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THE CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

Facts About the Clean Energy in Low-Income Multifamily Buildings Action Plan

The Clean Energy in Low-Income Multifamily Buildings (CLIMB) Action Plan, developed by the California Energy Commission, is designed to improve opportunities in low-income multifamily homes.

Clean Energy Achievements for Multifamily Buildings in California

- 345 electric vehicle charging stations installed through the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program
- 29 MW of solar capacity installed through the Multifamily Affordable Solar Housing Program, with an additional 23 MW from upcoming projects
- 55,260 MWh of electricity savings, 1.9 million therms of gas savings, 38,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions reductions, and nearly \$42 million provided to the multifamily sector in 2016 through energy efficiency programs overseen by the California Public Utilities Commission
- 1,120 MWh of electricity savings in fiscal year 2016-2017 through public utility energy efficiency programs

Implementation of Senate Bill 350

Senate Bill 350 (De Leon, Chapter 547, Statutes of 2015) requires the California Energy Commission to establish energy

efficiency targets that achieve a doubling of energy efficiency savings in electricity and gas retail end uses by 2030.

In addition, SB 350 directs the Energy Commission to study barriers and make recommendations for low-income customers to increase access to energy efficiency and weatherization investments, including those in disadvantaged communities. The Energy Commission published the Low-Income Barriers Study in December 2016. In response to a recommendation in the study, the Commission developed the CLIMB Action Plan to improve opportunities in low-income multifamily homes

Goals of the CLIMB Action Plan

The plan identifies achievable strategies for state agencies to improve existing programs and efforts. The agencies will collect data, conduct research, and develop the tools needed to create a transformational shift in the multifamily building sector – one in which clean energy solutions are widely applied. These state-driven strategies support five broad goals:

1. Expand coordination among existing programs
2. Develop a cohesive understanding of the multifamily market
3. Improve existing and future program design
4. Identify additional resources and deployment opportunities
5. Increase strategic outreach, awareness, and access

Encouraging Energy Equity

Most low-income Californians are renters. Ensuring renters and property owners participate and benefit from energy upgrades poses a unique barrier. Low-income multifamily housing faces other barriers, such as diverse building characteristics and needs, complex ownership and financial arrangements, and limited budgets with restricted opportunities to take on additional debt.

The plan includes steps to increase access to demand response, on-site renewable energy, electric vehicle infrastructure installation, energy storage, and energy and water efficiency strategies. These actions will help accelerate implementation in California's multifamily housing stock.

Benefits

Advancing the adoption of distributed energy resources within the multifamily building sector can make energy more affordable, improve health and safety for occupants, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and help achieve utility bill savings and economic development. Other benefits include reduced thermal stress, reduced asthma, increased work productivity due to improved sleep, and reduced economic need for food assistance.

Transforming Transportation

The Energy Commission offers incentives aimed at developing and deploying low-carbon alternative fuels and advanced vehicle technologies. These critical investments support the state's goal of deploying 1.5 million zero-emission vehicles (ZEV) by 2025. The Energy Commission also gathers, analyzes, and interprets data provided by the petroleum industry to monitor and educate the public about current petroleum fuel price and supply and demand issues and risks.

State and Local Collaboration

In addition to the Energy Commission, several other state agencies administer programs that increase the installation of distributed energy resources in multifamily buildings. The plan includes several agency partners: The California Air Resources Board, the California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority, the California Department of Community Services and Development, the California Department of Housing and Community Development, the California Department of Public Health, the California Public Utilities Commission, and the California State Water Resources Control Board.

Local governments are also critical partners in reaching and engaging the multifamily sector. The strategies call for collaboration with local governments, community-based organizations, and nongovernmental organizations.

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