

## **EWR Low Income Workgroup Chat – 07/07/22**

[9:09 AM] Kamalay, Maddy (DHHS)

Thank you for all of your help and work on this issue, Alexis. You are working to make Weatherization stronger in Michigan!

[9:16 AM] Brett Little GHI (Guest)

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2022/06/220628083239.htm#:~:text=A%20new%20study%20finds%20that,as%20particulate%20matter%20and%20ozone>

Natural gas used in homes contains hazardous air pollutants: Policymakers and individuals can act to mitigate potential health risks from natural gas

Every day, millions of Americans rely on natural gas to power appliances such as kitchen stoves, furnaces, and water heaters, but until now very little data existed on the chemical makeup of the ga...

[9:16 AM] Brett Little GHI (Guest)

<https://rmi.org/insight/gas-stoves-pollution-health/>

Gas Stoves: Health and Air Quality Impacts and Solutions - RMI

Across the United States, millions of homes and apartments rely on gas appliances for heating and cooking.

[9:20 AM] Zorach, Nathaniel:(PHI)

Other: saving money

[9:21 AM] Imani Malaika-Mehta (Guest)

1,2,3, 7

[9:22 AM] Imani Malaika-Mehta (Guest)

Improve indoor air quality

[9:23 AM] Martin Kushler

For retrofit situations, it is critically important to do building shell efficiency upgrades prior to (or simultaneous with) conversion to heat pumps. Will reduce heat pump installation and operating costs, and help the grid cope with higher electric demands.

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[9:24 AM] Imani Malaika-Mehta (Guest)

I see many more rental spaces offering conduction stoves replacing gas ranges!

[9:31 AM] Kamalay, Maddy (DHHS)

Correct, a state level authorization is required in the WAP for fuel switching per DOE regulations

[9:32 AM] Zorach, Nathaniel:(PHI)

I had that same question

[9:32 AM] Kamalay, Maddy (DHHS)

If they are low income, they can be referred to the local Weatherization Assistance Program for retrofitting before the fuel switch.

[9:41 AM] Aileen Gow  
#4, #8, and Behavioral use of the equipment

[9:47 AM] Zorach, Nathaniel:(PHI)  
Sorry, I gotta drop (to talk about exciting new pilot projects in fuel switching and building envelope retrofits, just not in Michigan, unfortunately!). Thanks, Brett, et al

[9:48 AM] MSC-Boston (Guest)  
I think of the mini-split - use it almost daily for fan - or for heating or cooling otherwise.

[9:48 AM] Aileen Gow  
mini-splits, heat pump water heaters

[9:49 AM] MSC-Boston (Guest)  
We added heat pumps to our 24-story high-rise residence during 'global' upgrade for the 55 yo building.

[9:52 AM] MSC-Boston (Guest)  
New York City has many coops (cooperatively owned residences) where building upgrades may be in order. Of course, other states have coops.

[9:52 AM] Andy Kosick  
I've got some examples of HPWHs being used in smaller spaces that work.

[9:53 AM] MSC-Boston (Guest)  
construction side?

[9:54 AM] MSC-Boston (Guest)  
I think of the property management companies that actually advise the decisionmakers in the low income (affordable) housing units.

[9:56 AM] Ben Dueweke  
Hey Synia, this call is made up largely of folks that work specifically in the Energy (primarily Energy Efficiency) industry. It's a cross section of utility representatives, contractors, local government / community action agency representatives, environmental / enviro justice groups, and others.

[9:57 AM] Ben Dueweke  
There is - relatively speaking, a limited number of folks who live in affordable housing in these meetings. A few on occasion, but I think we could benefit from a lot more!

[10:01 AM] MSC-Boston (Guest)  
Why are SO MANY 'affordable housing projects' merely LOW-RISE (when there is a demand for many MORE affordable housing units)? Is that a result of the nonprofit funding of these projects (and they have limited budgets)? What are the implications of building SO many low-rise buildings ....? ('that's all we could do' and 'we couldn't afford solar' etc.)

[10:02 AM] Brett Little GHI (Guest)

<https://greenhomeinstitute.org/bradford-station-achieves-mi-first-greenstar-homes-certification-in-multifamily/>

Bradford Station achieves MI's first GreenStar Homes Certification in Multifamily - GreenHome Institute

[10:02 AM] Lindsey Elton - Eco Achievers (Guest)

The SANCO2 is an example of a HPWH with an exterior condenser. It uses CO2 as the refrigerant. But I believe this is pretty pricey. <https://www.smallplanetsupply.com/sanc02>

SANCO2 Heat Pump Water Heaters —Small Planet Supply | Energy Efficient Mechanical Systems and Building Materials serving western USA and Canada

SANCO2 Heat Pump Water Heaters use a fraction of the energy of a standard electric water heater and are available at Small Planet Supply, Formerly sold under the Sanden name, these units offer hot...

[10:04 AM] Brett Little GHI (Guest)

<https://www.secondwavemedia.com/southwest-michigan/features/New-Creamery-apartments-in-Kalamazoo-s-Edison-Neighborhood-highlight-issues-of-affordab-031121.aspx>

New Creamery apartments in Kalamazoo's Edison Neighborhood shows the issues of affordable housing

Everyone wants more affordable housing but these days it's not that easy to build, a Kalamazoo developer who put together The Creamery project in the Edison neighborhood says.

[10:12 AM] Brett Little GHI (Guest)

<https://ashp.neep.org/#/>

[10:13 AM] Brett Little GHI (Guest)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iNpK7E0L\\_U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iNpK7E0L_U)

Heatpumps & Gas: Cold Climate Hybrid Systems are here! - YouTube

This course discusses the market launch of Hybrid Heat Pump Systems which introduces the combination of a gas furnace with a Cold Climate Air Source Heat Pum...

<https://www.energy.gov/eere/buildings/residential-cold-climate-heat-pump-challenge>

<https://www.canarymedia.com/articles/heat-pumps/a-new-bill-could-speed-up-american-electrification-by-20->

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[10:15 AM] Andrew McNeally

UPPCO has also signed onto the US DOE cold climate heat pump program

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[10:16 AM] Synia Jordan

Thanks Brett

[10:29 AM] Synia Jordan  
Great insight through the video, thanks

[10:29 AM] Welch Marahar, Molly (DHHS)  
I remember reading Crenshaw's paper on intersectionality in undergrad and it was lifechanging. I think its critical to bring this framework to ALL policy. That video was great, thank you!

[10:30 AM] Synia Jordan  
Equity for me is a feeling, no one word

[10:32 AM] Imani Malaika-Mehta (Guest)  
Lack of equity in hiring for the construction industry is one big reason for low incomes in the first place!

[10:35 AM] Imani Malaika-Mehta (Guest)  
Redlining still exists and impacts the ability for marginalized communities to become homeowners, adopt solar energy, and create businesses in the construction industry.

[10:38 AM] Imani Malaika-Mehta (Guest)  
Urban Heat Islands also increase the energy burden.

[10:40 AM] Imani Malaika-Mehta (Guest)  
Is this presentation not specific enough? Some people need concrete examples so they can identify what needs to change.

[10:41 AM] Synia Jordan  
People in positions of power need to shift

[10:43 AM] Brett Little GHI (Guest)  
I was surprised to learn about some programs' lack of data collection. Does anyone know if there are regulations not to allow it? For example, for weatherization or utilities, are they allowed to ask for that information before funding a project?

[10:44 AM] Imani Malaika-Mehta (Guest)  
Useful tools for this discussion:

<https://naacp.org/resources/just-energy-reducing-pollution-creating-jobs-toolkit>

<https://naacp.org/know-issues/environmental-climate-justice>

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Just Energy: Reducing Pollution, Creating Jobs Toolkit  
The Just Energy Policies and Practices Action Toolkit contains practical, user-friendly guidance on how you can phase out toxic energy - like coal, nuclear, and oil facilities - and bring in clean ...

[10:45 AM] Imani Malaika-Mehta (Guest)  
Contact D4BL for more research on data collection:

<https://d4bl.org/about>

About - D4BL

Data for Black Lives is a movement of activists, organizers, and scientists committed to the mission of using data to create concrete and measurable change in the lives of Black people.

[10:46 AM] Imani Malaika-Mehta (Guest)

Rather than collecting identity information, you can focus on low-income residents and census data.

[10:52 AM] Imani Malaika-Mehta (Guest)

Use weatherization programs to teach the people how to do the work and hire them to do it!

[10:52 AM] Marks, Roberta (LARA)

What steps can end the lack of trust barrier ? How can our citizens build trust in the system.  
Thank you for valuable insights.

[10:54 AM] Imani Malaika-Mehta (Guest)

You must combines census data with other data sources to corroborate the demographics affected.

[10:55 AM] Imani Malaika-Mehta (Guest)

Energy burden is one of the leading causes of homelessness.

[10:56 AM] Elizabeth Wallace

Thanks Quinn!

[10:57 AM] Welch Marahar, Molly (DHHS)

Thanks Quinn!

[10:58 AM] Julie Cassidy, MLPP, she/her (Guest)

Thank you, Quinn!

[10:58 AM] Synia Jordan

Thanks Quinn