

## **Los Angeles Community Choice Energy (LACCE) Community Workshop**

**July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

### **Event Summary**

Los Angeles Community Choice Energy (LACCE) held its first community workshop on July 20<sup>th</sup> at the Exposition Park field office of LA County Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas. Welcoming remarks were given by the Supervisor, and a program update was presented by Gary Gero, the Chief Sustainability Officer of LA County.

Denise Fairchild of Emerald Cities Collaborative also facilitated a presentation and breakout discussion session on the topic of the Community Advisory Committee of LACCE. The Community Advisory Committee was established by the JPA agreement to provide a venue for ongoing citizen support and engagement in the operations of the Authority. Of the other 8 CCAs currently operating in California, 3 of them have similar advisory committees. LACCE is still in its open enrollment period for cities and has not yet formed its Citizens Advisory Committee. The workshop was an opportunity to gather feedback from the community and interested stakeholders regarding the form and function of the committee. Attendees were also able to participate in the workshop remotely, as the event audio was transmitted via Skype.

The breakout groups were asked to discuss and record their answers to the following questions:

1. What should the community advisory committee do to help LACCE achieve its key objectives to increase: clean energy access and affordability, public health outcomes, local economic development, and the inclusion of low-income communities in the LACCE program?
2. What are some guiding principles that should govern the advisory committee?
3. How should the committee be constituted to meet its proposed roles?

Thoughtful ideas and suggestions were provided by the breakout groups in response to the questions, and shared with the larger group before the workshop concluded. Answers to question one largely focused on committee function, and tended to be grouped mainly in the areas of outreach and communications, gathering and providing feedback to the JPA Board, and support for LACCE customer programs. The workshop attendees emphasized the role of the committee as a conduit to the community, to receive community feedback and transmit that to the board. There was also a lot of consensus around the idea that the committee should be involved in providing education to the community on clean energy access and various programs, including workforce development. Most participants felt that the role of the committee should be advisory in nature, but that it should be empowered to provide feedback to the Board on issues such as budget, rates, and programs. There were also some thoughts on resources that could be provided to the committee, such as access to consultants or the ability to assemble expert working groups.

Transparency and social diversity as guiding principles for the committee were mentioned by the most groups. Other comments touched on the importance of efficiency (in terms of limiting committee size),

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accessibility, effective communication, local perspective, and cultural and linguistic inclusion as governing principles.

As to the question of committee composition, there was much agreement on the need to have subject matter experts included, with expertise in areas such as energy markets and regulation, environmental justice, clean energy access, academia, and labor, among many others, as well as those with relevant skills such as community leadership, budgeting, and technical experience. There was discussion around the idea that the committee should somehow reflect the population and average household income of the cities participating in LACCE, and that there should be adequate representation of low income communities. There was strong consensus that the size of the committee should be limited, although suggestions for the maximum amount of members ranged from 7 to 18. The selection process for members was also discussed, with one suggestion that members be nominated, rather than appointed. One group also shared their desire to see the inclusion of a student or youth liaison.

The group responses have been summarized here, and a full transcript of responses gathered are available upon request. This workshop was the first in a series of efforts to ensure that the Community Advisory Committee will reflect the input and the needs of the community. Continuing feedback is also being collected via email, and can be sent to [sustainability@lacounty.gov](mailto:sustainability@lacounty.gov). The ultimate determinations on the composition, governance, and function of the Community Advisory Committee will be made by the LACCE JPA Board of Directors utilizing collected community input as well as existing models and best practices of other CCAs.

### **Workshop Attendees**

Irene Burga, Environmental Defense Fund  
Dennis Burke, City of Long Beach  
Tom Buttgenbach, 8minutenergy  
Priscilla Chavez, National Association of Women in Construction  
Kit Cole, Kit Cole Consulting  
Joseph Cruz, City of Gardena  
Joe Galliani, South Bay 350  
Gina Goodhill, Tesla  
Isabel Guillen, Build LACCD  
Daniel Handal, Next Era Energy  
Ben Herhold, NRG Energy, Inc.  
Seth Jacobson, Climate Resolve  
Stella Kim, TSI Group  
Jennifer Kropke, IBEW  
Reata Kulcsar, City of Carson  
Rick Learned, City of Hermosa Beach  
Kevin Madden, Chai Energy  
Jorge Madrid, Environmental Defense Fund

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Janice Martin  
Henry Martinez, Cordoba Corporation  
Demetra McBride, LA County  
John McCabe, MEHS Consulting  
John McCray-Goldsmith, Barclays  
Domenica Megerdichian, City of Torrance  
Heather Mo, Southern California Edison  
Charles Nelson, Faith Organization  
Dency Nelson  
Greg Nelson, LASD  
Jens Palsberg, UCLA  
Rupal Patel, Renewable Resources Group  
Martin Ray, City of Alhambra  
James Richmond  
Caitlin Sims, City of Beverly Hills  
Veronica Soto, Emerald Cities Collaborative  
Julia Stewart, City of Rolling Hills Estates  
Noah Sugerman  
Joe Susca, City of Culver City  
Chad Tady, SunPower  
Alex Turek, Grid Alternatives  
Stella Ursua, Grid Alternatives  
Ariana Vito, City of Santa Monica  
Katie Ward, San Gabriel Valley Council Of Governments  
Rhianna Williams, UCLA  
Katy Young, LA County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl  
Steven Zuckerman, City of Rolling Hills Estates