

SESSION 10B

IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD: A LOOK AT COMMUNITY BASED ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

Moderator: Martin Kushler, ACEEE

PAPERS

How Is the Neighborhood? Preliminary Results from the Better Buildings Neighborhood Program

Jane S. Peters, Research Into Action, Inc., Portland, OR
Marjorie R. McRae, Research Into Action, Inc., Portland, OR
Ryan Bliss, Research Into Action, Inc., Portland, OR
Ed Vine, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, CA

Herding Cats: The Approach and Challenges of the Preliminary Impact Evaluation of the National Better Buildings Neighborhood Program

Lynn M Roy, Nexant Inc, Boulder, CO
Kevin Afflerbaugh, Nexant Inc, Boulder, CO
Edward Vine, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, Berkeley, CA

Community-Based Energy Programs in Washington: Rediscovering and Relearning the Lessons of Thirty Years of Residential Energy Efficiency Program Delivery

Vince Schueler, Washington State University Energy Program, Olympia, WA

Howdy Partner! Lessons Learned from an Assessment of Local Government Partnerships

John Boroski, Evergreen Economics, Portland OR
Tami Rasmussen, Evergreen Economics, Berkeley CA
Rafael Friedmann, Pacific Gas & Electric Company, San Francisco CA

SESSION SUMMARY

The last few years have seen a major expansion of efforts at implementing community-based energy efficiency retrofit programs. This session includes four papers describing large-scale evaluations of community-based programs, including two major evaluations of the ARRA “Better Buildings” Program, and two additional statewide programs.

In the first paper, Peters, et.al. describe the preliminary results of a comprehensive process evaluation of the DOE Better Buildings Neighborhood Program (BBNP), a major national effort to promote building energy efficiency retrofits, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This paper describes the methodology utilized (including the development of a composite “success metric”), and the preliminary results and lessons learned regarding program design and implementation factors that influence program success.

In the second paper, Roy, et.al., describe the preliminary impact evaluation of the DOE BBNP. This paper describes the strategic approach used in the evaluation, some of the logistical and operational challenges encountered, and a brief overview of some of the preliminary results.

In the third paper, Schueler describes the evaluation of a dozen different community-based energy efficiency projects in the state of Washington (3 funded by BBNP and 9 with other funding sources). This paper provides a rich source of “lessons learned”, as well as a description of an innovative “embedded evaluation” approach used with great success in one of the major projects.

In the fourth paper, Boroski, et.al. describe the evaluation of a different approach to community-based energy efficiency program delivery: the Local Government Partnerships (LGP) program in California, which targets non-residential (local government and business) energy efficiency improvements. This paper describes the evaluation approach and initial findings regarding factors associated with success, for 22 different LGPs implemented throughout California.