

Energy Efficiency & Equity in Tempe

Executive Summary:

The group identified three main levers the city needs to pull to improve energy efficiency & equity in Tempe: education, workforce development and funding. In order to adequately address any of these areas, building a strong data and evidence base will be paramount. Here, the key lies within collaborating with ASU. The Knowledge Exchange for Resilience team is very experienced and interested in research collaboration. As the table reported a certain degree of distrust on the part of the communities we intend to serve, trust building will just as much be required as a foundation for any action we take. Some best practices were addressed that provide guidance on how to proceed.



Participants on March 20, 2019:

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Shauna Warner	Director of Neighborhood Services, City of Tempe
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Organized & facilitated by **Robin Bruck, Lauren Withycombe Keeler, Braden Kay & Friederike Schwarz**

- MAIN FINDINGS -

We need to launch a citywide energy efficiency education campaign.



Many of the vulnerable populations we intend to serve do not understand energy efficiency and how their daily actions have a direct impact on the size of their utility bills. We thus need to launch a citywide energy efficiency education campaign and teach people on how they can take charge of their utility bill. This needs to be conveyed in a shared and common language (bilingual!). While tailored to the particular needs of Tempe's vulnerable populations, there should also be information for landlords available.

We need to hire and train more people to work in low-income weatherization.

Weatherization is a very tough job (working in 160° F attics) and the organizations conducting this work have a hard time finding employees. A possible solution to explore that was addressed could be to expand the pool of potential candidates, that is, to actively reach out to populations that are underrepresented in the construction trades (women, minorities, veterans, ...) and provide apprenticeship opportunities. The [Workforce Training & Hiring Program](#) (Portland, OR) or the [Veterans Helping Veterans](#) program (Port St. Lucie, FL) offer some inspiration on how this could be done.



We need to seek new funding sources and raise the share of LIHEAP financing for weatherization.



The federal and state level currently do not offer sufficient funding to provide the services we would like to provide to Tempe community members in need. We need to reach out to our networks and explore new funding sources. Expanding the conversation to include even more stakeholder organizations will be key. Non-profit expert organizations such as American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) and Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEET) could provide some guidance. Moreover, state legislation currently allows only 15% of LIHEAP funding to be allocated to weatherization services. Thus, the City and its partners should advocate at the AZ Department of Economic Security (DES) for raising this share to 25%.

We need to build mutual trust and gather strong data and evidence to act upon.

In working with vulnerable populations, any action we take must be based on mutual trust as well as solid data and evidence in order to ensure that our help is both invited and effective. Strong collaboration with Tempe's community organizations and ASU is indispensable to achieve both goals. The Knowledge Exchange for Resilience team had first ideas on where to start. The Knoxville Extreme Energy Makeover (KEEM) program also offers information and inspiration on how to proceed.



- BEST PRACTICES -

Knoxville Extreme Energy Makeover (KEEM):

Launched in August 2015, the [Knoxville Extreme Energy Makeover Program](#) (KEEM) was led by the Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee (CAC) in partnership with the City of Knoxville, Knoxville Utilities Board (KUB) and the Alliance to Save Energy. The project team sought to improve the quality, comfort and affordability of Knoxville homes through energy efficiency. KEEM addressed many of the issues that we also identified as problems during our discussion, such as *engaging landlords* and *cultivating trust in the community*.



Energize Phoenix:

Energize Phoenix was a three-year program designed to upgrade existing buildings for energy efficiency, managed by the City of Phoenix in partnership with ASU and APS. Beyond the program's accomplishments, major value was derived from lessons learned during the project's planning and implementation.

For further information, please consult the program's [final report](#) and [appendices](#).



Sustainable Neighborhoods for Well Being and Happiness:

In 2015, The Ramsey Social Justice Foundation and the City of Tempe, in partnership with ASU, Habitat for Humanity and New Course, committed to revitalize two marginalized neighborhoods in Arizona and Zacapa (Guatemala) by retrofitting homes and developing skills training for vulnerable populations. By engaging local residents for planning and implementation, the project aimed to create *trust* and localized, sustainable solutions to each neighborhood's most pressing needs. For further information, please consult the program's [final report](#).



WE THANK YOU

for taking part in this conversation and hope for increased collaboration on energy efficiency & equity issues in the City of Tempe!

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Image credit "Best Practices": KEEM (final report), Energize Phoenix (final report) Sustainable Neighborhoods for Well Being and Happiness (final report)