM
- AAA Subcommittee
- Consumers Energy Low-Income Cost-of-Service Study

2

October 30

- Board Retreat
- 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

3

December 4

- Board Meeting
- 10:00 AM
- Retreat Recap
- 2024 Plans

October Board Retreat

- ❑ We'll evaluate the impact of this work and progress on goals and strategies
- ❑ We anticipate a Commission order soon and may assess how we move forward as a result
- ❑ We'll look forward to creating further impact, achieving positive outcomes, and building solutions

Public Comment

