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Plug Load Efficiency Opportunities for Low-Income Households

2017 IEPR Joint Agency Workshop on
Senate Bill 350 Low-Income Barriers Study
Implementation

Panel Discussion
August 1, 2017



Plug Load Efficiency Opportunities for Low-Income Households

Robert Ridgley, California Energy Commission, Moderator

Expert Panel

- **Anne Arquit Niederberger**, Enervee
- **Lisa Schmidt**, Home Energy Analytics
- **Joy Pixley**, UC Irvine California Plug Load Research Center
- **Marti Frank**, Energy for Everyone



Low-Income Barriers Study

Principal Recommendation 5e

Plug Loads

- Collaboration among all program delivery agencies
- Establish common metrics
- Collect and use data systematically across programs
- Increase performance of existing and new programs

Ensure low-income persons have product selection options and information necessary to avoid driving up their plug-load energy use, recognizing that low-cost appliance and consumer products are commonly less energy-efficient than other appliances and projects



Appliances and Plug Loads: Issues to Consider

- Appliances characteristics
- Low-income household purchasing habits
- Program design to target low-income households
- New program design v. ENERGY STAR®



Appliances and Plug Loads: Issues to Consider (Continued)

- Plug-loads are large portion of a low-income household's electricity needs
- Tend to buy lowest cost products regardless of efficiency
- Information on energy efficiency and energy costs/savings not easily accessible



Panelists: How to Expand Plug Load Efficiency to Low-Income Households

- What unique barriers exist today for program participation?
- How can data on low-income household energy use and buyer behavior be improved to better target program participants?
- How can incentives and information programs be improved to focus on low-income barriers?
- How can low-income households and building owners be empowered to make better product decisions to reduce energy use?

