

# Energy Affordability & Accessibility Collaborative Definitions Subcommittee

May 18, 2022  
1:45 – 2:30 PM



# Agenda

2



Announcements



Reminder of our charge



Discuss a Companion  
Document to our Definition



Next Steps

# Announcement Agency Fairs with Listening Sessions

3

## Locations

- Benton Harbor Michigan Works!
- May 24

## Volunteers welcome!

- Welcome table
- Registration table
- Refill/restock food table
- Set up/clean up

## Contact to volunteer:

- [RittenhouseA@michigan.gov](mailto:RittenhouseA@michigan.gov)

# Announcement

## Low-Income Energy Policy Board

4



KICKED OFF ON APRIL 29  
NEXT MEETING MONDAY, MAY 23  
[LOW-INCOME ENERGY POLICY BOARD MEETING](http://LOW-INCOME ENERGY POLICY BOARD MEETING)  
[\(MICHIGAN.GOV\)](http://MICHIGAN.GOV)



MORE INFORMATION ON WEBSITE:  
[LOW-INCOME ENERGY POLICY BOARD](http://LOW-INCOME ENERGY POLICY BOARD)  
[\(MICHIGAN.GOV\)](http://MICHIGAN.GOV)



# Reminder of Our Charge

5

## Establish

- Establish common definition of energy security/self-sufficiency – begin with proposed definition by MEAP Workgroup Subcommittee 2.

## Develop

- Develop proposal for an energy affordability standard and how the standard can be integrated into the regulatory environment.

## Draft

- Draft suggested requirements for consistent energy affordability-related information for utilities to submit to appropriate dockets: rate cases, IRPs, EWR cases.

# Creating a Companion Document



# Energy Affordability Defined

A household has the resources to meet their home energy needs for heating, cooling and other uses in a healthy, sustainable and energy efficient manner without compromising a household's ability to meet other basic needs.

# Companion Document

- ▶ “A reference tool to further appreciate the applicability of the definition.”
  - ▶ Clarification of included concepts
    - ▶ Healthy
    - ▶ Sustainable
    - ▶ Energy Efficient
  - ▶ Methodology for arriving at a definition







# Discussion: Feedback on the structure of a companion document

# Health and Wellness

10



- ▶ Q4: Do you think that a discussion of energy affordability should include health and wellness?
  - ▶ Agencies: 80% Yes
  - ▶ Utilities: 57% No
  - ▶ Advocates: 97% Yes
  - ▶ Combined Total: 80% Yes

Q5: Which of the following energy uses are important to make affordable? Choose all that apply.

11

	Agencies	Utilities	Advocates
Using energy or power for health needs. Examples include ventilation, cooling, running medical equipment, virtual medical appointments, etc.	73%	75%	91%
Using energy safely. Examples include avoiding things like cold drafts, carbon monoxide from damaged furnaces, faulty wiring, etc.	80%	81%	94%
Keeping a home at a reasonable temperature to stay healthy	73%	75%	82%
Keeping the temperature comfortable in a home	53%	▲ 31%	52%
Using energy in my home in a way that is safe for the environment	51%	▲ 25%	82%
Using energy without fear or anxiety about energy being disconnected or running out of home heating fuel	78%	▲ 41%	82%
Using energy for things that keep a family well. Examples include virtual schooling, communication, exercise equipment, and entertainment	54%	▲ 31%	70%
None of the above	1%	0%	0%





Discussion:  
What do we  
mean by  
“healthy?”



# Using Energy in a Sustainable Manner

13

- ▶ Q6: What does it mean to you to use energy in a sustainable manner?
  - ▶ Choose all that apply.

	Agencies		Utilities		Advocates	
That I am using energy in a way that is safe for the environment	★	56%		50%	★	91%
That my energy supply will not be shut off		41%		19%		44%
That I am not using fossil fuels		21%		13%	★	66%
That I will continue to be able to afford my energy	★	62%		13%	★	63%
When I operate appliances and lighting in my home, I take care to avoid wasting energy	★	69%	★	94%	★	72%
When I make appliance purchases, I choose the most efficient model to help save energy in my home. Examples include washer, dryer, furnace, air conditioning unit, stove, refrigerator, etc.	★	61%	★	63%	★	66%

# sus·tain·a·ble (*adjective*)

per Miriam Webster

14

1. **sustainable** able to be maintained at a certain rate or level: "sustainable fusion reactions"
  - ▶ *synonyms:* acceptable · trustworthy · reliable · dependable · sure · good · valid · feasible · viable · tenable · maintainable
  - ▶ *antonyms:* untrustworthy
  - ▶ conserving an ecological balance by avoiding depletion of natural resources: "our fundamental commitment to sustainable development"
2. able to be upheld or defended: "sustainable definitions of good educational practice"
  - ▶ *synonyms:* valid · legitimate · warranted · well founded · justified · just · sound · reasonable · sensible · defensible · arguable · tenable · able to hold water · defendable · supportable · warrantable · vindicable · acceptable · plausible · lawful · legal · explainable · understandable · forgivable · venial
  - ▶ *antonyms:* unjustifiable · indefensible





Discussion:  
What do we  
mean by  
“sustainable?”

# Energy Efficiency

16

Q2: Would you agree that having a home that is energy efficient can help with energy affordability?

Agencies – 96%  
Yes

Utilities – 100% Yes

Advocates – 100%  
Yes



Drafted definition: A household's home energy needs for heating, cooling and other uses are being met in a healthy, sustainable and **energy efficient manner** without compromising a household's ability to meet other basic needs.



Q3: Which of the following things do you think helps with making utility bills more affordable for households? Please rank them with #1 having the greatest impact.

Having kitchen and laundry appliances that are energy efficient

Having good insulation in the roof and walls

Dialing down the thermostat during the winter or up during the summer

Having energy efficient windows and/or window coverings

Being careful in how to use heat, lights and electronic devices, and appliances

Having a good high efficiency furnace



Discussion:  
What do we  
mean by  
“energy  
efficient?”

# Next Steps

