



RAP



International
Energy Agency



Rapporteur Report – Group C

Incorporating equity and social considerations into energy provider-delivered EE programs and policies

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Topics

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- Areas for Further Policy Research
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Group Composition

- Total number 13
- Energy Providers- 3
- Government- 2
- Regulators - 2
- Consumer advocates – 4
- Energy efficiency industry - 0
- Academics and NGOs - 2

Summary of Presentations

- Tyler Slocum, Public Citizen
 - Advocate's perspectives
- Jack Laverty, Columbia Gas
 - Perspectives informed by a Gas-company program
- Meg Power, Economic Opportunity Studies
 - Overview of federal direction in EE funding

Summary of Conversations

- US Federal funding for low-income programs (roughly 70%) is in peril.
- Price driven programs may not focus on low-income issues, and explicit consideration and targeting may help
- Energy poverty may occur outside of economic poverty (as highlighted by shutoffs outside low-income categories)
- Programs rely on human resources that are developed over time with consistent, adequate, sustained support (including funding and training)
- Inflexibility and regulatory restrictions may be a significant constraint
- Programs that leverage innovation and economies of scale (such as joint electric/gas programs and fuel-blind programs) may amplify program effectiveness
- Those principles and strategy governing targeted programs should be developed in the context of stakeholder input that includes those being targeted.

Group Discussion Highlights

- Are social equity considerations a core principle or not?
- Is a trend towards RTO and market-derived components of rates creating a regulatory vacuum?
- Target high-use homes, or only inefficient ones?
- Focus on household, or focus on bill-payer?
- Program design considerations discussed included:
 - What benefits testing works in this arena – TRC? UCT?
 - Whether non-energy benefits should be considered
 - Whether grants-based programs are essential (non-loan-based, and without financing obligations)
 - The role of quality control in assuring program effectiveness

Areas of Agreement

- Few

Areas of Disagreement

- Most

Areas for Further Policy Research

- The role of social equity in EE delivery and the mechanisms that assure its inclusion
- Benefits testing to determine eligibility
- Provider options: energy providers or other networks? Should utilities be funding / implementing? Local / charitable orgs? Others?
- Implementation options: once you agree it is something you should do, and who, then how?

Conclusions and Next Steps

- Social equity as a core purpose for EE is not universally articulated
- Best practices remain variable
- Strong agreement of good intentions, but best method remains subject to debate.