

## SESSION 1B

### EXPLORING KEY ISSUES IN LOW-INCOME PROGRAM EVALUATION

*Moderator: Martin Kushler, ACEEE*

#### PAPERS

##### **The Great White Whale in Weatherization: A Large Multifamily Building Program**

Don Hynek, Wisconsin Division of Energy Services, Madison, WI  
Barbara Smith, Wisconsin Division of Energy Services, Madison, WI  
Megan Levy, Wisconsin Division of Energy Services, Madison, WI

##### **Understanding the Needs, Attitudes and Behaviors of Low-Income Customers with Unusually High Electric Usage**

Carol Edwards, Southern California Edison, Rosemead, CA  
Steven J. Westberg, Hiner & Partners, Inc., Long Beach, CA

##### **Characterization of the National Weatherization Assistance Program**

Ingo Bensch, Energy Center of Wisconsin, Madison, WI  
Bruce Tonn, Oak Ridge national Laboratory, Oak Ridge, TN  
Karen Koski, Energy Center of Wisconsin, Madison, WI

##### **Increasing Property Values and Decreasing Forced Mobility: Analysis of Non-Energy Benefits for Low-Income Programs**

Jamie Drakos, The Cadmus Group, Inc., Portland, OR  
M. Sami Khawaja, The Cadmus Group, Inc. Portland, OR  
Jennifer Pitzer, Economics Center, Cincinnati, OH

#### SESSION SUMMARY

This session will focus on several interesting issues relating to the topic of energy efficiency programs for low-income households.

In the first paper, Hynek, et.al. address something that has long been a challenging and under-served area in Weatherization and energy efficiency program efforts: the large multifamily building sector. These authors describe an evaluation of an ambitious ARRA-funded effort in Wisconsin to retrofit thousands of units of larger (>20 units) multifamily buildings. Preliminary billing analysis results show substantial natural gas and electric baseload savings.

The next paper focuses on the objective of better understanding the characteristics and needs of “high-usage” low-income households. Edwards & Westberg present the results of an interesting needs assessment of high electricity consumption households in California, emphasizing social-behavioral aspects rather than building and equipment features. The authors present an intriguing analysis of five somewhat distinctive ‘subgroups’ within the overall category of high electricity users.

The third paper describes the approach and findings of the first phase (“program characterization”) of the current national evaluation of the federal Weatherization Assistance Program. Bensch, et. al. summarize the findings relating to program structure, funding and service components across all 51 states and over 900 local Weatherization service providers. This paper will present the initial component of the first major national evaluation of the Weatherization program since 1990.

The fourth paper examines the increasingly important subject of “non-energy benefits” produced by energy efficiency home retrofit programs for low-income households. Drakos, et.al., discuss the effects of a nonprofit-administered weatherization and home repair program in Ohio on a variety of non-energy benefits, with a particular examination of the variables of increased property values and reductions in forced mobility. Their analysis suggests that low-income weatherization type programs produce substantial economic and other benefits for the community.