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EMPOWER
INNOVATION

empowerinnovation.net

Empower Innovation – Catalyzing the Cleantech Community

California Energy Commission



Diversity and Equity in Research and Development

Three-Pronged Strategy

- Increase awareness of R&D funding opportunities to underrepresented businesses and vulnerable communities
- Provide preference points or reserved funding for projects benefitting disadvantaged- and low-income communities
- Scope solicitations and projects around specific priorities of customers in disadvantaged- and low-income communities.

CEC staff identified the need for better tools to augment this strategy.

Empower Innovation Overview

Overview:

- Empower Innovation Demo
- Empower Innovation Events
- Questions





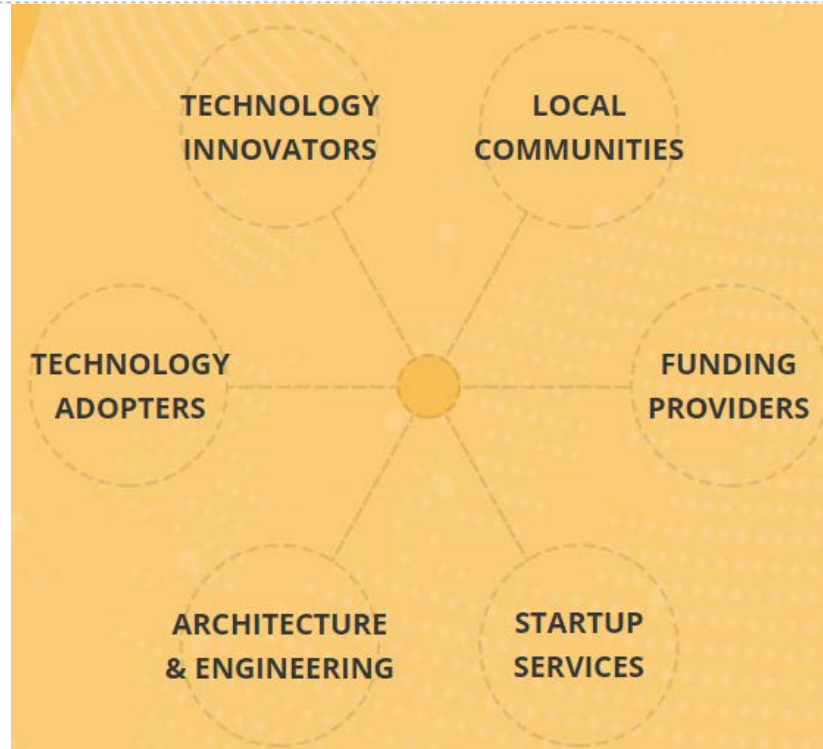
Empower Innovation Demo

www.empowerinnovation.net

Empower Innovation Events

Format:

- Demo and Onboarding of Empower Innovation platform
- Workshop on Engagement: Identifying Community Priorities & Existing Resources
- AB 523 “Look Ahead” on CEC Grant Funding Opportunities
- Open Networking



4 Events

Locations: Diverse regions throughout California (seeking DACAG suggestions)

Outcomes:

- 1) Facilitate dialogue and networking among diverse stakeholders
- 2) Expand access to grant funding by developing meaningful partnerships
- 3) Familiarize users with the Empower Innovation platform



Questions for the DACAG

- What are effective approaches to get the word out about Empower Innovation and the Empower Innovation events?
- What are priority locations where we should target for Empower Innovation events? Or what are criteria we should consider when identify potential locations for the events?
- What other activities and efforts can we leverage to increase awareness about Empower Innovation and our funding opportunities?



Questions and Discussion