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Making a Clean Energy Future an Equitable One

Community Action Partnership webinar

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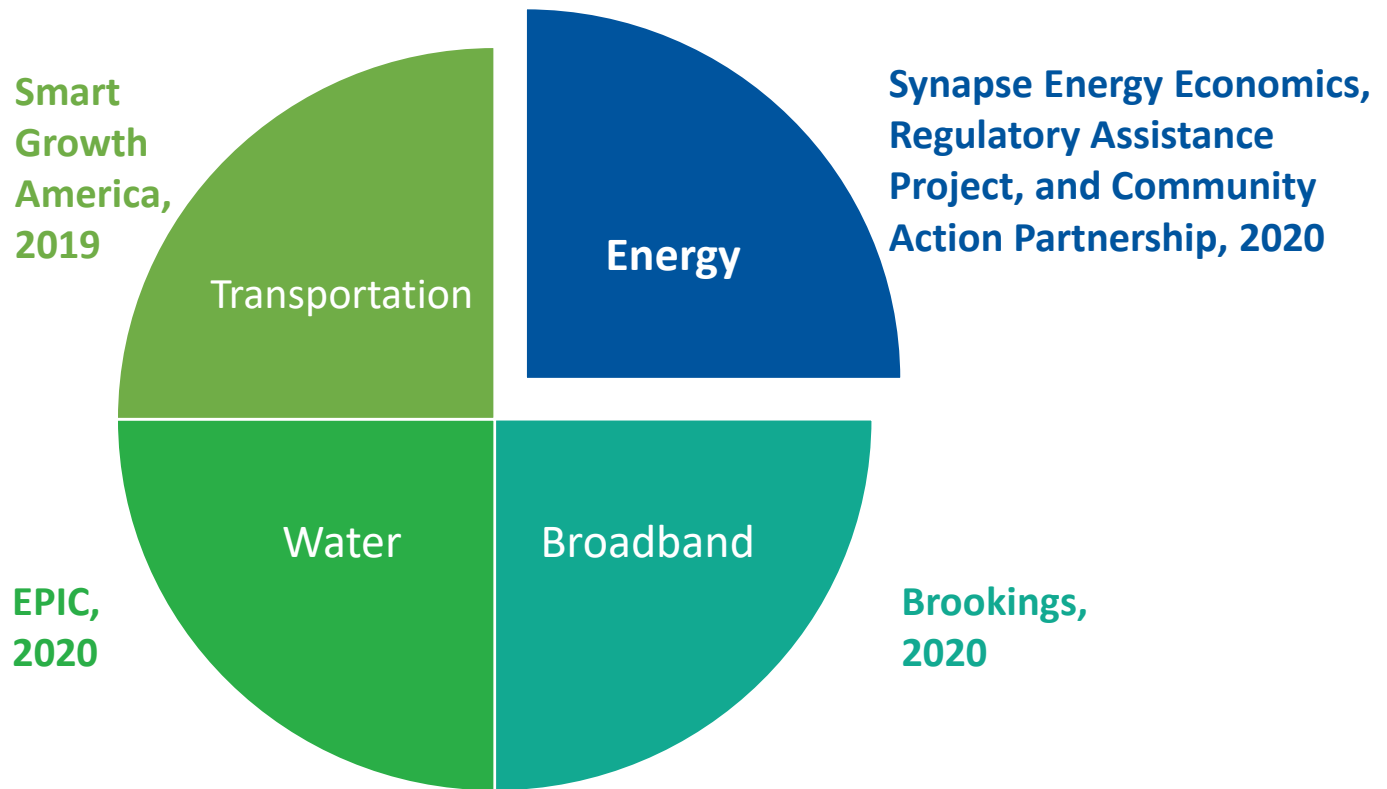
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Background

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: Four reports addressing concern with equitable public infrastructure



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Focus of the Project

- Electricity and natural gas
- Community-level focus: low income, rural, smaller towns and cities, and communities of color
- Impacts: access, affordability, climate change and pollution, jobs
- Deep perspective on who makes decisions in the sector and how they are made, and who is left out of the process
- Methodology
 - In-person and web-based convenings and interviews with many stakeholders
 - Case studies

Equity Landscape



Themes

- Energy should be a right
- Energy transformation is happening quickly – access is essential for communities with high economic and environmental burdens
- Improvements in regulations, communications, and education have key roles to play



Recommendations from the report



1. Enable the clean energy transition for all
2. Promote employment and diversity
3. Improve affordability
4. Update utility regulation
5. Reduce environmental hazards
6. Work across sectors
7. Build capacity of communities and advocates

Four Case Studies

Enable the clean energy transition for all

Bloomfield, Iowa's bid for energy independence

Update utility regulation

Minnesota's performance based regulation

Improve energy affordability

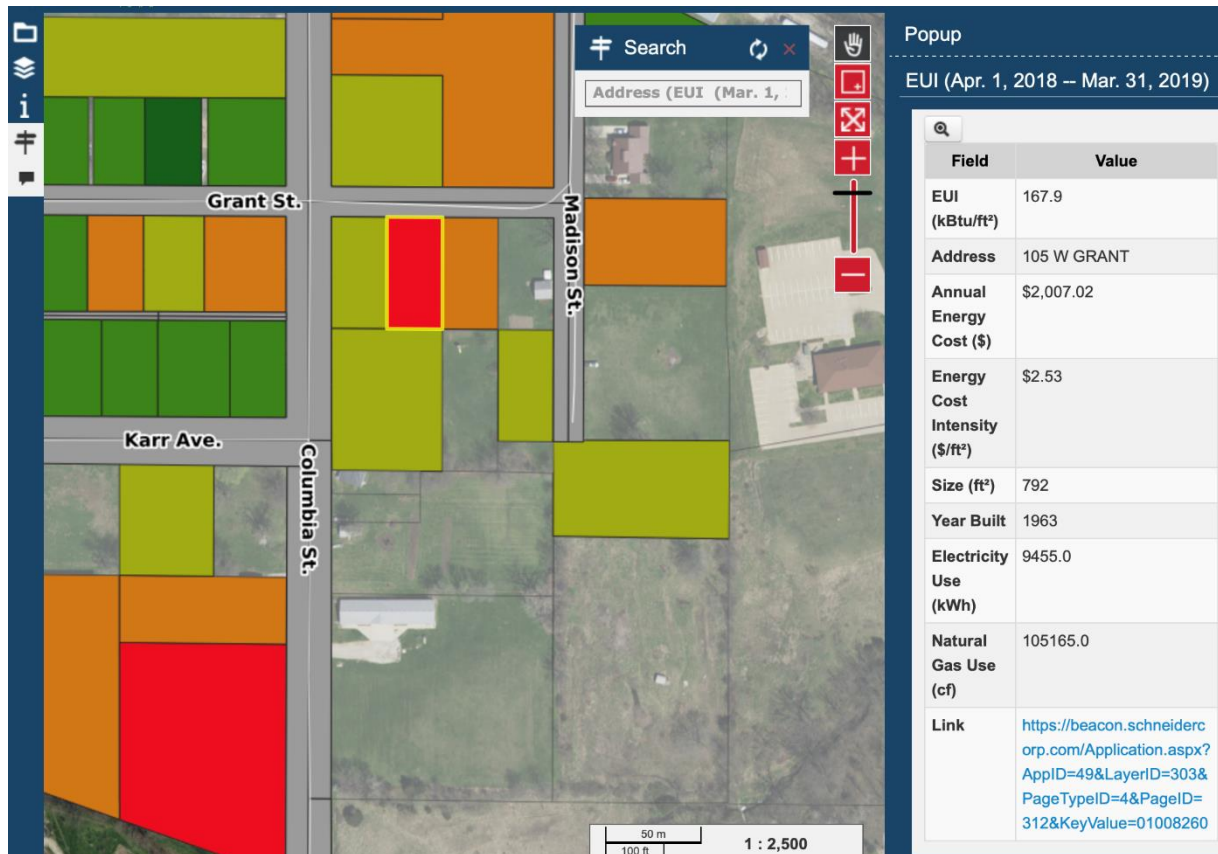
Ohio's Arrearage Management Program

Reduce environmental hazards and work across boundaries

Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

Recommendation: Enable the clean energy transition for all

Bloomfield, Iowa



Source: The City of Bloomfield Iowa. 2019. Residential Energy Use Map.

Available at <https://www.cityofbloomfield.org>.

Recommendation: Promote diversity in the sector

Targeted job training in clean energy

- California's low income solar programs



Photo credit: Grid Alternatives 2016. Single-family Affordable Solar Homes (SASH) Program Semi-annual Program Status Report

Recommendation: Update utility regulation

Alternative utility regulation in Minnesota

- Adopted metrics
 - Average monthly bills for residential customers
 - Total arrearages for residential customers
 - Total disconnections for nonpayment for residential customers
- Proposed metrics
 - Reliability metrics related to equity
 - Metrics relating to equity in customer service quality
 - Metric(s) to measure workforce and community development impact, which may include workforce diversity

Recommendation: Improve affordability

Ohio's Arrearage Management Program

- Percentage of Income Payment Program (PIPP)
- One Stop Shopping
- Periodic Improvements
- Better links to Energy Efficiency?
- Minimum Payment reconsideration



Recommendation: Reduce environmental hazards, work across boundaries

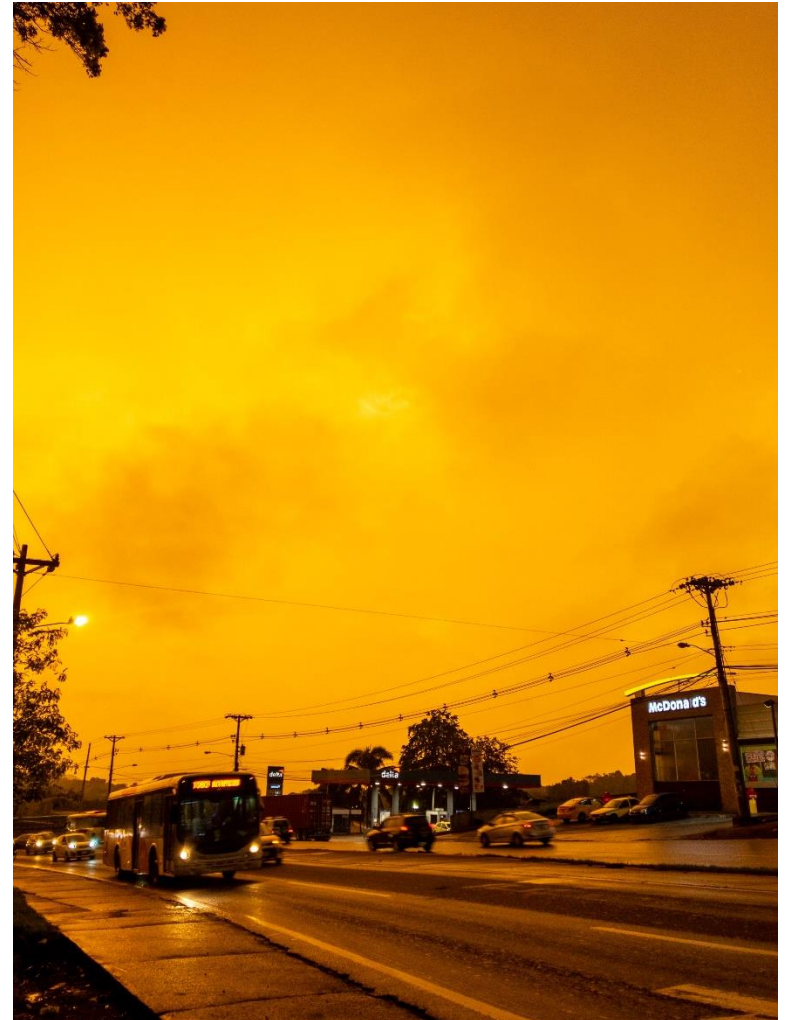
Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

- Multi-state, multi agency effort
- Expanding to add states
- Model for other programs, e.g., transportation
- Periodic program review and improvements
- Equity update needed



Recommendation: Work with other sectors

- Transportation
 - Reducing environmental burdens with electric vehicles
- Broadband
 - Enabling clean energy transition in rural areas
- Water
 - Implementing efficiency
 - Rate design, utility structures



Recommendation: Build capacity

Co-ops

- Board structure, diversity
- Clean Energy offerings
- Example – Kit Carson, NM

Advocates

- Education on Energy issues
- Enabling advocacy at state and federal level
- Example – Partnership for Southern Equity, GA

Cross Cutting Themes

- **No single solution** will reach all populations of concern
- Sustained effort is needed to foster **community trust**
- The time to act is **now**—the transformation of the energy sector is happening fast, and communities could be left behind
- More **connections** are needed for comprehensive strategies linking solution sets

Disparate solutions





Energy Infrastructure

Sources of Inequities and Policy Solutions for Improving Community Health and Wellbeing

April 29, 2020



Where to find the report

- **Blog post:**

<https://www.raonline.org/blog/making-a-clean-energy-future-an-equitable-future/>

- **Full report:**

<https://www.synapse-energy.com/project/energy-infrastructure-sources-inequities-and-policy-solutions-improving-community-health-and>

About RAP

The Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP)[®] is an independent, non-partisan, non-governmental organization dedicated to accelerating the transition to a clean, reliable, and efficient energy future.

raponline.org

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About Synapse

Synapse Energy Economics provides research, analysis, expert testimony, reports, regulatory support, and other consulting services related to energy, economics, and the environment—in nearly every state, region, and market structure in the nation.

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Complications

- Mistrust of government and utilities
- High proportion of low income households are renters
- Lack of public awareness of energy fundamentals
- Limited resources for advocates
- Silos within and between government agencies, NGOs, and industry

