

Workgroup #3

High Impact Energy Efficiency Initiatives – What elements underpin high impact energy efficiency initiatives for business, homeowners and vulnerable customers?

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Challenge:

- Identify initiatives to significantly accelerate the acquisition of conservation in the region in a one-year, five-year, and twenty-year time frame.
- Focus on three paths to accelerate energy efficiency in the region: (1) Identify opportunities for regionally coordinated programs that would achieve more savings than under our current approach; (2) Identify new energy-saving target areas; and (3) Identify ways to improve on the design, delivery, and market penetration of existing programs to achieve more savings.

Process:

- At its first meeting, the workgroup heard from seven experts on their recommendations on what the region should do to significantly accelerate conservation. Their presentations and proposals are listed on the website. Briefs on nine regional energy efficiency program concepts are also listed on the website.
- The workgroup created three sub-groups: residential, commercial, and industrial. Each of the sub-groups has met once to evaluate the nine regional program concepts, to identify other opportunities for significant savings in each sector, identify barriers to achieving savings, and rank-order new initiatives (write-ups from the sub-groups are available on the website).
- The workgroup met a second time to discuss the sub-groups' initial evaluations and recommendations.

Areas of Focus:

Tentatively:

- The residential sub-group identified plug loads, new construction (with a long-run, net-zero goal), new educational and behavioral programs (such as home energy monitors and point-of-sale benchmarking), new financing approaches, and targeting of lower-income households as potential priority areas.
- The commercial sub-group identified data centers and information technology, plug loads, new construction (with a pathway to net-zero buildings), building operating performance, tenant improvements in commercial real estate, target market programs, code and standard development and enforcement, education and training, and organizational business practices as potential priority areas.

- The industrial sub-group identified new educational and behavioral change programs, tailored industry programs, and new financing approaches as potential priority areas.
- There is general agreement that an ongoing regional forum for practitioners to discuss program design and delivery—modeled after the regional technical forum—would be useful.

Research:

- The workgroup is conducting research in three areas: (1) Explain the gap between cost-effective technical potential and achievable cost-effective potential in planning models, (2) Explore the opportunities for savings from distribution system efficiencies, and (3) Identify promising legislative changes.

Preliminary Recommendations:

- The workgroup is not yet far enough along to offer 4 or 5 priority recommendations.

Next Steps:

- The sub-groups will refine their recommendations for priority initiatives in each sector and the full workgroup will approve a final list of priority initiatives. The sub-groups will then flesh out the details of the priority initiatives.