

# Progress Report

## Workgroup #3 Low Income

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### *Background*

- Excerpt from Scoping Document: “Problem Statement – The current framework may not ensure adequate EEI funds (separate from other sources of BPA funds for low income energy efficiency) are adequately dedicated to low income residential energy efficiency, in particular, weatherization. For low income energy savings acquired through the work of Community Action Agencies, customer utilities may not be receiving credit for those savings occurring in their service territories.”
- Some Stakeholders have said that there needs to be more Low Income EE measures installed in the Region.
- There are two Low Income programs (see hand out for details):
  1. The Low Income Grant Program which is managed by each State (ID, MT, OR, & WA).
  2. The Utility Program found on page 104 of the Implementation Manual.
- Some Utilities have a long-standing working relationship with their local Community Action Program (CAP Agency). However, other Utilities have not worked closely with the CAP Agency that serves people in their service area.

### *Summary of Progress to Date*

- The workgroup held its first meeting at BPA headquarters on Feb. 6. Due to severe weather the meeting was ended early.
- The workgroup discussed the issues which were sent in via email prior to the meeting and identified some new issues during the meeting as well.
- We walked through a typical project done by a CAP Agency (CAPEECO in Pendleton) and a Utility (Eugene Rosolie from Cowlitz PUD). That discussion developed some ideas on how CAP Agencies and Utilities could work closer together.
- Some CAP Agencies and other stakeholders asked for an increase in the Low Income Grant Program that is funded by BPA however Boyd Wilson said that this workgroup will not address that issue, but it could be addressed in the Integrated Program Review (IPR). Wilson sent the contact information out to all participants if they wish to take it up with the IPR.
- We were able to identify many of the issues that will be central to this group, which include:

- Better coordination, communication and collaboration between the CAP Agencies and the Utilities.
- Utility credit (kWh savings) for the work the CAP Agencies are doing in their service area -especially the I-937 utilities.
- How involved are the Utilities in the Low Income sector at this point? The group agreed that a short survey to understand more about each utility's low income program would be helpful and workgroup members volunteered for the task
- Since the first meeting was cut short, we will address any new issues at the second meeting.

### *Next Meeting*

March 6, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at PNGC in their Portland office, located at 711 NE Hasley Street. This meeting is also available by conference call and LiveMeeting.

### *What would the workgroup like input from all stakeholders on at this point in time?*

Are there any other questions or issues regarding the two Low Income programs that are done in the Region?

Please contact your Energy Efficiency Representative or the co-chairs directly for follow-up

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