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Support program to increase efficiency for contractors using new detailed household information

In reference to the Equitable Building Decarbonization Program Workshop on December 13th, 2022, I would like to introduce a program to get more granular data from inside the home to help with Program efficiency. It is called PeakEE and was a Quick Start Grant finalist for TECH with a focus on low-income households.

Commissioner McAllister was spot on when he spoke about using a data-driven approach to efficiently channel resources and called out that contractors “need to approach a building kind of knowing more or less what they’re going to find and having packages of measures that achieve what we need the program to achieve”.

When a contractor does not know what a project will entail, a few things happen. First, the contractor de-prioritizes the project in favor of current income generating work. Second, the contractor will submit a higher quote to cover the many contingencies that may arise. The result is overspending at a time when we need the judicious use of funds.

Our program, called PeakEE, captures detailed information about the water heating situation at the household level to prepare for a HPWH installation. The data (including images, measurements, and homeowner input) is captured during home appliance deliveries by California independent retailers. The software used is an add-on to commonly used delivery software from a company based in Southern CA.

The cost of running the program is low because it leverages deliveries already scheduled into residents' homes. These appliance deliveries involve a team spending some time in the home for setup and installation. There is very little additional time in the home and the people have the skills using the app that is involved.

This is extremely cost effective, and the information helps contractors understand and prepare for an electrification project. Less wasted trips mean lower cost and a more efficient channeling of resources.

Although PeakEE can scale across all income brackets and to other products besides water heaters, the starting point is envisioned to be the IOUs and their Energy Savings Assistance (ESA) programs that involve no cost appliances delivered to low-income residents' homes.

The retailer involved in developing this program, Ventura TV and Appliance (based in Fresno), is contracted with PG&E and So Cal Edison (in process) for their ESA programs. PeakEE can easily expand to other ESA contractors and beyond HPWHs to

HVAC or other electrification opportunities.

As a reference point, we expect this program to lower the cost of HPWH installations by 15%. It will also increase the number of plumbers and HVAC contractors interested in heat pump installations through the removal of risk and uncertainty. Mark Shirin, President of Ventura TV and Appliances, and I would be honored to present the program to you and show you a demonstration of the system.

Thanks.