

<b>DOCKETED</b>	
<b>Docket Number:</b>	16-OIR-06
<b>Project Title:</b>	Senate Bill 350 Disadvantaged Community Advisory Group
<b>TN #:</b>	267895
<b>Document Title:</b>	Thermostat Care Comments - Proposal for Collaboration on Outreach to Disadvantaged Communities for Mercury Thermostat Disposal and Energy Efficiency
<b>Description:</b>	N/A
<b>Filer:</b>	System
<b>Organization:</b>	Thermostat Care
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Public
<b>Submission Date:</b>	12/12/2025 10:32:36 AM
<b>Docketed Date:</b>	12/12/2025

*Comment Received From: Thermostat Care*  
*Submitted On: 12/12/2025*  
*Docket Number: 16-OIR-06*

**Proposal for Collaboration on Outreach to Disadvantaged Communities for Mercury Thermostat Disposal and Energy Efficiency**

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*

December 12, 2025

Chair Hochschild and Members of the Commission  
California Energy Commission (CEC)  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

CC: California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)  
Energy Division  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Proposal for Collaboration on Outreach to Disadvantaged Communities for Mercury  
Thermostat Disposal and Energy Efficiency

Dear Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group,

I am writing on behalf of Thermostat Care, California's state-mandated safe disposal program for mercury thermostats. We are reaching out to fulfill our mandate to coordinate with the CEC and CPUC, and to explore opportunities for strategic collaboration to enhance our collective impact in serving disadvantaged communities throughout California.

Our 2025 program evaluation identified an important opportunity: rural and disadvantaged communities would benefit from enhanced awareness of our \$30 mail-in rebate program. Given that the Mercury Thermostat Collection Act of 2021 (now California Health and Safety Code Division 20 Chapter 6.5 Article 10.2.2) specifically mandates service to these communities, we are committed to strengthening our outreach and impact in these areas.

Enhanced awareness and participation would enable more residents of rural and disadvantaged communities to:

- Receive \$30 per mercury thermostat returned
- Remove hazardous mercury from their homes
- Access financial support to transition to energy-efficient smart thermostats
- Participate in energy efficiency and building electrification programs

This work directly supports California's building electrification goals as some California residents upgrading to smart thermostats may currently have a mercury thermostat. The \$30 rebate reduces the cost barrier for purchasing smart thermostats, making energy-efficient technology accessible to more households. Every mercury thermostat safely removed eliminates a health hazard from California homes, which is particularly important in communities where environmental health risks often accumulate.

We have dedicated funding for partnerships, targeted advertising campaigns, multilingual outreach materials, and collection events.

We recognize that the DACAG has deep expertise in the programs, partnerships, and communication channels that most effectively reach disadvantaged communities throughout California. We welcome the opportunity to discuss partnership approaches that align with the DACAG's priorities and enhance our collective impact in serving California's most vulnerable communities. To reach me directly, you can email [AShields@ThermostatCare.org](mailto:AShields@ThermostatCare.org) or our generic help email, [Info@ThermostatCare.org](mailto:Info@ThermostatCare.org).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Allie Shields

Project Manager

Thermostat Care

ThermostatCare.org