

Low-Income Utility Working Group

The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) is undertaking a multi-year project to provide information, research and technical assistance to utilities, states, and local stakeholders to improve energy efficiency and energy affordability in low-income communities. The goals of this project include identifying best practices for increasing energy efficiency in low-income communities, improving the design and delivery of low-income programs, and facilitating peer exchange among those administering these programs.

About the Low-Income Utility Working Group

The Low-Income Utility Working Group consists of representatives from electric and gas utilities, or state-wide program administrators, who administer low-income or income eligible energy efficiency programs. Member utilities are actively considering or currently implementing low-income energy efficiency programs. The group functions as both a peer-to-peer network for information exchange as well as strategic advisors for ACEEE's ongoing research into low-income utility program best practices. We will develop information resources to address challenges identified by the group, and in some cases be able to provide one-on-one technical assistance to working group members (e.g., review of program plans, targeted program research, stakeholder facilitation, outreach/education).

What to Expect as a Member of the Working Group

ACEEE will convene regular conference calls and webinars for group members every six to eight weeks. These calls will feature experts from the utility and regulatory communities and allow members to share their progress and exchange ideas. Participants will also have access to ACEEE's expertise on designing and delivering energy efficiency programs to low-income households.

Participants will benefit from

- Peer learning from other utility program administrators who have implemented low-income programs.
- Tailored research and resources to help them address their program design and implementation challenges.
- An opportunity to highlight their achievements through ACEEE conferences, reports, or blog posts.
- Ability to pose questions to group members and suggest topics for discussion and consideration
- Help identifying and connecting to other organizations that serve low-income households in their service territories.

Participants will be expected to

- Be actively considering, developing, or administering low-income energy efficiency programs and willing to share their experiences with group members.
- Regularly attend working group conference calls (every 6-8 weeks).
- In some cases, members may participate in one-on-one calls and/or meetings with ACEEE and relevant experts to discuss their progress and potential solutions to any challenges they are facing.

New ACEEE Low-Income Efficiency Reports:

- Low-Income Energy Efficiency
 Programs: A Baseline Assessment of
 Programs Serving the 51 Largest Cities
 http://aceee.org/white-paper/low-income-ee-baseline
- Lifting the High Energy Burden in America's Largest Cities: How Energy Efficiency Can Improve Low Income and Underserved Communities aceee.org/research-report/u1602
- Building Better Energy Efficiency Programs for Low-Income Households aceee.org/research-report/u1601