

SESSION 5A

LOW-INCOME PROGRAM EVALUATIONS IN THE DAIRY STATES

Moderator: Bobbi Tannenbaum, Kema-Xenergy

PAPERS:

Evaluating the New York Energy SmartSM Low-Income Energy Affordability Program (LEAP)

Mark Coleman, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority

Victoria Engel, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority

Lawrence Pakenas, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority

Peggie Neville, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority

A Longitudinal Approach To Evaluating Wisconsin's Low-Income Programs: Results to Date

Lark Lee, PA Consulting Group

Pam Rathbun, PA Consulting Group

Laura Schauer, PA Consulting Group

Steve Tryon, Wisconsin Department of Administration

Jim Cain, Wisconsin Department of Administration

Nick Hall, TecMRKT Works

Evaluating Low Income Energy Efficiency In California: The Intersection of Cost Effectiveness, Energy Efficiency, Equity, and Politics

Mary O'Drain, Pacific Gas & Electric Company, San Francisco, CA

Angela Jones, Vanward Consulting, Cerritos, CA

SESSION SUMMARY:

New York, Wisconsin and California share many attributes, a few of which include many dairy cattle, statewide low-income energy programs, and evaluation presentations in this session. Despite their commonalities, the program objectives, and therefore the evaluation approaches, vary by state.

The New York Energy SmartSM Low-Income Energy Affordability Program (LEAP) seeks to reduce the energy burden on low-income consumers through a mixture of energy efficiency, energy management and purchase aggregation strategies. Evaluation and program activities are closely integrated so that program designers and implementers can respond to the findings in a timely manner.

Wisconsin's low-income energy programs seek to improve the energy sustainability of low-income households – the ability of the household to make payments over an extended period of time without resorting to undesirable actions. To address the sustainability issue the evaluation is being conducted over a three-year period.

California's most recent efforts have focused on standardizing low-income energy services across the state using cost effectiveness as a major determinant. The difficulties of using this criterion and

balancing cost effectiveness, energy efficiency and equity present an interesting challenge to policy makers.