

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	22-DECARB-03
Project Title:	Equitable Building Decarbonization Program
TN #:	247858
Document Title:	Notice of Lead Commissioner Workshop on Scoping California's Equitable Building Decarbonization Program
Description:	Notice of Lead Commissioner Workshop on Scoping California's Equitable Building Decarbonization Program on December 13, 2022.
Filer:	Hally Cahssai
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	12/1/2022 12:20:22 PM
Docketed Date:	12/1/2022

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CEC-70 (Revised 7/22)

*IN THE MATTER OF:**Equitable Building Decarbonization
Program*

DOCKET NO. 22-DECARB-03

NOTICE OF REMOTE-ACCESS
WORKSHOPRE: Equitable Building Decarbonization
Program**Notice of Lead Commissioner Workshop on Scoping California's
Equitable Building Decarbonization Program
Tuesday, December 13, 2022**

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Remote Access via Zoom™:**<https://zoom.us/>, webinar ID: 983 8509 0575 and passcode: 781228**

The California Energy Commission (CEC) will host a workshop to provide an initial overview of implementation plans and identify areas of input needed for scoping California's new Equitable Building Decarbonization Program. The CEC seeks feedback and recommendations on the initial program framework, implementation plans, and key topics that should be considered in program scoping.

A quorum of commissioners may participate, but no votes will be taken. The public can participate in the workshop consistent with the attendance instructions below. The CEC aims to begin promptly at the start time posted and the end time is an estimate based on the proposed agenda. The workshop may end sooner or later than the posted end time.

Agenda

Staff will provide an overview of the Equitable Building Decarbonization Program authorized by the 2022 state budget; facilitate a discussion with industry representatives on key topics related to program design; and identify opportunities to leverage and align with related local, federal, and state-funded incentive programs focused on decarbonizing existing buildings. Representatives from state and local agencies, utilities, non-governmental organizations, industry, and/or environmental groups will participate in panel discussions and provide recommendations, considerations, proposed priorities, data sources, and pilots for staff and decision makers to consider when scoping the Equitable Building Decarbonization Program.

A [detailed meeting schedule](#) will be posted prior to the workshop at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/event-calendar>.

Background

In September of 2022, Governor Newsom signed Assembly Bill (AB) 209 (Chapter 251, Statutes of 2022) and AB 179 (Chapter 796, Statutes of 2022). AB 209 includes Public Resources Code sections 25665-25665.6, which directs the CEC to develop and implement an Equitable Building Decarbonization Program. The Equitable Building Decarbonization Program includes two primary components: a direct install program focused on low-to-moderate income residents and a statewide incentive program to accelerate deployment of low-carbon building technologies. AB 179 (the 2022-23 Budget Act) provided CEC with \$112 million for the Equitable Building Decarbonization Program for its first year, and up to \$922 million is budgeted to this effort over the next four fiscal years.

Residential and commercial buildings jointly account for roughly 25 percent of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the state when accounting for both fossil fuels consumed onsite and those used to generate electricity for buildings. The combustion of gas for space and water heating is the single largest source of GHG emissions in buildings as a category. In contrast to the progress being made in newly constructed buildings where regulatory tools are most effective, the decarbonization of existing buildings is more challenging and greatly lags behind the pace required to meet California's climate goals.

While retrofits to existing buildings offer the greatest potential for emission reductions, they may also face significant barriers, such as equipment installation requirements, upfront costs, space constraints, structural issues, deferred maintenance, scheduling around occupant presence, split incentives between tenant and owner, and additional costs from building upgrade requirements for a construction permit. Older buildings with minimal insulation, air gaps, and non-existent or low-performing space cooling are not equipped to adequately withstand extreme heat and protect occupants.

Space conditioning and water heating equipment have expected lifetimes of 10-20 years, which underscores the need for rapid market transformation to low-carbon building technologies such as heat pumps, a key priority to ensure statewide GHG emissions reductions goals are achievable for 2030 and beyond. Each replacement of major equipment presents an opportunity to achieve long-term energy and GHG savings and make additional improvements to the building in support of public health and safety. Each replacement with gas equipment is a lost opportunity to decarbonize. Resources – in the form of installed equipment and building infrastructure upgrades, rebates, financing options, or technical assistance – can significantly accelerate decarbonization and improve quality of life, particularly for low to moderate income Californians.

There is a real risk that without thoughtful and intentional prioritization, the state's most vulnerable and underserved residents may be the last to benefit from the transition to low-carbon building technologies due to lack of capital, credit, and access to infrastructure. In its first annual affordability report released in April 2021, the CPUC found that 13.3 percent of California's lower income households spend more than 15 percent of their income on electricity service. The CPUC also found that six percent of lower income households spend more than ten percent of their income on gas service. These households and communities require direct and intentional investment to remedy the systemic inequalities, environmental hazards, and energy burdens affecting them. The

Equitable Building Decarbonization Program being developed by the CEC provides a unique opportunity to support these needs while providing a scalable model for the state to achieve its carbon reduction goals for the building sector.

Input requested

To facilitate input and recommendations for the development of the Equitable Building Decarbonization Program, staff will provide a list of questions for both the direct install and statewide incentives components of the program, made [available for consideration](#) at <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/EComment/EComment.aspx?docketnumber=22-DECARB-03> prior to the workshop. Stakeholders and the public are invited to provide written comment on both the offered questions and any other program related topics not posed by staff.

Remote Attendance Instructions

Participants may join via Zoom by internet or phone.

- **To join via Zoom.** Click on https://energy.zoom.us/j/98385090575?tk=NmnVG6uf8deUvfTeLeIZ7PDTKAchB183EBuY_kgdmo.DQMAAAW6DVYDxZVY2dQWXlyZIMzR2hMVnVUelRRMHIBAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA&pwd=c1NkWUZ3TE9nanR3VGvmZUgwk2Nmdz09&uuid=WN_1XutYj3uTRytYsdBjCAIXg or login in at <https://zoom.us/> and enter the **Webinar ID** 983 8509 0575 and **passcode** 781228 and follow all prompts.
- **To join by telephone.** Call toll-free at (888) 475-4499 or toll at (669) 219-2599. When prompted, enter the **Webinar ID** 983 8509 0575 and **passcode** 781228.

Zoom Closed Captioning Service. At the bottom of the screen, click the Live Transcript CC icon and choose "Show Subtitle" or "View Full Transcript" from the pop-up menu. To stop closed captioning, close the "Live Transcript" or select "Hide Subtitle" from the pop-up menu. If joining by phone, closed captioning is automatic and cannot be turned off. While closed captioning is available in real-time, it can include errors. A more accurate transcript of the workshop will be docketed and posted as soon as possible after the meeting concludes.

Zoom Difficulty. If you experience difficulties joining, contact Zoom at (888) 799-9666 ext. 2, or the CEC Public Advisor at publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov, or by phone at (916) 957-7910.

Public Comment.

Written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (including address, phone number, and email address) will become part of the public record of this proceeding with access available via any internet search engine. **Oral comments** will be accepted after each panel and at the end of the workshop. Comments may be limited to three minutes or less per speaker and one person per organization. To comment via Zoom, use the "raise hand" feature so the administrator can announce your name and unmute you. To comment via telephone, press *9 to "raise your hand" and *6 to mute/unmute.

Written comments may be submitted to the Docket Unit until 5:00 p.m. on January 13, 2023. The CEC encourages the use of its electronic commenting system. Visit the e-commenting page for this docket 22-DECARB-03 at

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/EComment/EComment.aspx?docketnumber=22-DECARB-03>. Enter your contact information and a subject title that describes your comment. Comments may be included in the "Comment Text" box or attached as a downloadable, searchable document in compliance with California Code of Regulations, Title 20, section 1208.1. The maximum file size allowed is 10 MB.

Written comments may also be submitted by email. Include docket number 22-DECARB-03 and Equitable Building Decarbonization Program in the subject line and email to docket@energy.ca.gov.

A paper copy may be mailed to:

California Energy Commission
Docket Unit, MS-4
Docket No. 22-DECARB-03
715 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Public Advisor. The CEC's Public Advisor assists the public with participation in CEC proceedings. To request assistance, interpreting services, or reasonable modifications and accommodations, call (916) 957-7910 or email publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov as soon as possible but at least five days in advance of the workshop. The CEC will work diligently to meet all requests based on availability.

Media Inquiries. Email mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov or call (916) 654-4989.

Technical Subject and General Inquiries: Email Jennifer Nelson at jennifer.nelson@energy.ca.gov or call (916) 508-8394.

Availability of Documents: [Documents and presentations](#) for this meeting will be available at docket 22-DECARB-03, at <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=22-DECARB-03>.

When new information is posted, an email will be sent to those subscribed to the Barriers Report SB 350; Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group; Health, Equitable Energy Transition (HEET) Working Group; Decarbonization Topics; Efficiency Topics; Energy Efficiency Programs for Existing Buildings, Tribal Program; Adaptation. To receive these notices or notices of other email subscription topics, visit [Subscriptions](https://www.energy.ca.gov/subscriptions), at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/subscriptions>. The Equitable Building Decarbonization Program [webpage](#) can be found at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/programs/equitable-building-decarbonization-program>.

Dated: December 1, 2022, at Sacramento, California.

J. Andrew McAllister, PhD
Commissioner

Subscription Lists: Adaptation; Barriers Report SB 350; Decarbonization Topics; Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group; Efficiency Topics; Energy Efficiency Programs for Existing Buildings Health; Equitable Energy Transition (HEET) Working Group; Tribal Program