

Energy Waste Reduction Low Income Workgroup

July 7, 2022





Welcome and Introductions

Brad Banks
MPSC



Health and Safety Committee – Advocacy Report Out

Alexis Blizman
Ecology Center



#Electrify Everything in Affordable Housing

Brett Little
GreenHome Institute



Environmental Justice and Equity

Quinn Parker
Encolor Consulting



Wrap Up and Adjourn

Brad Banks
MPSC

A light blue map of the state of Michigan is positioned in the upper right background of the slide.

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THE INTERSECTION OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES

Quinn Parker, CDP



WHAT ARE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES?

Any community that bears a **disproportionate share** of the **negative consequences of energy policies or operations.**

Historically, the most impacted are marginalized communities ~~as~~ those on **limited incomes, people of color, and people with disabilities.**



Those with **multiple marginalized identities** sit at the
intersection.



INTERSECTIONALITY

in · ter · sec · tion · al · i · ty | in-tər-,sek-shə-'na-lə-tē

The complex, cumulative way in which the effects of multiple forms of discrimination combine, overlap, or intersect, especially in the experiences of marginalized individuals or groups.

Example: racism, sexism, and classism





FIVE-MINUTE THOUGHT EXERCISE

1 **WATCH:** We are going to watch a five-minute video. While it is designed for students, it explores intersectionality in a digestible way for dages.

2 **REFLECT:** **Thinking about your identities, how do you experience both privilege and oppression?**

If you're willing, please put your thoughts into the chat box so we can discuss as a group.

3 **SHARE:** **Remember:** There are no wrong answers; this is just a starting point for all of us!



INTERSECTIONALITY

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR THE ENERGY INDUSTRY?

Inequality based on gender, race, ethnicity, sexual ~~orientation~~, gender identity, ability, class, and other forms of discrimination “intersect” to create unique dynamics and affect how people engage with our programs.



EQUITY

eq·ui·ty | e·kwə·tē

Justice, according to natural law or **right**

Specifically, freedom from bias or favoritism.



Equality



Equity



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PILLARS OF AN EQUITABLE ENERGY SYSTEM



~~Institutional~~ Equity

Decision-makers **recognize the historical, cultural, and institutional dynamics** that have led to energy inequities



~~Procedural~~ Equity

Decision-makers **use inclusive and accessible processes** to develop and implement energy programs



~~Distributional~~ Equity

Energy policies and programs **fairly distribute benefits and burdens** across all segments of communities



~~Inter-generational~~ Equity

Decision-makers **consider the impact on future generations** of policies and programs they develop



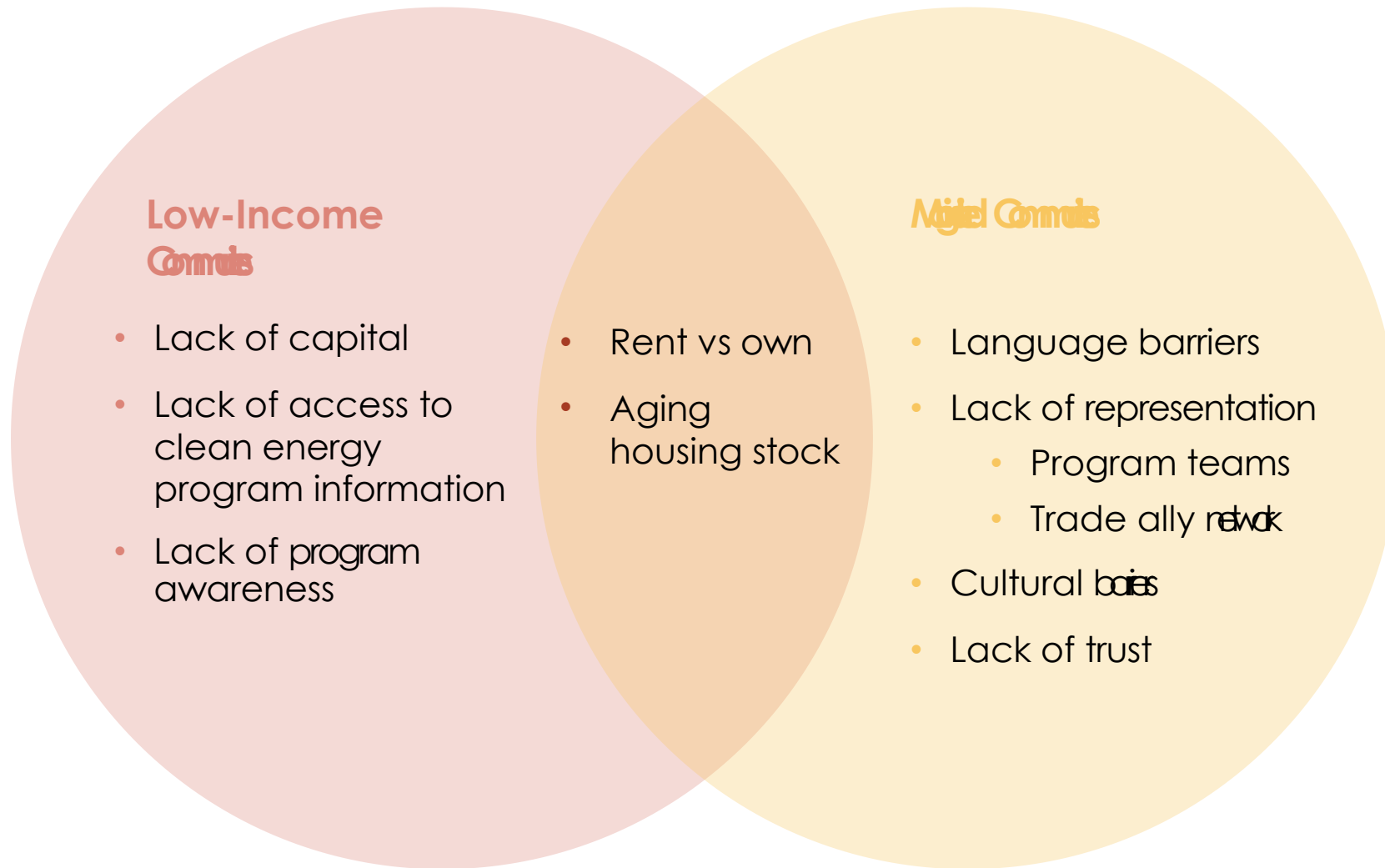


FIVE-MINUTE THOUGHT EXERCISE

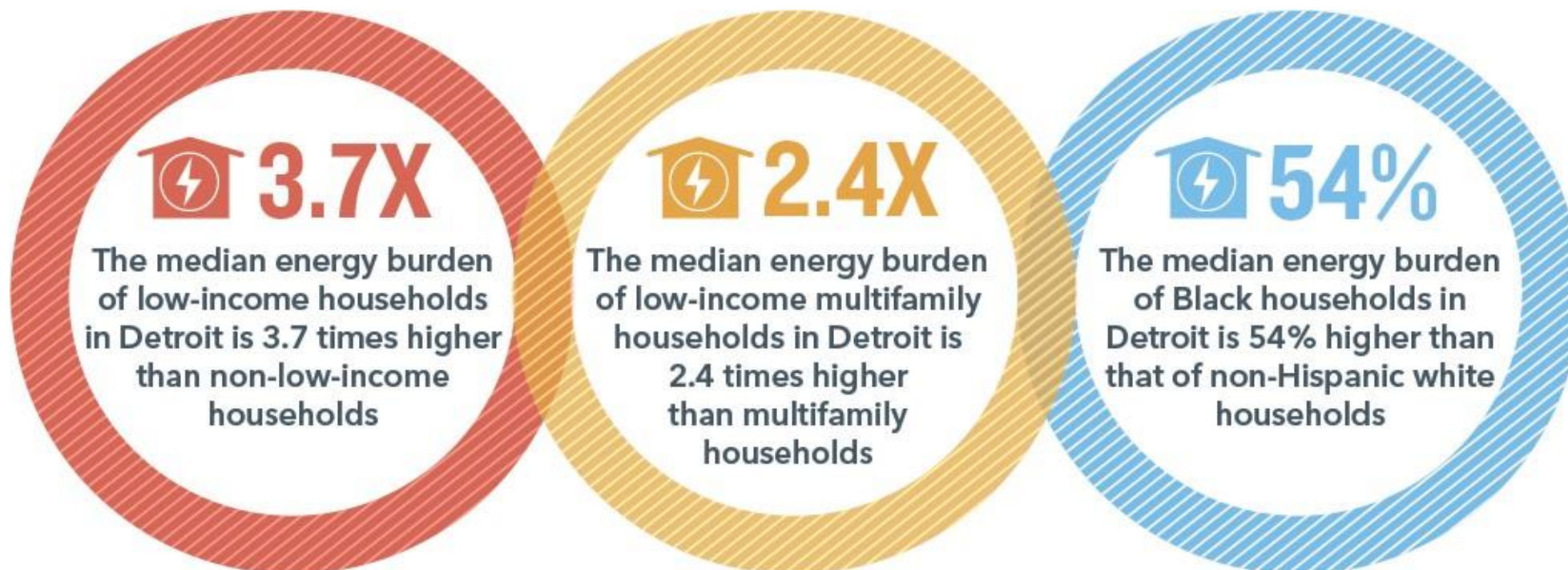
1. **REFLECTION A** Keep an open notebook/document, and an open mind.
2. **REFLECTION B** What does an **equitable energy industry** mean to you? Jot it down. In your opinion or experience, what are the **greatest barriers to equity** in the energy industry?
3. **SHARE** If you're willing, please put your thoughts into the chat box so we can discuss as a group.
Remember: There are no wrong answers; this is just a starting point for all of us!



LOW-INCOME DOES NOT EQUAL EQUITY



ENERGY BURDEN IN DETROIT



ENERGY BURDEN

A measure of the percentage of gross annual income spent on utility services

VS.

ENERGY INSECURITY

Includes both the economic and physical hardship that can affect households living in energy inefficient housing



These households are confronted with difficult decisions, such as:

- High energy burdens as a result of utilizing energy services or other necessities, such as food or medicine
 - Potentially impacts **quality of life**
- Living with uncomfortable conditions to save money
 - Potentially impacts **health**
- Seeking cheaper alternatives for heating, cooling, and other utility ~~services~~
 - Potentially impacts **safety**



EQUITY IN PROGRAM DESIGN:

Everyone receives the same quality of care,
meeting their individual needs.

EQUITY



PROCESS

All groups have access to
the same resources and
opportunities



OUTCOMES

Differences in outcomes
cannot be predicted on a
basis of race, class or other
dimensions of identity

[Can you think of any examples of how this ~~work~~ work in program design?]



WHY IS IT COMPLICATED?

- Structural racism illustrated through disinvestment in communities of color
- Redlining and denial of mortgages resulting in reduced homeownership
- Lack of economic or educational opportunities for advancement
- Inferior condition of housing stock within the community
- Lack of resources home maintain or to pay up-front costs for energy efficiency upgrades



HOW CAN WE DO BETTER?

- Acknowledge that households of color, specifically Black and Latinx households, may have a higher energy burden than non-Hispanic, white households
- Collect information by racial categories to understand the impact of the intersection of race and income, specifically identifying what group(s) are in most need of support

43% of Black households (183,997) and 38% of Hispanic households (20,976) in the Detroit metropolitan area experience a high energy burden (above 6%)



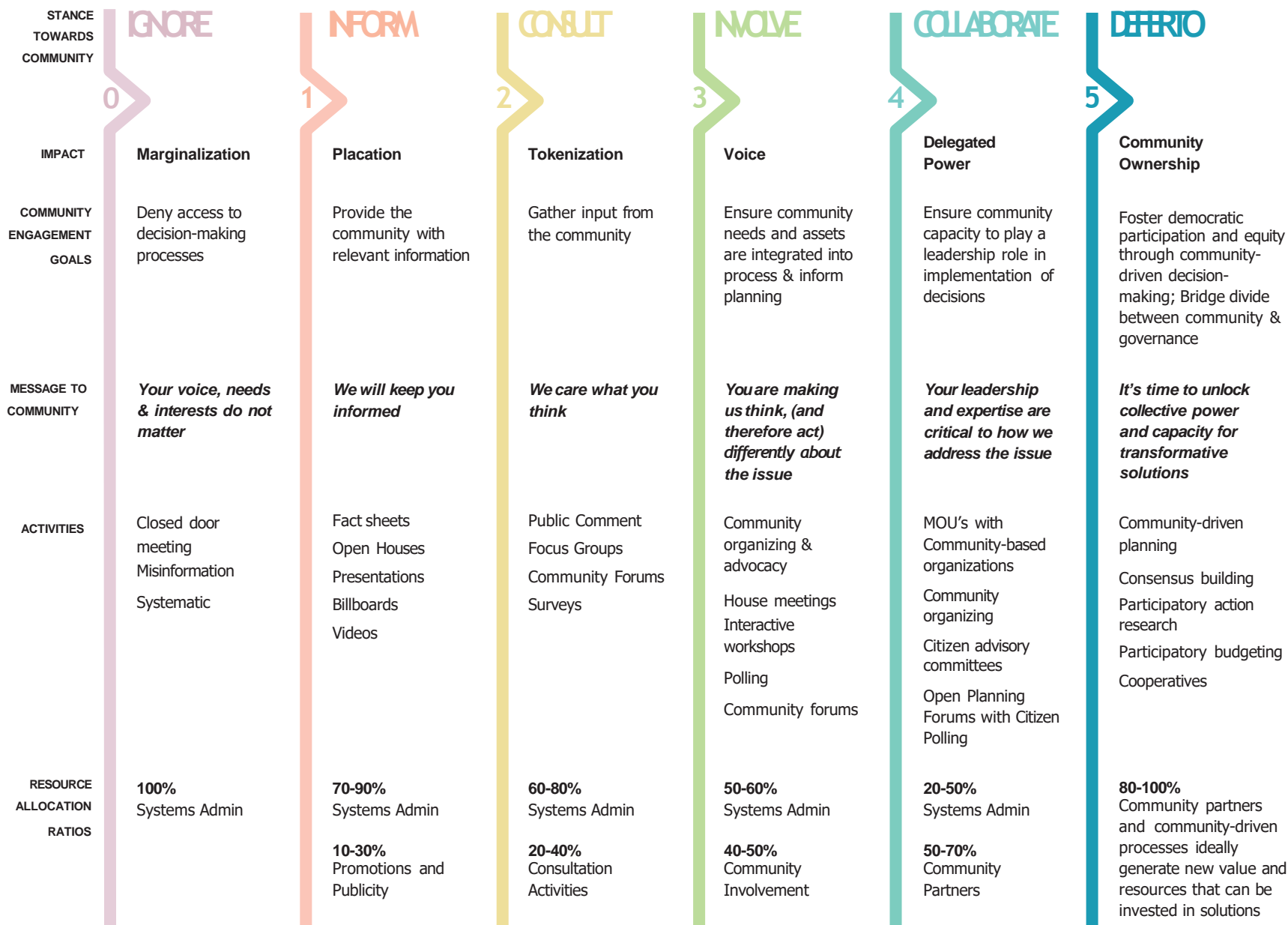
HOW CAN WE DO BETTER?

- Increase funding and ensure it is going to the communities who need it most
- Bring the community into the conversation and consider co-design tactics to increase equity

For African-American, Latino, and highhouseholds, 42%, 68%, and 97% of their excess energy burdens, respectively, could be eliminated by raising household efficiency to the median



The Spectrum of Community Engagement to Ownership:



HOW CAN WE DO BETTER?

- Ensure there is coordination and collaboration between the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and utility sponsored limited income programs
- Develop metrics beyond energy saved that consider the ~~costs~~ ^{impacts} of energy insecurity



STEPS TO GET STARTED:

Align your **definition of equity** with the **needs of the community**, identifying and acknowledging the regulatory, policy, and programmatic inequities that will be barriers to inclusive and equitable programs.

1 Research

Developing relevant and impactful metrics and targets requires a clear understanding of the program, available data, and what success looks like.

2 Build Capacity

Build capacity to interpret, analyze, and incorporate the results of measuring equity indicators.

Learn to use a lens other than your own.

3 Be Humble

Develop definitions and KPIs that are intentional, specific, and measureable, knowing they may change.

As you learn more, do better.





Photo:
Sarah Ardin, [Unsplash](#)

THANK YOU

Questions? Comments?
Want to continue the conversation?

Please get in touch:

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Close & Adjourn

Thank You!