



Connectivity Means Community

Distributed System Planning for
Humans

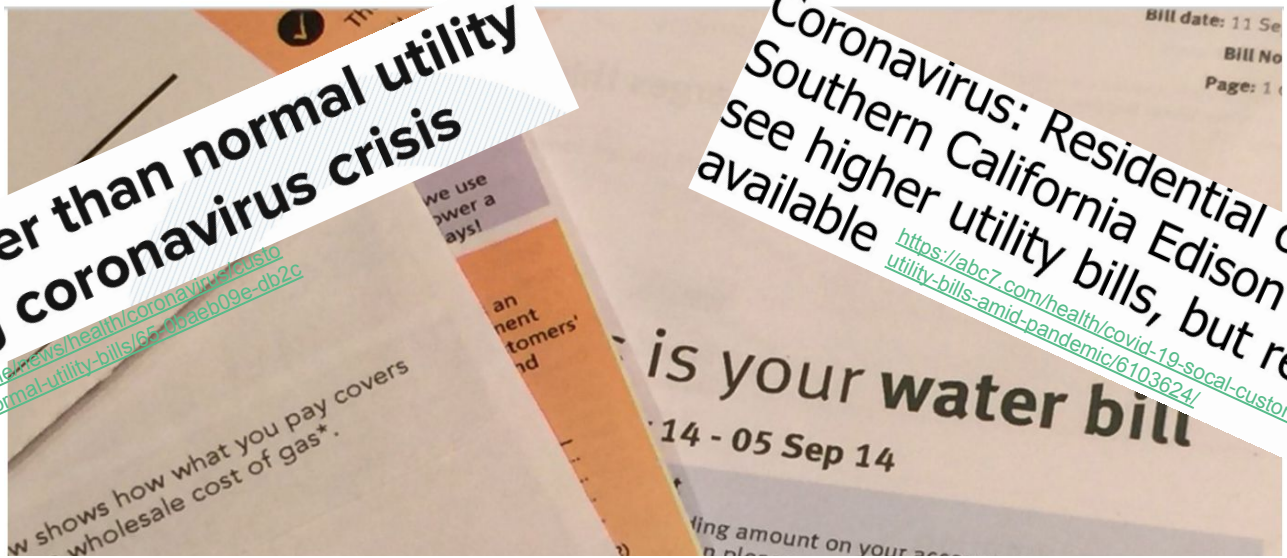


Expect higher than normal utility bills during coronavirus crisis

<https://www.wusa9.com/article/news/health/coronavirus-customers-expect-higher-than-normal-utility-bills/650baeb09e-db2c-49f4-8bf7-a93cc33098fc>

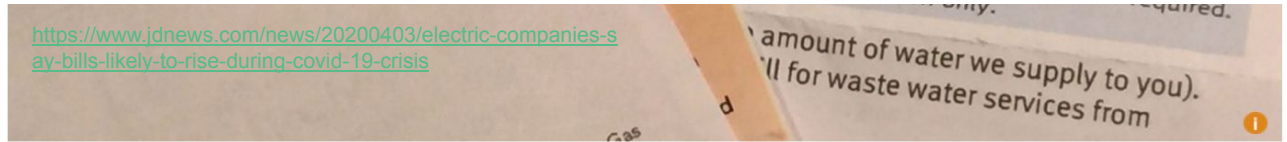
Coronavirus: Residential customers of Southern California Edison and LADWP see higher utility bills, but relief is available

<https://abc7.com/health/covid-19-social-customers-see-higher-utility-bills-amid-pandemic/6103624/>



Electric companies say bills likely to rise during COVID-19 crisis

<https://www.jdnews.com/news/20200403/electric-companies-say-bills-likely-to-rise-during-covid-19-crisis>



Electricity Shut-Offs in a Pandemic: How COVID-19 Leads to Energy Insecurity, Burdensome Bills

<https://blog.ucsusa.org/joseph-daniel/how-covid-19-leads-to-energy-insecurity>

It's About People. It's About Community.



Questions to Answer

- ❑ What Values Do We Hold in This Work?
 - ❑ What is Environmental Justice?
 - ❑ How Do We Put Values into Practice?
 - ❑ What Makes for Strong Program Design?
 - ❑ How Will You Begin Working with Community?
-

When Was a Time that You Felt Heard?

Framing Questions:

- What made you know you'd been heard?
- How did it feel to know you'd been heard?
- When was a time you didn't feel heard and what was it different?



Who Are We?



Community Energy Project

Community Workshops

- DIY Weatherization
- Oregon Community Solar
- Lead Poisoning Prevention
- Lead-Safe Home Projects
- Attic Insulation

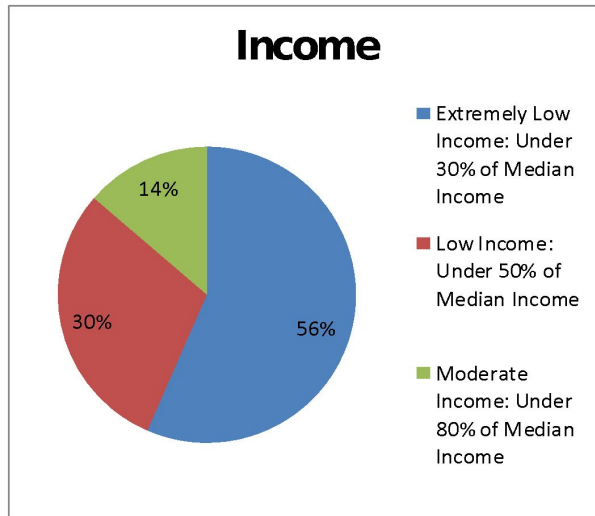


Direct Home Services

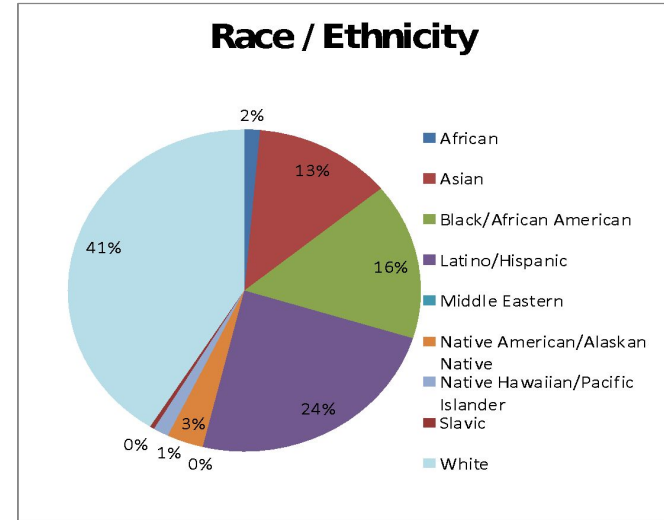
- Weatherization
- Safety Repairs
- Home Solutions
- Home Energy Score

Who CEP Serves

86% of Households Have a Very Low Income



56% of participants identify as a Person of Color

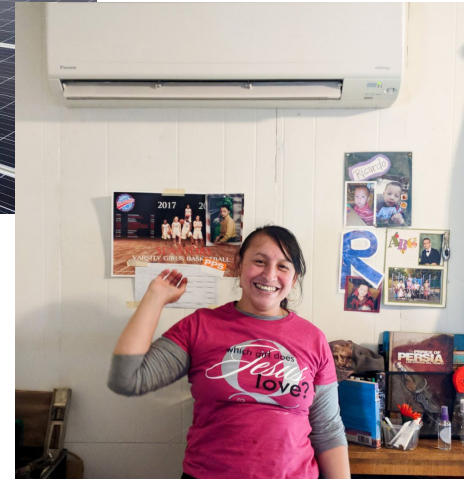





Serves communities by building environmental wealth through social enterprise, outreach, and advocacy.


- Community members involved in the planning and building of these investments
- Benefits flow to frontline communities
- Projects have included building a community park and developing a community energy plan

Cully Energy Plan





What Values Do
We Hold In This
Work?



What is a Value You Hold In Your Work and Life?

Framing Questions:

- What drives you to do what you do?
- How do you weigh whether a decision is the right one?
- If you were celebrated, what qualities would you want people to recognize?

What Really Makes an Environmentalist?

“Environmentalist”



patagonia

“Low-Income”



Green Movement Misconceptions

Equity Is a Distraction

Access = Interest

Too Crisis to
Care

Skin in the
Game

Buying the
"Right" Thing

Equity is Not a Distraction - It's a Missing Piece



Artwork: Ricardo Levins Morales

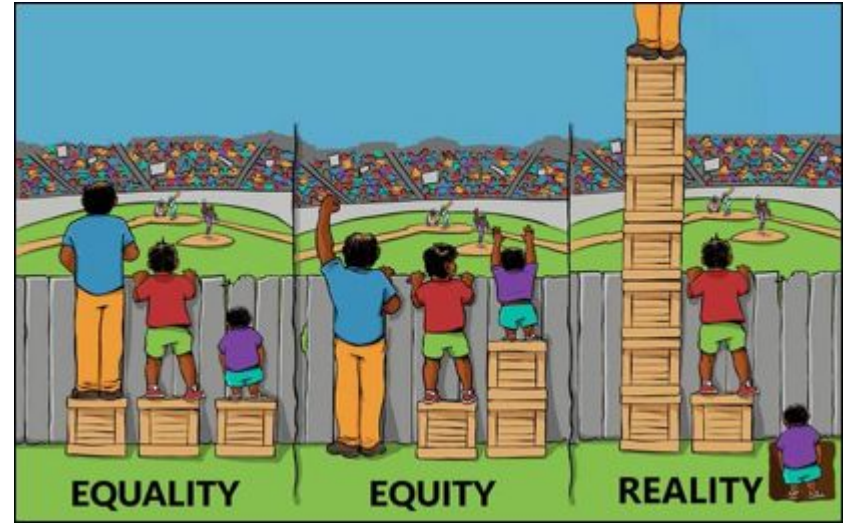


Environmental Justice 101



Principles of Equity for Just Climate Policy

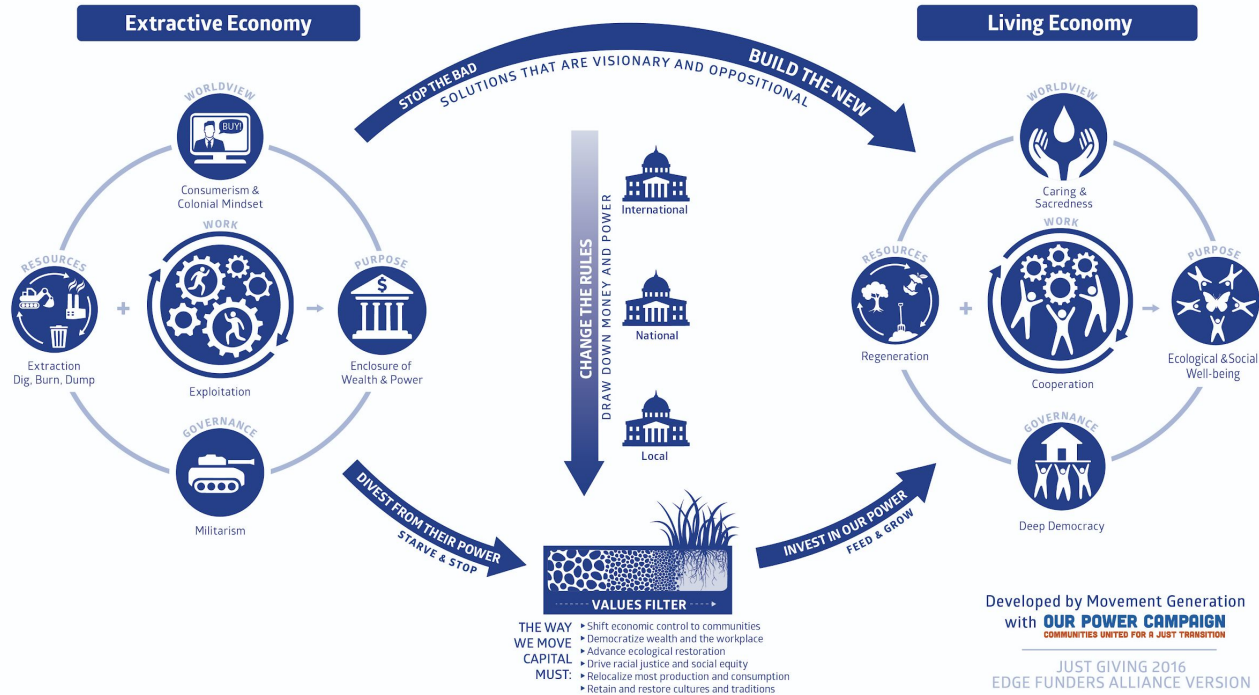
- People speak for themselves
- Inclusive, accessible, meaningful, and sustained engagement and **representation**
- Programs and policies result in **fair distributions of benefits and burdens**
- Decisions are made with a recognition of the **historical, cultural, and institutional** dynamics and **structures**
- Decisions consider **generational impacts**



Justice Is Not Only About Removing the Fence..

A STRATEGY FRAMEWORK FOR JUST TRANSITION

RESIST — RETHINK — RESTRUCTURE



What is Environmental Justice?

Fair distribution of burdens and benefits of environmental health hazards and meaningful participation in decisions that impact the environment and people who live, work, learn and play. – Oregon Environmental Justice Taskforce

Prevent Harm

(Who is Burdened?)

Provide Benefit

(Who Benefits?)

Inclusive and Accountable
Decision-Making

(Who's at the Table?)

Historical Benefits/Burdens of the Energy System



Displacement of Indigenous People to Build Hydro

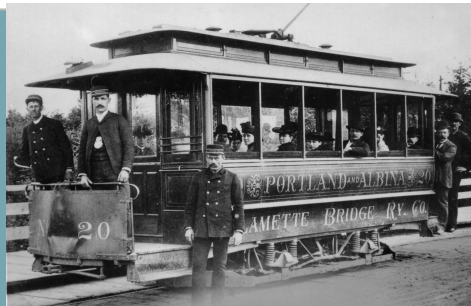
- Lack of compensation
- Impacts to subsistence lifestyles



Rural Electrification Act

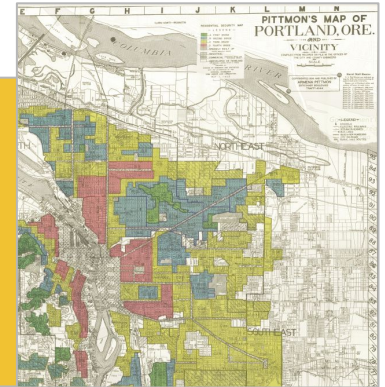
- Anti-poverty strategy
- Public initiatives funded major regional infrastructure
- Agricultural growth

Private Ownership Financed Infrastructure in Cities and Generated Shareholder Returns and Urban Development



Restricted Opportunity for Homeownership

- Article XVIII, original Oregon State Constitution
- Redlining





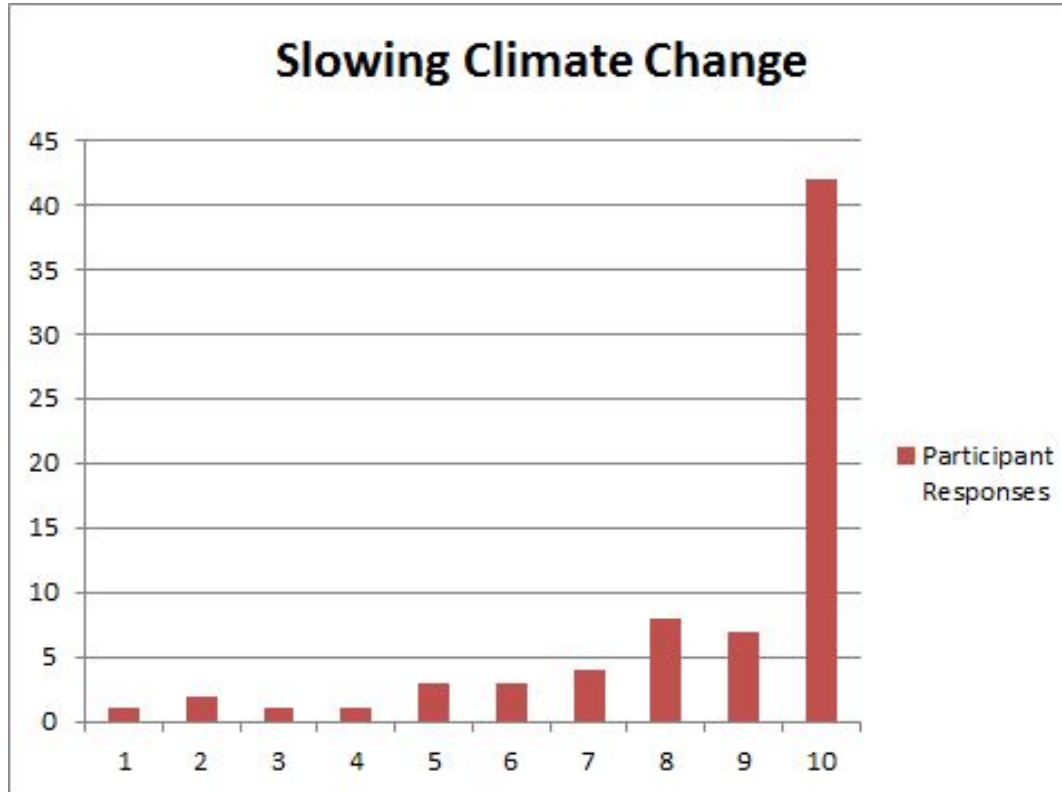
Questions/
Discussion



Who Are Environmental Justice Communities?

Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color; communities experiencing lower incomes; tribal communities; rural communities; under-resourced communities; coastal communities; and other communities traditionally under-represented in public processes and adversely harmed by environmental and health hazards, including but not limited to seniors, youth, and people with disabilities.

Environmental Justice Communities Care A Lot



Environmental Justice Communities Are Paying Attention

“Long-term it will have a huge effect on us, as we live on earth with everything else... it is happening so fast, this needs to be important. Try to make an effort, for our kids.”

“This is unprecedented and monumental. The ramifications are devastating in ways we can't even comprehend yet.”

EJ Communities Have First Hand Experience And Are Most Impacted

“Where I’m from, coal mining is a big deal. I lost four family members to cancer. It wasn’t until I came to the PNW that I realized people don’t die as often here, and I know it’s because of the coal - what it does to the air and water.”





Questions/
Discussion





Putting It Into Practice





The Kennedy Substation: What Not to Do

Community-Led Distribution System Planning

Identify Community Need

Community organizing around affordability and resiliency.

Pair Community Need with Grid Capacity

Focus first on people, but determine what changes are possible.

Identify Possible Burdens and Mitigation Strategies


How will distributed energy infrastructure affect a community?

Co-Create a Plan





Strong Program Design



Who Do You Engage?



Rooted in a Reason



Real People Who Aren't
Professionally Paid to Engage



Most Impacted By a Decision

Multiple Points of Contact with Follow Up, Follow Through, and Genuine Accountability
(Don't Have an Event, Buy Some Cookies, and Check a Box)

How Do You Engage



INFORM

Provide the community with relevant information



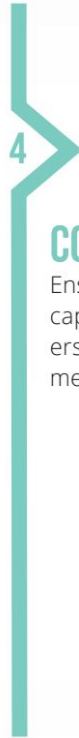
CONSULT

Gather input from the community



INVOLVE

Ensure community needs and assets are integrated into process and inform planning



COLLABORATE

Ensure community capacity to play a leadership role in implementation of decisions



DEFER TO

Foster democratic participation and equity by bridging the divide between community and governance, through community-driven decision-making

Where Is Your Engagement on the Spectrum?

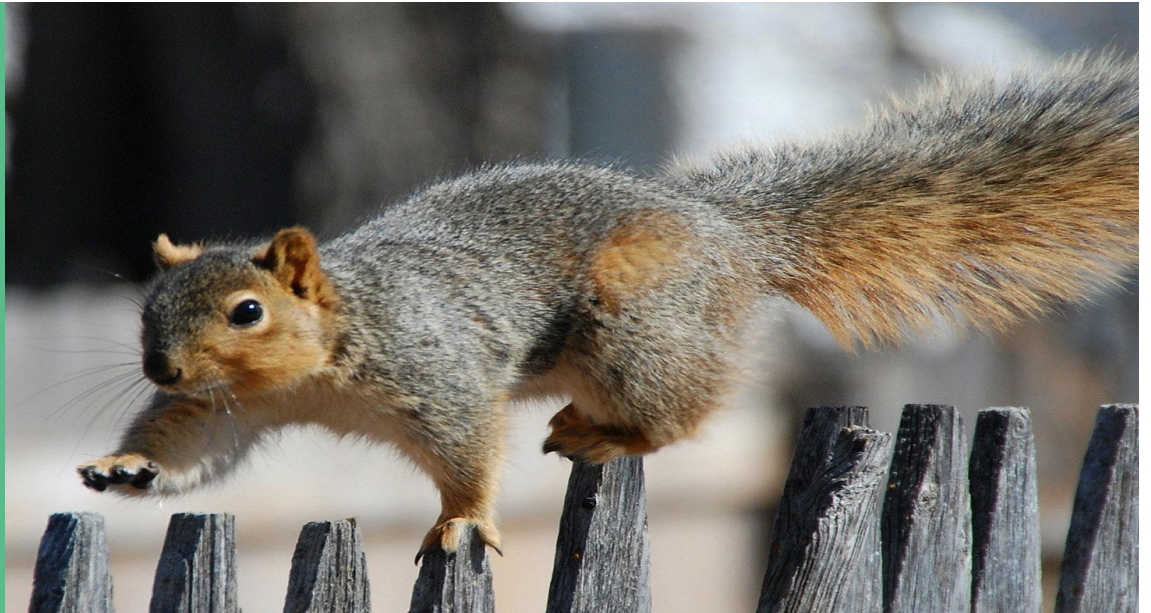


Be Easy

Be easy to understand
(write at a third grade
level).

Be easy to work with.

When creating a
barrier, ask yourself
why?



Be Trusted



Work with groups that have relationships with target communities.

Be an entity that partners are excited to refer their clients to.

Be Adaptable

You don't know what you don't know.

Be humble and ready to adapt a program as new realizations arise.



Be Flexible



Go to the participants, don't make them come to you. Work evenings and weekends.

Create flexibility within your program so you can meet people where they are.

Be Positive



Do participants enjoy interacting with your organization?

Workplace culture issues - compassion fatigue, bad attitudes, stereotypes, and poor treatment of vulnerable people.

How do the people in your office talk about the people you serve?

Be Equitable

Are there people you're missing?
Don't be afraid to ask yourself!

Prioritize new partnerships,
outreach methods, hiring
practices.



Be A Great Ally!

Being ashamed of privilege doesn't help.

You may be surprised what you have access to - and how many doors you can open for others.

How Will You Begin Working with Community?

- What is a project you have coming up?
- Who will be most impacted by it?
- To whom could you reach out to connect with the people who are most impacted?
- What values and intentions will you hold and communicate in your outreach?
- How will you be accountable and demonstrate that accountability?

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