

Community-Scale Energy: Models, Strategies and Racial Equity

A Scan of Community Innovation
around Efficiency and Renewable
Energy

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I. INTRODUCTION

We are all facing the threats of climate change. From superstorms like Katrina and Sandy to wildfires across Colorado, we are losing homes, businesses and lives. In the face of these threats, how are communities, particularly frontline communities, innovating, adapting and mitigating the impacts of climate change?

We created this scan of community-scale energy projects to document strategies and models that communities are using to fight climate change by reducing our reliance on dirty energy. Communities are cutting energy waste through neighborhood mobilizations to weatherize homes. They are negotiating with utilities to generate more renewable energy, and they are developing solar and wind energy on their own.

These community-based approaches hold great potential. Policies need to keep pace. Energy policies today mostly support individual homeowners through tax credits, which excludes a third of all families and half of all families of color who don't own their homes. Or policies support large-scale projects like the \$2.2 billion thermal solar plant in the Mojave Desert. We need these, but to transition the United States from a fossil fuel fiasco to a renewable and resource resilient economy, communities, especially communities of color, must be able to implement innovation.

Community-scale projects are efficient, economical and potentially transformative. They are efficient and more economical because they can utilize smaller land spaces and require less capital than large-scale projects. Large-scale systems need vast amounts of land, more capital for installation and often new transmission or distribution lines costing as much as a million dollars per mile. There is certainly a place for large-scale systems. But community-scale projects have additional benefits. They invest in the political economy of an area, creating more jobs than large-scale energy projects do, keeping wealth in the community and creating opportunities for residents to be owners and decision-makers. At the Center for Social Inclusion (CSI), we call this energy democracy. From Red Hook in Brooklyn, NY, devastated by Hurricane Sandy, to the Gulf Coast in the South, battered by Katrina and the BP oil spill, mitigation and adaptation in frontline communities requires energy democracy.

In our work to advance energy democracy, CSI has published several reports and case studies. We've identified challenges communities face, particularly communities of color, and recommended policies that will help all communities take charge of their energy future.

Now, we have created this scan to highlight the array of innovation underway in communities across the country. We looked particularly for projects in communities of color and were not surprised to find that many good ideas were stalled by lack of funds or insufficient technical expertise. If we are to solve the issue of climate change, we need "all hands on deck", including people of color, who will soon to be a majority of the US population.

There are other resources¹ highlighting examples of community-scale projects, and we are grateful to have been able to draw from them. To our knowledge, this scan is the most comprehensive, but it is

¹ Please visit: The Institute for Local Self-Reliance (www.ilsr.org), Northwest SEED (www.nwseed.org), the Community Power Report (www.communitypowerreport.com), Local Clean Energy Alliance (www.localcleanenergy.org)

not exhaustive. We encourage communities with other models and experiences to share them with us so we can build on it.

We hope that by exploring the work already underway, its strengths and challenges, we can help answer the question: “What strategies can best help communities, including communities of color, to address climate change and build a new energy economy that benefits the nation?”

II. SCOPE:

This scan identifies strategies and models to address climate change and build a new energy economy. We looked at community-scale projects in general, but are interested particularly in community-scale solutions that can advance racial inclusion in a renewable energy future because communities of color may face unique challenges that must be addressed differently.

We looked at efforts nationwide, but paid particular attention to urban communities in states with growing communities of color and/or policies or practices that support community-scale innovation. Therefore, we focused primarily on Arizona, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas, Vermont and Washington.

Defining Community-Scale:

At CSI we define community-scale energy solutions to include:

- Communities utilizing place-based assets (such as schools, churches, farms or vacant lots) to generate clean renewable energy;
- Community-driven projects to increase energy efficiency;
- Community resident engagement as planners, decision-makers, owners and innovators in local energy use and production.;
- Communities achieving multiple benefits like lowering energy costs, reducing emissions and creating green jobs.

Projects listed in the scan involve some or all of these elements.

Defining Racial Equity:

CSI defines racial equity as a minimum standard of living for all with the elimination of racial disparities. In the context of this scan, we sought to identify projects that advance the interconnected goals of fighting climate change and advancing racial equity. Applying a race lens helps us identify solutions for all low-income communities while not ignoring particular challenges in communities of color.

In this context, racial equity means that people of color have an opportunity to create a better economic and social environment with healthier communities and quality living wage jobs, growing wealth through community assets, and building political power to solve community problems and contribute to a better future.

Not all of the projects included in the scan have racial equity as a goal, but many could advance racial equity if implemented in a way that is inclusive of people of color.

III. PROJECT CATEGORIES

We divided the projects in the scan into seven basic categories representing significant strands of community work on climate change and energy democracy. When a project fit in multiple categories, we placed it in the one that best describes its major work.

1. District Approach

These projects target a specific neighborhood or community for public investment and technical assistance to make them greener and more sustainable. Some are small grassroots efforts; most are large public-private partnerships.

2. Efficiency and Renewables for Homeowners

These projects focus on helping homeowners weatherize or install renewable energy on their property. Many take a community approach by building power among multiple homeowners to negotiate lower prices. Some projects leverage consumer power for other impacts, such as persuading utilities to use more renewables or convincing energy service providers to hire locally and pay living wages.

3. Efficiency and Renewables for Community Institutions

These projects are dedicated to making it possible for community institutions, particularly in lower-income communities and communities of color, to participate in renewable energy solutions. Community members come together either to build a particular renewable energy project or as an ongoing cooperative controlled by its member-owners who receive benefits, like discounts, and invest collectively in energy enterprises. Many of these projects use innovative financing like crowdfunding to support solar on community institutions, such as schools, churches, non-profits or tribal offices.

4. Entrepreneurship

These projects focus on small business development or employee ownership or control. Most projects in this category are employee-owned cooperatives where each worker owns a share of the business and has a voice in decision-making. The model obviously benefits the workers but can also benefit the community because coops generally hire locally and put money back into the local economy.

5. Public Ownership

Many cities, towns and counties operate their own electric utilities, which in theory are more responsive to consumers who are also voters and taxpayers. The reality is more complex, but some public utilities are engaged in innovative conservation and renewable generation projects. Towns and cities are also negotiating with private utilities over renewables and creating their own, including transforming brownfields into solar gardens.

6. Renewable Energy Farms

This category focuses on community ownership of renewable energy generating projects, like solar arrays or wind turbines. In this category, community and large-scale energy projects are collectively owned by community residents or utility subscribers. In most of these projects, participants purchase a share to finance the project and receive credit on their energy bills in return.

7. Structural Change

The projects identified in this category are grassroots organizing efforts with a vision to transform the current paradigm of large-scale dirty energy into a locally-controlled, renewable energy system that creates quality jobs, a healthier environment, community wealth and increased political power.

IV. APPROACHES TO ENERGY DEMOCRACY

Going deeper than the basic categories described above, we identified a number of approaches commonly used in the design and implementation of community-scale energy projects. Each approach has potential for replication in different community contexts. Some projects employ more than one of these approaches; for the scan we categorized them under the approach that describes the major thrust of their work. These six approaches are most common:

1. Bulk Purchasing

The bulk purchasing approach aggregates the buying power of multiple participants to negotiate the price of energy efficiency upgrades or renewable energy. By demonstrating consumer demand, these projects can help persuade electricity suppliers to invest in solar and other renewable generating capacity, and efficiency contractors to meet high road standards for wages and hiring.

2. Community Organizing

The community organizing approach in energy democracy focuses on grassroots engagement, leadership development and building organizational power to play an effective role in energy planning, decision-making and the creation of quality jobs in energy efficiency and renewable production. In this scan, community organizing projects are generally rooted in communities that have borne the burden of pollution, climate change and public disinvestment.

3. Cooperatives

Cooperatives are a business model in which members are participant-owners of the business. Each member has an opportunity to benefit from the product of the business and to participate in decision-making. In this scan, there are employee-owned cooperatives providing energy services for the community and jobs for their members as well as consumer-owned cooperatives that help make energy services affordable and drive the market to develop more renewable energy.

4. Financing Strategies

Energy efficiencies and renewable energy are cost effective, but upfront costs can be a major obstacle. Many of the projects in the scan have developed and utilized innovative financing mechanisms to help make efficiency and renewables accessible and affordable. We identified five primary financing approaches:

- a. **Crowdfunding:** Similar to a kickstarter or indiegogo campaign, this approach uses an online platform to collect funds from multiple people to help finance a project. Some projects enlist donors and others seek investors.
- b. **Feed-in-Tariffs:** These contracts between a producer of renewable energy and the utility that buys the excess set a specific price over a specific period of time for a certain amount of locally generated energy produced. This provides a guaranteed revenue stream that allows solar projects to secure financing.
- c. **Limited Liability Corporations (LLC):** Incorporating as an LLC is an approach commonly used by individuals who want to support a community renewable energy project. This allows them to take advantage of federal and state tax credits, which makes the projects more affordable.
- d. **On-Bill Financing:** This approach removes upfront payment as an obstacle to home energy efficiency upgrades. Customers pay the costs of improvements incrementally on their electric bills, and the savings from using less energy offset the cost.
- e. **Revolving Loan Fund:** A revolving loan fund allows individuals who do not have sufficient funds or who don't qualify for traditional lending to participate in a specific project. Recipients repay the loan over a specified period of time through their savings on energy costs.

5. **Partnerships**

Many energy projects are partnerships between various combinations of governments, the private sector and non-profit organizations. A partnership approach can bring a range of vital assets to the endeavor including funding, community engagement and technical expertise. The most common partnerships are:

- a. **Local Government and Nonprofit:** Examples of these partnerships include cities funding home energy efficiency campaigns with non-profits leading implementation and outreach, and nonprofits providing funds and technical expertise to install solar on public buildings.
- b. **Local Government and Private Sector:** In this approach, local governments work with private companies, often in a targeted geographic area, to finance, plan and implement projects. While they benefit communities, these partnerships do not necessarily engage community residents in meaningful ways
- c. **Tribal-Federal:** In these partnerships, tribal communities work with federal agencies, such as the EPA or Department of Energy, to develop renewable energy production on tribal land.

6. Virtual Ownership:

This approach opens ownership of renewable energy to a broad range of people, including renters and those who can't afford to install it on their homes. Participants pay for a share of a project, which helps finance it, and then receive a monthly or annual payment through energy credits on their electric bills. Most participants recoup their upfront payments within 10–12 years and receive full benefits afterwards.

The following approaches are more specialized and less common, but can be replicated to achieve energy democracy goals:

7. Community Choice

Community choice provides an opportunity for cities or counties to have local control over where their energy comes from and what it costs. Often known as Community Choice Energy (CCE) or Aggregation (CCA), these entities can purchase electricity from suppliers of renewable energy or produce their own. The utility company in the area continues to handle transmission, distribution and billing.

8. Municipalization

Fourteen percent of US households are served by municipal electric utilities. The scan includes one example of a recent city attempt to take over energy production and services from a private utility. Other cities are considering doing the same to provide cleaner energy at lower cost to their residents.

9. Off-Grid Solar Projects

Our scan includes projects that bring solar power to residents in tribal communities. Some provide electricity for the first time because the communities are not connected to the grid.

10. Private Investment for Community Benefit

Investors seeking to take advantage of tax benefits for renewable energy production structure a project to provide low-cost energy to a community non-profit.

11. Public Support for Affordable Housing

A few projects, involving public financing, are meeting the challenge of making energy efficiency upgrades and renewables available to low-income housing developments.

12. Rural Electric Coop Reform

In theory, coops are democratic and accountable to their members, but in practice they often are not. One project in the scan is organizing to make rural coops more responsive and transparent.

13. Sustainable Energy Utility (SEU)

These nonprofit entities provide financing, technical assistance and business development for conservation, efficiency and renewable energy projects. SEU's leverage public dollars, such as bonds, to help residents, community institutions and government agencies "go green".

14. Technical Assistance to Farmers

These projects help small farmers retain their land and earn income by growing biomass crops for renewable energy production.

V. FIVE LEARNINGS FROM THE SCAN

1. Policies are critical to enabling successful practices.

One critical learning from the scan is that policies matter a lot. Community-scale energy projects are most vibrant and successful in states with policies that support or are friendly to community solutions, not just individual homeowners. The states with the most supportive policies are California, Colorado, Massachusetts, Maryland/DC area, Oregon, Washington and Vermont.

Some important supportive policies are:

- *Net metering*, which allows people to receive credits for generating solar electricity through their individual meters or through a shared master meter;
- *State tax credits* to support community renewable energy projects, so renters can participate, not just homeowners;
- *Solar Gardens* legislation mandating that utilities purchase energy generated through community solar;
- *Local and state laws that make it easier to incorporate cooperative enterprises*;
- *Streamlined permitting and zoning* practices making it simpler to install solar on homes, community institutions and public spaces;
- *Public ownership of utilities*, which have some accountability to residents and reinvest revenue in the community;
- *Renewable Portfolio Standards* mandating renewable production and distributed generation;
- *Community Choice Energy/Aggregation* policies that allow municipalities to choose their energy provider.

2. Access to financing is critical for energy democracy.

Many of the projects we included in the scan are in whiter and wealthier communities, and we could have included more, but projects that are up and running in communities of color are harder to find. Our research reveals a critical need for resources to make transformational projects happen,

especially in communities of color. While they have the ideas and enthusiasm, community of color organizations often lack the technical and financial capacity they need to create business plans, hire project managers and capitalize project development. Even where there are legal mandates, like the Colorado policy requiring that 5% of participants in solar gardens be low-income, there are no clear ways to implement the mandate. The Solar Gardens Fund is trying to create this opportunity, but it is in need of funding. In order to achieve racial equity in energy democracy, we need to solve financing issues. Multiple projects are underway to finance solar installations on community institutions, but more research is needed to identify financing strategies for community ownership.

3. A majority of models focus on bulk purchasing.

Bulk purchasing is the most common approach to lowering costs of efficiency upgrades, the price of solar installations and rates for renewable energy. By itself, bulk purchasing is not transformative, but it is an approach that can engage large numbers of individuals who could become a force not only for lower prices but for cleaner energy, more community control and greater racial equity.

4. Cooperatives are a popular and potentially transformative approach.

Cooperatives – both consumer and worker-owned – are an increasingly viable part of the new energy economy. Cooperatives not only employ a democratic process, but they build wealth in communities that reaches beyond their membership. Many communities of color are exploring cooperative models for their engagement in energy democracy. While cooperatives are viable, they can require an intensive amount of financing to move from idea to practice. More research is needed to understand how these models can be scaled and replicated to make an impact on the energy options for communities.

5. More investigation is needed to understand how projects can be replicated and scaled for greater impact.

While the scan uncovered an exciting array of projects that are moving communities toward a green energy future, we have more to learn about how the various strategies can have a larger impact. We need a deeper understanding of what policies and capacities are needed to support the replication of successful projects, particularly in communities of color where the challenges are greater. Elements for further research include models for community ownership, decision-making and planning; policy strategies to support community-scale projects; and financing options to facilitate expansion.

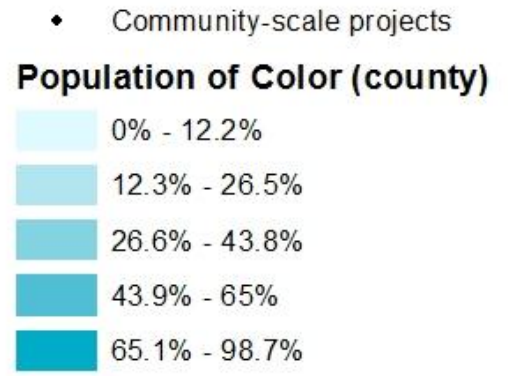
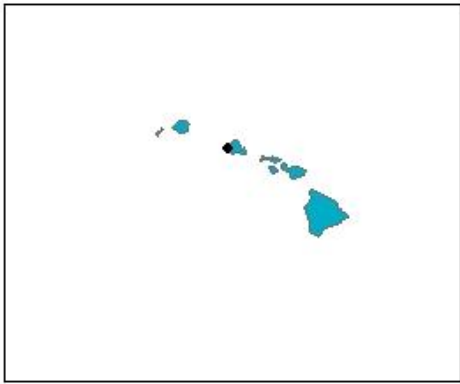
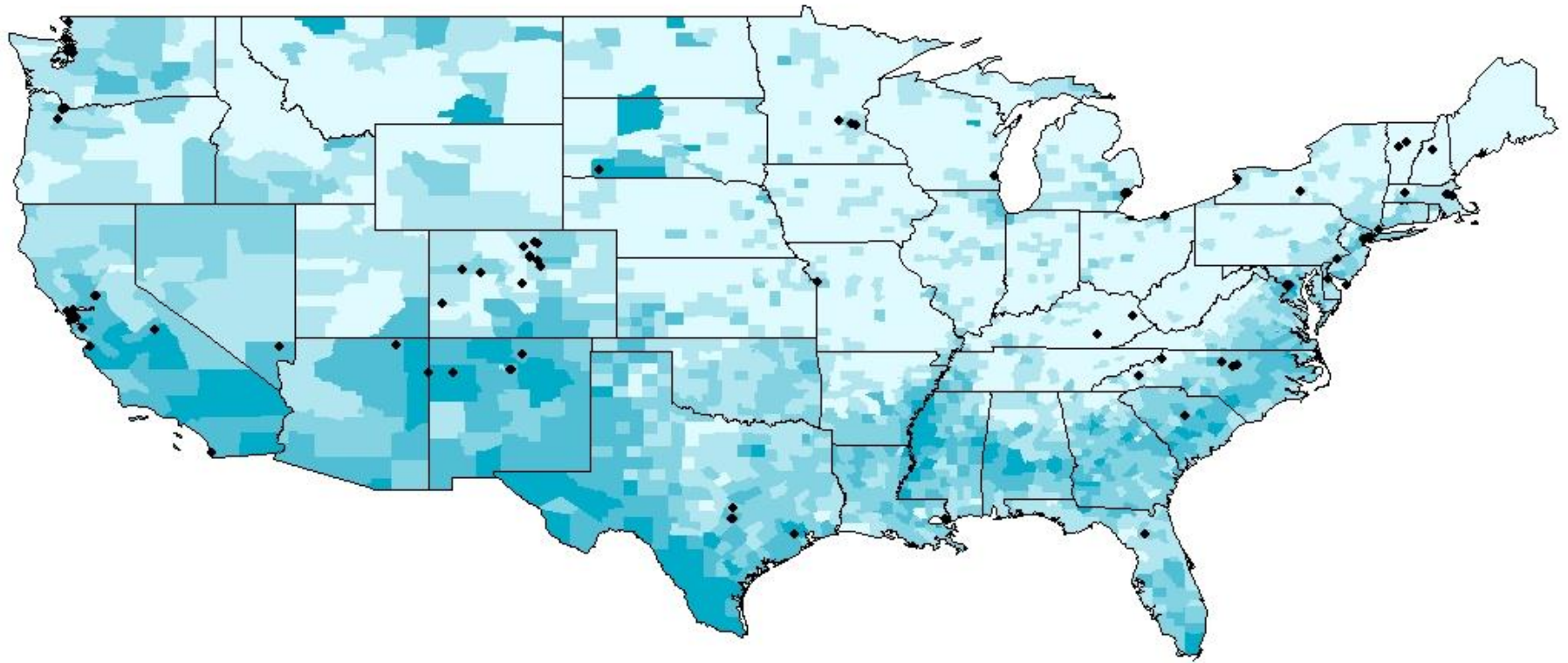
VI. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PHILANTHROPY

Funders concerned with climate change, community sustainability and racial equity can make meaningful investments in energy democracy. Our scan indicates that community-scale projects, particularly in communities of color, require three types of financial support:

- 1. Capacity building and technical support.** Many community of color led organizations need capacity building support to develop staff and leadership expertise in planning, communications and other skills needed to implement energy projects and campaigns. Some of the projects in the scan have made great progress, but need specialized technical assistance such as legal help to form an LLC, cooperative, or other structure; or help with business planning. Examples include Alliance for a Just Rebuilding in New York, the Boson CERO Cooperative and the Gulf Coast Center for Law and Policy in New Orleans.
- 2. Project development support.** Some projects are ready to go but need capital investments to support implementation. “Bricks and mortar” financing from foundations can be used to leverage additional private and public investment in infrastructure (purchasing of panels, installation, etc.) Examples include the Greater Woodward CDC’s North End Solar Project in Detroit and the Black Mesa Water Coalition in Arizona.
- 3. Support to replicate and take the work to the next level.** Some projects, like PUSH Green in Buffalo, New York, could be replicated or scaled up if they had more resources for expansion. In addition, investment in network building, applied research and policy advocacy would help refine, support and share successful project models. Organizations like the Center for Social Inclusion and the Climate Justice Alliance are leading in these areas.

**States and Cities of Community-scale Energy Efficiency
and Renewable Energy Projects and Race**

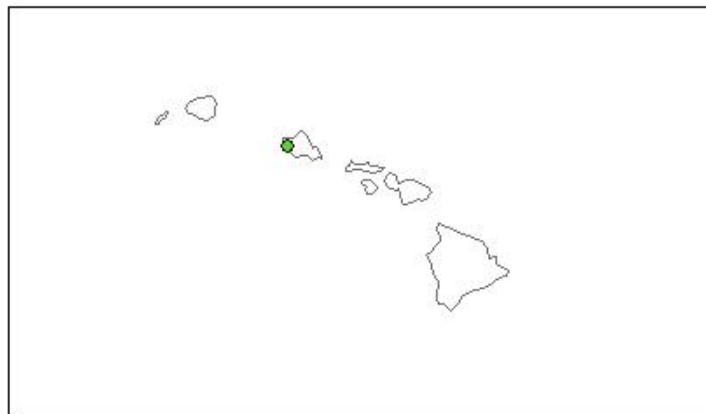
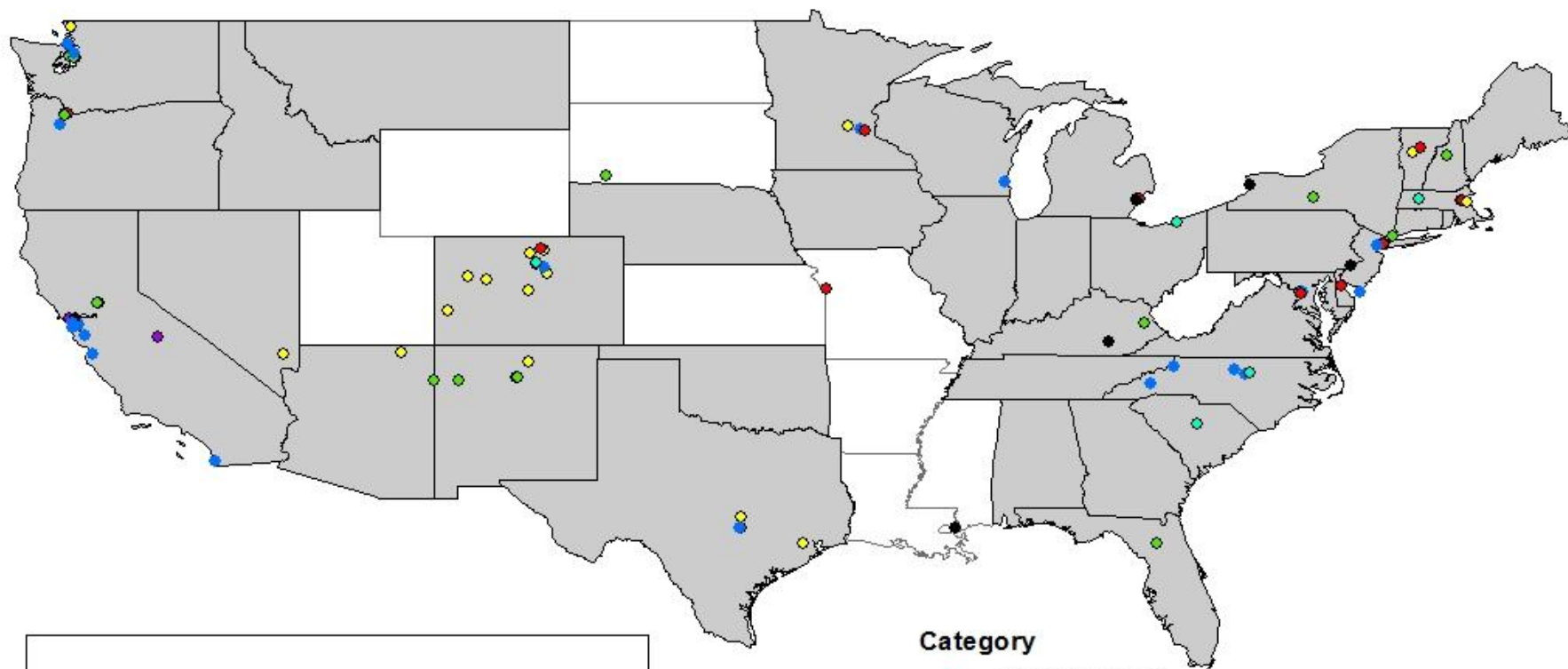
Source: U.S. Census, Research by CSI



Community-scale Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Projects

by Category

Source: U.S. Census, Research by CSI



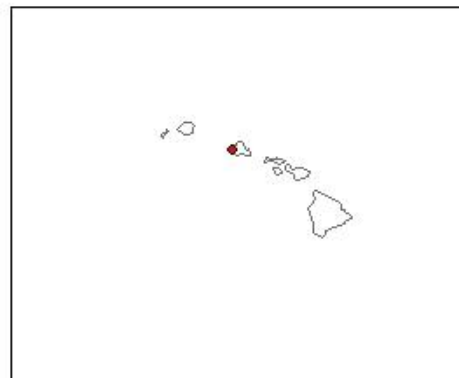
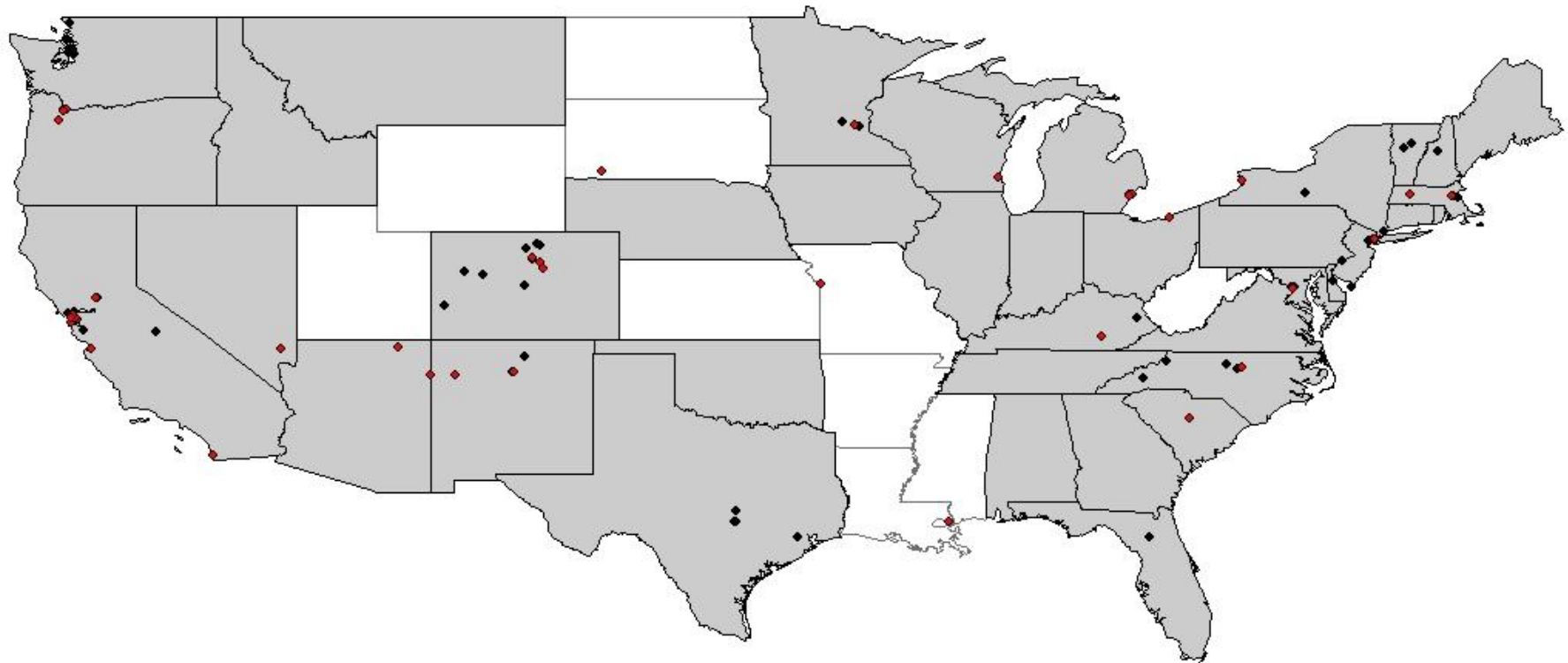
Category

- District Approach
- Efficiency and Renewables for Community Institutions
- Efficiency and Renewables for Homeowners
- Entrepreneurship
- Public Ownership
- Renewable Energy Farms
- Structural Change

■ States Participating in the Cool Congregation Challenge

**States and Cities of Community-scale Energy Efficiency
and Renewable Energy Projects focused on Racial Equity**

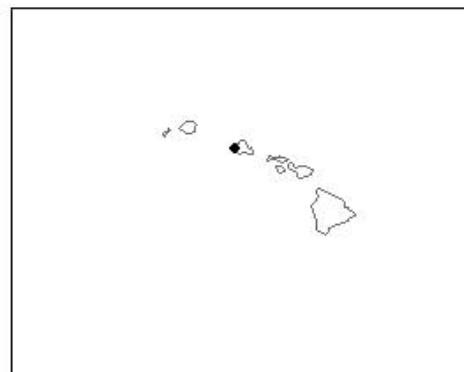
Source: U.S. Census, Research by CSI



- ◆ Projects focused on Racial Equity
- ◆ Community-scale projects
- States Participating in the Cool Congregation Challenge

**States and Cities of Community-scale Energy Efficiency
and Renewable Energy Projects led by Communities of Color**

Source: U.S. Census, Research by CSI



- ◆ Projects led by Communities of Color
- Community-scale projects
- States Participating in the Cool Congregation Challenge

Pilots/Efforts to Deploy Community-Scale Energy Efficiency and Renewable-Energy Generation

Project Name	Category	Approach	Short Description	Racial Equity**	Community of Color Led	City	State	For More Information
Agri-Tech Producers	Entrepreneurship	LLC	Agri-Tech Producers, LLC, a Black-owned company in South Carolina, has developed equipment that converts wood and other bio-crops into a renewable and carbon neutral fuel that utilities can use in place of coal. The equipment uses the torrefaction process, which involves heating biomass in a low oxygen environment. In addition to contributing to cleaner air, Agri-Tech's innovation will create larger markets for wood, switchgrass and other agricultural products, which will provide income for small farmers.	Yes	Yes	Columbia	SC	http://www.agri-techproducers.com/default.html
AIRE: Appalachian Institute for Renewable Energy	Efficiency and Renewables for Community Institutions	LLC	The Appalachian Institute for Renewable Energy (AIRE) is a non-profit organization that works with churches, schools, local governments and other community groups to help them develop and own renewable energy systems. AIRE helps identify investors in the community and assists them in forming an LLC that owns the system and receives a modest return on investment. After 5-10 years, when the system is paid for, the LCC donates or sells it at a fraction of its cost to the community institution, which then receives 100% of the benefits. AIRE has shown potential for replicability as it has successfully completed four projects.			Boone	NC	http://aire-nc.org/
AIRE: Boone Community Solar Pilot Project	Efficiency and Renewables for Community Institutions	LLC	The Appalachian Institute for Renewable Energy (AIRE) developed its first pilot project in 2009, a 2.4 kW solar array installed on a greenhouse in downtown Boone, NC, financed by a small group of individuals. This project was designed to demonstrate how community solar projects could work. To date, the project has created over 12,000 kWh and saved over 20,000 pounds of carbon.			Boone	NC	http://aire-nc.org/community-megawatt



**These projects have an explicit goal of advancing racial equity or primarily benefit people of color.

Pilots/Efforts to Deploy Community-Scale Energy Efficiency and Renewable-Energy Generation								
Project Name	Category	Approach	Short Description	Racial Equity**	Community of Color Led	City	State	For More Information
AIRE: Carrboro Community Solar	Efficiency and Renewables for Community Institutions	LLC	In January of 2013, Carrboro became the second community to utilize AIRE's Social Finance Model and form an LLC. The Carrboro Community Solar LLC utilized state and federal tax credits to finance a 5 kW solar system, which was installed on the Farmers Market building of the Town Commons. The investors expect payback over a six-year period and then will donate the panels to the town to ensure that residents benefit from the clean energy generated.			Carrboro	NC	http://carrborosolar.com/#why-solar
AIRE: Elon Community Solar	Efficiency and Renewables for Community Institutions	LLC	Working with AIRE and its social financing model, Elon Community Church (ECC) in Elon, NC, installed a 5 kW solar system on its Community Life Center. AIRE helped ECC's Green Church Committee identify community members who became the investors in the project through an LLC. With tax benefits and revenues from the system, investors will be paid back over a six-year period and then donate or sell the panels at a deep discount to the church. Meanwhile, the church will save over \$1,100 in electric costs per year, which can be reinvested in services benefitting the community.			Elon	NC	http://www.communitypowerreport.com/2013/04/solar-system-to-save-elon-community.html
AIRE: First Congregational United Church of Christ Solar	Efficiency and Renewables for Community Institutions	LLC	First Church Solar in Asheville, NC, was the first project to utilize AIRE's innovative social finance model, which creates an LLC so investors can take advantage of state and federal tax incentives and rebates for solar projects. Nine church members formed the LLC and raised the necessary capital to install a 10 kW system (42 panels). The investors will donate the panels to the Church after their costs are recovered in about six years. First Church Solar, LLC raised more money than the project cost and plans to finance another project in the community.			Asheville	NC	http://www.ucc.org/news/north-carolina-ucc-paves-the.html

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Project Name	Category	Approach	Short Description	Racial Equity**	Community of Color Led	City	State	For More Information
Alliance for a Just Rebuilding	Structural Change	Community Organizing	The Alliance for a Just Rebuilding (AJR) is comprised of over 50 community, faith, labor and environmental organizations in New York City working together to ensure that funds for Hurricane Sandy rebuilding create good jobs, affordable housing and sustainable energy infrastructure, and that vulnerable communities have a greater voice in the planning process. AJR is advocating for funds to support "green, low-cost, non-profit power generation with community ownership in storm-affected neighborhoods" and for reforms that will make the state Public Service Commission "account for equitable economic impacts in allocation of billions in energy infrastructure dollars" including creating "a climate justice fund for investment in low-income communities vulnerable to climate events". AJR also proposed as part of the recovery plan upgrading public housing with Combined Heat & Power (CHP) and using the savings on energy costs to pay for building repairs.	Yes	Yes	New York	NY	http://www.rebuildajustny.org/
Black Family Land Trust - Farming for the 21st Century	Entrepreneurship	Technical assistance to farmers	The Black Family Land Trust (BFLT) is dedicated to preserving African American land ownership in the South. Its Wealth Retention and Asset Protection (WRAP) project, funded by USDA, assists landowners with strategies for financial security, conservation and renewable energy development. By growing crops or harvesting trees that can be used to create biofuels, farmers utilize their land to generate income. BFLT is currently implementing the financial security education and outreach program of the WRAP project.	Yes	Yes	Durham	NC	www.bflt.org
Boston Energy Service Cooperative	Entrepreneurship	Employee Cooperative	Three community of color organizations in Boston – Alternatives for Communities and the Environment, Boston Workers Alliance and Chinese Progressive Association – came together to create a worker-owned cooperative that would weatherize homes in low-income, community of color neighborhoods that mainstream weatherization businesses ignore. The Cooperative would hire youth of color who graduated through green training programs and weatherize homes in Roxbury and Dorchester at an affordable price. As detailed in a CSI case study, <i>Energy Democracy: Community-scale Innovation in Boston</i> , the project is currently on hold. After developing a feasible business plan the project was stalled due to limited financial resources and internal capacity.	Yes	Yes	Boston	MA	http://www.centerforsocialinclusion.org/energy-democracy-community-innovation-in-boston-a-case-study/



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Boulder Municipalization	Public Ownership	Municipalization	Voters in Boulder, CO, approved ballot measures in November 2011 authorizing the city to create a municipal electric utility company. Joining the 14% of US electric customers already served by public utilities would give Boulder residents the opportunity to fight climate change and build wealth within their community by relying more on distributed generation and community-scale solar. To implement the plan, the city must acquire distribution and generation facilities from Xcel, the investor owned utility that serves the area. The process will take several years. Meanwhile, Xcel is resisting the move, and a new ballot measure could derail the project.			Boulder	CO	http://www.bouldercolorado.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=17964&Itemid=4636
Capaces Leadership Institute	Efficiency and Renewables for Community Institutions	Community Organizing	CAPACES Leadership Institute (CLI) prepares grassroots leaders for staff and board roles in social justice organizations related to PCUN, the Oregon farmworker movement. Its training center in Woodburn, OR, is the first certified "passive" office building in the country. Utilizing superinsulation, passive solar, natural ventilation and a green roof, the building requires very little energy for heating and cooling. Besides saving CLI money and being a model for green design, the building created an opportunity to train immigrant workers in green building techniques and to foster dialogue between Latino activists and green activists.	Yes	Yes	Woodburn	OR	http://capacesleadership.org/the-center/
Cascade Community Wind	Renewable Energy Farms	Virtual Ownership	Cascade Community Wind Co. (CCWC) devised an inventive way of financing community-supported wind projects, which are costly to construct but provide clean, economical, local energy. CCWC offers "subscriptions" for one percent of a turbine's cost, sells the power to the local utility under a 20-year contract and divides the income among subscribers. Payments are actually made as credits on the subscriber's electric bill and CCWC estimates that over 20 years subscribers will receive as much as 40% more than their one-time subscription fee. Using this method, CCWC developed three wind projects in rural Washington. Changes in tax incentives and the lower price of electricity because of fracking for natural gas have made it difficult to develop new projects.			Bellingham	WA	http://cascadecommunitywind.com/

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Pilots/Efforts to Deploy Community-Scale Energy Efficiency and Renewable-Energy Generation								
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CEC: Clean Energy Collective	Renewable Energy Farms	Virtual Ownership	<p>The Clean Energy Collective (CEC) developed RemoteMeter software that allows utility customers to purchase panels that are part of a community solar array and get credit on their monthly electric bills for the energy generated, something that was only possible before in the eight states that have Virtual Net Metering. CEC develops utility-scale (500 kW to 50 MW) projects in partnership with an electrical cooperative, public utility or investor owned utility that wants, or is required by Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS), to increase their use of green energy. CEC constructs, funds and maintains the solar array using bulk purchasing to save on the price of panels.</p> <p>The model allows individuals, businesses or nonprofits to own as much solar generating capacity as they want or can afford regardless of whether they own property. Details vary but for CEC's first project panels cost about \$750 each. Low-cost long-term loans were available and the utility guaranteed panel owners a premium rate for the energy produced, which means the investment will be paid off in as little as 13 years while the panels will last over 50 years. CEC is a private company. It has developed projects in Colorado, New Mexico and Minnesota (which are included in this scan).</p>			Carbondale	CO	http://www.easycleanenergy.com/news.aspx and http://www.communitypowerreport.com/2013/01/united-states-largest-community-owned.html
CEC: Holy Cross LLC	Renewable Energy Farms	Virtual Ownership	<p>The Clean Energy Collective's first project was a 77.7 kwh solar array developed in cooperation with Holy Cross Energy in northwest Colorado. Holy Cross subscribers could buy into the project for \$725 per panel and receive credits on their electric bills for their share of the power produced. The estimated payback on the initial investment is 12.5 years and the credits will continue for 50 years, the lifetime of the system.</p>			Rifle	CO	http://nwcommunityenergy.org/solar/solar-case-studies/CEC_colorado
CEC: Kit Carson Electric Coop Solar Garden	Renewable Energy Farms	Virtual Ownership	<p>The Kit Carson Electric Cooperative (KCEC) worked with the Clean Energy Collective to develop the first community solar array in New Mexico. The 420 panels are installed in a parking canopy design behind the Taos Charter School. KCEC members who purchased panels receive a guaranteed credit on their electric bills for the power produced.</p>			Taos	NM	http://www.taosnews.com/news/article_38054dco-db37-11e1-8df1-001a4bcf887a.html

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Pilots/Efforts to Deploy Community-Scale Energy Efficiency and Renewable-Energy Generation								
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CEC: Marshall Landfill Solar Array	Renewable Energy Farms	Virtual Ownership	The solar array developed by the Clean Energy Collective at the Marshall Landfill in Boulder, CO, is the first in the nation to be located at a Superfund site. The 2,000 solar panel facility is part of Xcel Energy's Solar Rewards Community Program, which gives its customers a chance to buy solar panels and receive credits on their bills for the power produced. This project was supported by the EPA's RE-Powering Brownfields program, which is critical to the development of renewables on former land liabilities, such as landfills, coalfields or other formerly toxic sites.			Boulder	CO	http://www.epa.gov/region08/superfund/co/marshall/
CEC: Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association Solar Farm	Renewable Energy Farms	Virtual Ownership	Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association (PVREA); the city of Fort Collins, CO; and the Clean Energy Collective (CEC) collaborated to develop the first community solar farm in Northern Colorado. The 449 panel solar farm went online in August 2012 with generating capacity of up to 116,000 watts of energy. Panels are owned by PVREA subscribers who receive a monthly credit on their bill relative to the energy created. The partners have now signed an agreement to develop a second solar farm that will be four times the size of the first.			Fort Collins	CO	http://www.pvreasolar.com/
CEC: San Miguel Solar	Renewable Energy Farms	Virtual Ownership	The largest community-owned solar project in the country was developed by Clean Energy Collective in collaboration with the San Miguel Power Association, an electric cooperative in northern Colorado. This 1.1 MW solar facility is spread across seven acres of land and has over 200 community owners. Panels cost \$740 dollars each and produce \$45 worth of energy each year. The panels are maintained by CEC for 50 years so consumers benefit from production without having to worry about maintenance costs.			San Miguel	CO	http://www.smpa.com/Service/SMPACommunitySolar.cfm

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Pilots/Efforts to Deploy Community-Scale Energy Efficiency and Renewable-Energy Generation								
Project Name	Category	Approach	Short Description	Racial Equity**	Community of Color Led	City	State	For More Information
CEC: Wright-Hennepin Electric Cooperative	Renewable Energy Farms	Virtual Ownership	In the first community-owned solar project in Minnesota, the Wright-Hennepin Electric Cooperative is teaming up with the Clean Energy Collective to provide customers in Rockford, MN, affordable opportunities to own solar panels. The project allows customers who may not own a home, or homeowners who cannot afford to put solar on their roof, to own panels in a community solar array. Panels start at \$86g. Participants will recover their investment in 12 years by receiving a credit on their electric bill for the energy created in addition to a share of the federal income tax credit. The project hosts 171 panels, with 17 customers owning from one to 27 panels.			Rockford	MN	http://www.whe.org/for-my-home/products-services/wh-solar-community.html
Clean Energy Works Oregon	Efficiency and Renewables for Homeowners	Local Government and Nonprofit Partnership	<p>Clean Energy Works Oregon (CEWO) is a non-profit dedicated to saving energy, reducing carbon dioxide emissions and creating green jobs by helping Oregonians make their homes more energy efficient. CEWO connects homeowners with contractors, provides free home energy assessments, and offers no money down financing from its lending partners. Homeowners can get loans for up to \$30,000 for upgrades that are repaid over time through their utility bills.</p> <p>Recognizing that older homes may have problems that should be fixed prior to energy upgrades, CEWO lets participants use a portion of their loans for non-energy improvements such as outdated wiring. As of 2012, over 3000 homes had been upgraded, generating \$26 million in economic development, eliminating 5,095 tons of carbon emissions each year and creating 300 jobs. CEWO received \$20 million in seed funding from the U.S. Department of Energy's Better Buildings Neighborhood Program and worked closely with Portland's Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS) on program design and implementation.</p> <p>CEWO uses a High Road Agreement that sets workforce standards and provides incentives to contractors for employing a diverse workforce and for being or contracting with historically underrepresented businesses.</p>	Yes		Statewide	OR	http://www.cleanenergyworksoregon.org/ and http://newenergyeconomy.org/hopewell/
Coastal Community Action Program	Renewable Energy Farms	Private Investment for Non-profit Benefit	Wind power is providing a reliable revenue stream for the Coastal Community Action Program, an organization providing social services to low-income communities in southwest Washington including helping residents pay their energy bills. The four-turbine, 6 MW project generates 13,500,000 of kWh energy per year, delivering as much as \$500,000 for CCAP's programs. The State of Washington invested \$5 million, which leveraged \$15 million from major banks. The project is structured so that the investors take advantage of tax credits for the first seven years after which CCAP takes ownership.			Grayland	WA	http://www.coastalcap.org/

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Community Energy Solutions	Efficiency and Renewables for Community Institutions	LLC	Community Energy Solutions (CES) is a non-profit that organized a community-supported project to install a 5.1 kW solar system at Sakai Intermediate School on Bainbridge Island in 2009. CES also encourages homeowners and businesses to go solar and through its subsidiary, Community Solar Solutions, organizes educational workshops and bulk purchasing. Its Go Solar Bainbridge campaign doubled the amount of solar capacity on the island. In 2012, taking advantage of the state's Community Solar Enabling Act, that CES helped to get passed, the group organized 25 community members to invest in a 71.28 kW solar system on Bainbridge Island City Hall. The city saves on electricity and investors earn returns from the power generated.			Sakai	WA	http://nwcommunityenergy.org/solar/solar-case-studies/copy2_of_the-vineyard-energy-project
Community Power Works	Efficiency and Renewables for Homeowners	Local Government and Nonprofit Partnership	The City of Seattle used a \$20 million BetterBuildings grant from the US Department of Energy to launch Community Power Works, a one-stop shop for residential energy efficiency upgrades. Participants get home energy audits, connection to recommended contractors and access to rebates, on-bill financing or long-term loans from Puget Sound Cooperative Credit Union. More than 2,500 families have participated in the program. Community Power Works has also helped 49 small businesses and three major hospitals with energy upgrades. The program has created over 183,000 hours of work performed by 1,055 people.			Seattle	WA	https://www.communitypowerworks.org/
Community Purchasing Alliance	Structural Change	Bulk Purchasing	The Community Purchasing Alliance has over 130 churches, synagogues, mosques, schools and related organizations participating in its electricity, natural gas and waste hauling bulk purchasing procurements. More than 90% of participants choose to re-invest a meaningful portion of their savings in renewable energy or energy efficiency. Aggregating more than \$6.5 million in purchased services, the group has achieved more than \$600,000 in savings and more than \$75,000 in rebates. The organization is now in the process of expanding to offer 12 additional services (including office supplies, copy machine leasing, HVAC maintenance, cleaning services, food and landscaping) and is formally incorporating as a cooperative. Community Purchasing Alliance is currently sponsored by the Washington Interfaith Network.			Washington DC, Northern Virginia, Maryland	DC, VA, MD	http://www.windc-iaf.org/

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Community Solar Gardens	Renewable Energy Farms	Virtual Ownership	Community Solar Gardens is a statewide policy framework to encourage community ownership of solar projects in Colorado. The legislation allows utility subscribers to co-own solar arrays, opening up opportunities to renters as well as homeowners. Participants receive a credit on their electric bill for their share of the energy produced. Ten percent of the participants in each solar garden must be low-income. There are now multiple organizations developing solar gardens in the state including Sunshare in Colorado Springs, Clean Energy Collective in Carbondale and the Solar Gardens Institute. The Solar Gardens Institute, in particular, is working on financing opportunities for low-income participants.			Statewide	CO	http://www.solargardens.org/
Community Solar Gardens Inclusion Fund	Renewable Energy Farms	Revolving Loan Fund	Colorado's Solar Gardens legislation requires that 10% of the participants in any solar garden be low-income. To facilitate this, the Solar Gardens Institute (SGI) is developing an "Inclusion Fund" that will give low-income residents access to financing. The fund will utilize donations by wealthier participants willing to invest a portion of their earnings into the fund. Low-income participants will pay back loans over a 7 - 10 year period from the savings on their electric bills and then become outright owners of solar garden shares. SGI is seeking grants and capital investments to get the fund off the ground.	Yes		Statewide	CO	www.solargardensinstitute.org
Cool Congregations	Efficiency and Renewables for Community Institutions	Community Organizing	<p>Interfaith Power and Light (IPL) is an affiliation of religious institutions and churches responding to climate change as a matter of moral and ethical purpose. In addition to working on public policy and education, IPL pioneered the "Cool Congregations" campaign to help churches respond to climate change by investing in efficiency, renewable generation and water conservation. To become a Cool Congregation, churches must invest in the leadership capacity of their members around energy planning and post 10% or more in energy savings within the house of worship and/ or within members' households.</p> <p>In 2012, IPL named Cool Congregation Challenge winners including the Mercy Center in Madison, CT, which used energy abatement programs offered by their utility to invest in solar-powered hot water heaters cutting reliance on oil and removing 6.5 tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere per year. The Federation Church in Flagstaff, AZ, raised \$40,000 from its parishoners to invest in 132 solar panels to power 96% of the Church's use, saving \$350,000 over 40 years. First Universalist Church in Rockland, ME, helped low-income Mainers cut heating costs through community workshops to build thermal window inserts that are given away or sold at low cost. IPL provides start-up kits and other tools to help affiliates develop and implement their own strategies.</p>			Multiple Cities and Towns	AZ, CO, CA, CT, FL, GA, ID, IL, IN, IA, KY, ME, MD, MN, MT, NV, NH, NJ, NM, NY, NC, OH, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, VT, VA	http://www.coolcongregations.org/

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Co-op Power	Entrepreneurship	Consumer Cooperative	Co-op Power is a consumer-owned cooperative with a regional network of autonomous Local Organizing Councils working together to create "a multi-class, multi-racial movement for a sustainable and just energy future." Members get discounts on products and services and invest in local businesses decided on and developed by the Local Organizing Councils with help from local engineers, financial experts, green building specialists, community economic developers, lawyers and business planners. The businesses so far include Energia (a multi-family/commercial/residential energy efficiency business); Northeast Biodiesel (a 3.5 million gallon/year recycled vegetable oil biodiesel processing plant), five solar installation businesses, two green electrician businesses and a window restoration/thermal window insert fabrication business. The 450 members have invested more than \$320,000 in member equity. Coop Power also has raised \$840,000 in member loans and over \$850,000 in local investment to support the development of community-scale clean energy projects and to build the organization.	Yes		Franklin County, Hampshire County, Hampden County, East Boston and Southern Vermont	MA, VT	http://www.cooppower.coop/about-us
Cooperative Energy Futures: Energy Efficiency	Efficiency and Renewables for Homeowners	Bulk Purchasing	Cooperative Energy Futures (CEF) is an energy efficiency cooperative based in South Minneapolis that "empowers people to participate in simple climate solutions that work for everyone". CEF helps residents and local businesses in low-income communities save money on weatherization and solar panels through bulk purchasing. It conducts home energy workshops in English and Spanish and helps organize workparties where neighbors help weatherize each other's homes.	Yes		South Minneapolis	MN	http://cooperativeenergyfutures.com/
Cooperative Energy Futures: Solar	Efficiency and Renewables for Community Institutions	Crowdfunding	CEF's Grow Solar program supports residents and small businesses through the entire process of site assessment, financing options, expedited permitting, installation and interconnect agreements. In 2013 CEF is developing a community solar program that will allow renters, people with homes that are poor solar sites and people able to invest as little as \$500-\$1,000 to participate in owning clean energy through installations located on local businesses, places of worship, schools, non-profits or other local institutions. CEF piloted three 15-25 kW solar projects in 2012.	Yes		South Minneapolis	MN	http://cooperativeenergyfutures.com/

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Cooperative Energy Recycling and Organics (CERO)	Entrepreneurship	Employee Cooperative	The Boston Workers Alliance formed CERO, a multi-racial, multi-lingual, worker-owned cooperative that will provide waste management and recycling services to local businesses. Its longer range plan is to utilize vacant land in Roxbury/Dorchester to build an Eco-park that will be a model for a closed loop food system: growing food, turning food waste into compost and using compost to grow food. The final stage of their vision is to build a community-owned and operated anaerobic digester to create renewable energy for the community from the food waste they collect from customers. Currently, CERO has raised two-thirds of its capital costs and is seeking support for the remainder.	Yes	Yes	Boston	MA	http://bostonworkersalliance.org/
DC Solar United Neighborhoods (SUN) Cooperatives	Efficiency and Renewables for Homeowners	Bulk Purchasing	DC Sun is a coalition of neighborhood solar cooperatives and advocates "leading the charge to make Washington DC a solar city". The first DC solar coop was formed in 2008 in the Mt. Pleasant neighborhood where 50 residents installed solar on their roofs. As of August 2013, there are more than 10 coops covering all wards within the city. DC Sun helps with information and outreach about the steps involved in going solar, and it brings neighborhoods together to advocate for policies supporting solar, including a virtual net metering law that is making its way through the City Council. DC Sun has created the Community emPOWERment Fund to provide grants and loans to community organizations that can't afford to go solar on their own. Money for the fund comes from referral bonuses contractors provide when DC Sun or its members refer customers to them.			Washington DC	DC	https://sites.google.com/site/dcsolarunitedneighborhoods/
Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility	District Approach	SEU	Delaware's Sustainable Energy Utility (SEU) is "a nonprofit organization created by the state of Delaware to foster a sustainable energy future for the state through conservation, efficiencies and the use of renewable energy sources." Through its Energize Delaware initiative, the SEU promotes conservation programs like home energy audits and connects residents and businesses with financing options for energy upgrades. To finance large-scale projects, the Delaware SEU pioneered the use of tax-exempt Energy Efficiency Bonds. Its first \$72.5 million bond issue supported building upgrades for several state agencies and colleges including Delaware State University, a HCBU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities). The SEU also supported the development of Dover Sun Park, a 10 MW solar facility, through a Solar Renewable Energy Credit (SREC) procurement program.			Statewide	DE	http://www.energizedelaware.org/ and http://www.dcseu.com/

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District Energy St. Paul	District Approach	Local Government and Private Partnership	The city of St. Paul pioneered its district energy system in 1983 in partnership with the State of Minnesota, US Department of Energy and area businesses. Designed to provide reliable, economical heat to the downtown area through a centralized hot water system, District Energy St. Paul now heats over 190 buildings plus 300 homes. It added a cold water-cooling system in 1993, which serves 100 buildings. More recent innovations make the operation a leader in renewables. A combined heat and power (CHP) system uses renewable fuel from locally sourced recycled wood, like downed trees and branches, to produce 65 MW of thermal energy and 25 MW of electricity that is sold to the local utility. District Energy St. Paul also installed a 1.2 MW solar hot water heater, the largest in the Midwest.			St. Paul	MN	http://www.districtenergy.com/inside-district-energy/history/
Ecodistricts	District Approach	Local Government and Private Partnership	The Portland Sustainability Institute (PoSI), now called EcoDistricts, pioneered the Ecodistrict model, a framework for public-private partnerships that focus on district-scale innovation and investment to build sustainable neighborhoods. The partnerships may include municipal agencies, policymakers, nonprofits, neighborhood civic organizations and businesses. The framework calls for a district organization that assesses the needs of a community and develops plans for equitable development, health and wellbeing, community identity, access and mobility, and energy use. Ecodistricts invest in transportation alternatives, redevelopment of vacant or underutilized properties, green building, water resource management, energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy generation. There are five pilot Ecodistricts in Portland, which are now administered by the City's Bureau of Planning and Sustainability. EcoDistricts, the organization, is now working beyond Portland and providing "a convening, advocacy, technical assistance and research platform to inform and drive EcoDistrict innovation".			Portland	OR	http://ecodistricts.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/EcoDistricts-Framework.pdf
Ecodistricts: Boston Innovation District	District Approach	Local Government and Private Partnership	Located near Boston's airport and harbor, the Innovation District has over 1,000 acres of previously undeveloped and vacant urban land. The city is working with local entrepreneurs to identify job opportunities and small business incubation strategies, develop workforce housing, and provide clean energy through a high-efficiency district utility system.			Boston	MA	http://www.innovationdistrict.org/about-2/the-strategy/

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Ecodistricts: Capitol Hill Housing	District Approach	Local Government and Private Partnership	Capitol Hill Housing is a public corporation organized by the City of Seattle to serve the needs of low-income communities in the Capitol Hill section of the city. Capitol Hill Housing is using the Ecodistrict model to bring together city agencies and neighborhood organizations to develop and implement sustainability goals in the community, including energy efficiency projects. The overarching goal of the plan is to improve the neighborhood's vibrancy, economic and ecological health and support local neighborhood innovation.			Seattle	WA	http://www.capitolhillhousing.org
Ecodistricts: Central Corridor	District Approach	Local Government and Private Partnership	San Francisco's first pilot Ecodistrict project will develop mixed-use, underdeveloped and undeveloped land into a sustainable community. Led by the city planning office, this Ecodistrict plans to build 10,000 new housing units and create 35,000 new jobs. Investment will occur around sustainable housing, community-scale renewable energy development, improved energy efficiency through weatherization and combined power and heating programs, urban agriculture and water recycling.			San Francisco	CA	http://www.sf-planning.org/ftp/files/plans-and-programs/emerging_issues/sustainable-development/Central_Corridor_EcoDistrict_Program_Framework_10-23-2012.pdf
Ecodistricts: Seaholm	District Approach	Local Government and Private Partnership	Utilizing the Ecodistrict Framework, the city of Austin is embarking on the redevelopment of the Seaholm section of Austin by turning the old powerplant into an energy efficient and sustainable housing development with cultural amenities and green water treatment innovations.			Austin	TX	http://ecodistricts.org/cities/profiles/

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Ecodistricts: Southwest DC	District Approach	Local Government and Private Partnership	Led by the National Capital Planning Commission, this Ecodistrict will transform the area around the National Mall in Washington, DC, into a green and energy sustainable community. The plan includes stormwater management; reduction of waste; using recycled materials for building projects; generation of clean energy; and mixed-use development to create housing, jobs, and innovation.			Washington	DC	http://www.ncpc.gov/swecodistrict
Ecovillage Cohousing Cooperative Solar Project	Efficiency and Renewables for Homeowners	Housing Cooperative	<p>The Ecovillage Cohousing Cooperative in Ithaca NY installed a 50 kWh solar energy system that will offset 55%-60% of the residents' electricity use and eliminate over 250 tons of carbon emissions each year. While residents wanted to go solar, a project relying on 30 individual roofs and meters was too difficult, costly and cumbersome, and not all residents had the capacity to finance a solar project by themselves. Instead, they developed a community-scale solar array that connects to the grid by using four existing central connection nodes rather than having to create 30 new interconnections, which saved time and money. A new master smart metering system allows residents to be connected to the central project and receive tax and energy credits for their production.</p> <p>The entire project cost over \$275,000, which residents self-financed. Knowing that banks are wary of investing in small-scale solar, but also that banks are offering only 2% interest or less on savings, the project managers figured out a way to offer a 5% return on investment over a 20 year period while keeping electric rates the same as what residents were paying before the project was installed. After 20 years, all electricity created will basically be "free" energy – drastically reducing residential energy bills. The actual cost after state rebates and federal tax credits is estimated to be \$88,000. The project created four full time and four part-time jobs for community residents.</p>			Ithaca	NY	http://ecovillageithaca.org/evimisc/home_power_solar_article_2012.pdf
El Puente Leaders for Peace and Justice - Greenlight District and Solar Project	District Approach	Community Organizing	El Puente Leaders for Peace and Justice launched a 10-year initiative in 2011 to transform the area of Brooklyn that they named the Green Light District (GLD) into a more equitable and sustainable community. Developed by residents and other stakeholders, the GLD Community Declaration sets out wide-ranging goals including expanding local control of how energy is produced and used, reducing carbon emissions and creating green jobs. To begin, El Puente is working with NYSERDA's Green Jobs-Green NY program on outreach to community members about energy efficiency, including how to get rebates for upgrades. Longer term, GLD is seeking innovative solutions for local clean energy production.	Yes	Yes	Brooklyn	NY	http://www.elpuente.us/greenlight.html

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Estes Park Light & Power Renewable Energy Purchase Program	Renewable Energy Farms	Virtual Ownership	Estes Park Light and Power is a municipal utility that offers its customers the option of purchasing wind energy produced by the Platte River Power Authority, which is jointly owned by Estes Park and three other towns. Residential customers can buy 100 kWh blocks of wind power, which each add \$1.30 per month to their electric bills.			Estes Parks	CO	http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/TownofEstesPark/CBON/1251615341928
Evergreen Cooperatives Energy Solutions	Entrepreneurship	Employee Cooperative	Evergreen Energy Solutions (E2S) is part of the Evergreen Cooperatives Initiative in Cleveland, Ohio, formed to stabilize the Greater University Circle neighborhoods and create living wage jobs for the worker owners of each of its businesses. E2S designs and installs solar panel arrays for institutional, governmental and commercial markets. In some cases, E2S's role is complete once the installation is done. In others, it retains ownership of the solar panels and negotiates a Purchasing Power Agreement (PPA) with the building owner that pays a guaranteed rate for the power generated. E2S also provides energy audits and efficiency upgrades for residential and commercial customers. Its customers have included Cleveland Clinic, University Hospitals, Case Western Reserve University, City of Cleveland, City of Euclid and the Cleveland Housing Network.	Yes	Yes	Cleveland	OH	http://evergreencooperatives.com/business/evergreen-energy-solutions/about/ and http://www.catamountsolar.com/
Florida Avenue Baptist Church Solar Project	Efficiency and Renewables for Community Institutions	LLC	Florida Avenue Baptist was the first Black church in DC to be solar powered. Church members formed LeDroit Park Limited Liability Corporation (LLC) and partnered with a renewable energy project development company to install a 10 kW system on the roof of the church, reducing its electric bill and its carbon footprint. The LLC owns and operates the solar system and sells the electricity generated to the church at a lower rate than it previously paid through a Power Purchase Agreement. The church plans to further develop its Green Ministry helping members to make their homes more energy efficient.	Yes	Yes	Washington	DC	http://www.flavbc.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=53&Itemid=83

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Forest County Potawatomi Community Project	Efficiency and Renewables for Community Institutions	Federal and Tribal Partnership	As a step toward the long-term goal of reducing their carbon footprint to zero, the Forest County Potawatomi are developing solar and biogas systems to power their tribal facilities in Milwaukee and generate electricity they can sell to the local utility. The first project is a 30 kW solar system on the roof of the tribal administration building that was funded in part by a Department of Energy Community Renewable Energy Deployment grant. The second is a 2 MW anaerobic digester and biogas generation facility that turns waste from food processing into enough electricity to power 1,500 homes.	Yes	Yes	Forest County	WI	https://www1.eere.energy.gov/office_eere/de_commre_potawatomi.html
FortZED	District Approach	Local Government and Private Partnership	FortZED (Zero Energy District) is a partnership between local government, academia and industry with the goal of turning downtown Fort Collins and the Colorado State University campus into a net zero energy community by investing in conservation, efficiency, renewable energy and smart technologies. Strategies to achieve net zero include retrofitting buildings to reduce use, increasing local renewable generation and updating antiquated infrastructure with smart grid technology. Fort Zed received a \$6.3 million grant from US DOE and \$5 million matching funds from local business and philanthropy as well as a state grant of \$778,000, plus \$2 million in local matching funds. The installation of technologies to help integrate renewable energy into the grid is complete, and efforts to engage residents around home energy efficiency are underway.			Fort Collins	CO	http://fortzed.com/img/site_specific/uploads/Flyer_FortZED_CommunityEnergychallenge.pdf
Gainesville Feed in Tariff	Efficiency and Renewables for Homeowners	Feed-in-Tariff	In 2009, Gainesville, Florida became the first city in the US to provide Feed in Tariff (FIT) contracts to support solar production by its residents. FITs are a contract between solar producers and a utility company that guarantees payment over a number of years, typically 20. FIT's are recognized as a critical way to finance community-scale solar because the dedicated payment stream can help residents secure financing. Prior to the FIT, Gainesville had a total capacity of 328 kWh of solar production. By 2010, one year after it was implemented, solar capacity jumped to 2,013 kWh. Residents receive 32 cents per kWh of extra solar power they generate that goes to the grid. The payment is locked in for 20 years and it is estimated that resident producers receive about 4% -5% return each year of what they invested into the solar project. The FiT is administered by the Gainesville Regional Utility, the fifth largest municipally-owned utility in the nation.			Gainesville	FL	http://solarfinancing.1bog.org/feed-in-tariffs/florida-feed-in-tariff/

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Project Name	Category	Approach	Short Description	Racial Equity**	Community of Color Led	City	State	For More Information
Georgetown Landfill Solar Project	Renewable Energy Farms	Virtual Ownership	The city of Georgetown, TX, is turning its brownfield into a greenfield. Rezoning the landfill for solar development, Georgetown's municipal utility is planning a community-owned 2 MW solar project to power over 550 homes. The project gives residents who want to go solar but do not own a home, do not live in the right location or cannot afford the upfront cost the opportunity to buy into a city-run program.			Georgetown	TX	http://www.statesman.com/news/news/local/georgetown-rezoning-land-for-community-solar-project/nSLP4/ ; https://conservation.georgetown.org/
Greater Woodward CDC North End Solar Project	Renewable Energy Farms	Non-profit - Energy Company Partnership	Committed to sustainable development that creates jobs and housing, Greater Woodward CDC is developing a net zero house in the North Woodward section of Detroit as a model for green technology and a gathering space for the community. The house is now partially powered by solar and rehabbed to be energy efficient. The CDC hopes to develop more net zero houses as "solar hubs" for local business development/entrepreneurs and as affordable housing. In addition, the CDC is partnering with E-Three Labs and the US Solar and Wind Company to develop a 2 MW urban solar farm, the first in the city of Detroit. The solar farm will power 20 homes and create job opportunities for some of the community's unemployed and re-entry population. Over the life of the system, it will remove 2,800 tons of carbon from the air.	Yes	Yes	Detroit	MI	http://greaterwoodwardcdc.org/?page_id=246
Green Impact Zone	District Approach	Local Government and Private Partnership	The Green Impact Zone is a blighted 150 square block area of Kansas City, MO, where leaders of 10 neighborhood and community development organizations are working together, along with city agencies and other partners, to develop a model sustainable community. The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC), a nonprofit metropolitan planning organization, provides administrative support. The idea is to concentrate resources – including support from several federal sources – in a specific area to demonstrate that a targeted effort can transform a community. To make the zone a model for energy efficiency, programs include weatherization of homes and businesses and installation of a smart grid to support demand-response energy systems and the potential for renewable energy generation. Initial support for the Green Impact Zone came from federal stimulus funds; ongoing funding is a challenge.	Yes	Yes	Kansas City	MO	http://www.greenimpactzone.org/About/index.aspx

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Pilots/Efforts to Deploy Community-Scale Energy Efficiency and Renewable-Energy Generation

Project Name	Category	Approach	Short Description	Racial Equity**	Community of Color Led	City	State	For More Information
Green Door Initiative	District Approach	Community Organizing	The Green Door Initiative (GDI) is a nonprofit organization that educates and engages Detroit residents around environmental health, climate change and sustainability. GDI emphasizes workforce development strategies to create sustainable, equitable and good paying jobs that will help Detroit weatherize its homes, build green buildings, and own its own energy resources from the ground-up. GDI's comprehensive job training program prepares workers for employment in the green economy.	Yes	Yes	Detroit	MI	http://greendoorinitiative.org/
Groundswell Community Power Project	Structural Change	Bulk purchasing	Groundswell aggregates the purchasing power of Washington, DC, and Maryland organizations and residents to negotiate for lower prices on electricity and efficiency upgrades plus social impacts like clean energy and green jobs. Over 100 religious, community and labor organizations have participated in Groundswell's Community Power Project, which solicits bids from competing suppliers of electricity. Participating organizations have saved up to 20% on their electric bills, and with 94% of them choosing to have their electricity come from wind or solar they've been driving providers to develop more renewable generation to meet this demand. Through the Strong Homes program, Groundswell brings neighbors together to get better prices from contractors on efficiency upgrades along with social commitments such as hiring locally and paying living wages. Groundswell has created an efficiency fund to give low-income residents the opportunity to participate.	Yes		Washington DC	Maryland	http://www.groundswell.org/programs/community-power/about
Gulf Coast Center for Law and Policy Climate Justice Campaign	Structural Change	Community Organizing	The Gulf Coast Center for Law and Policy (GCCLP) is a public interest law firm and justice center that post-hurricane Katrina has led efforts to build a multi-racial and cross-regional coalition around climate change and human rights. Following the 2010 BP Oil Spill, GCCLP convened several Peoples Movement Assemblies engaging African American, Native, Latino and Asian communities around the impact of climate change, extractive industries and local justice opportunities. In the Spring of 2013, GCCLP worked to connect law makers and advocates working on immigration reform to the realities of disaster migration in Black communities, both within and across US borders. Currently, GCCLP is advocating that RESTORE Act dollars, funded by oil spill penalties, go to projects that support community economic development for communities of color, particularly African American and Tribal residents of Louisiana, who are suffering from high unemployment. Secondly, GCCLP is building capacity for a climate justice campaign with regional tribal and Human Rights groups. The first phase, set to start in September 2013, will convene a Peoples Movement Assembly of leaders of color from throughout the Gulf Coast region to address the impact and intersection of climate change and systemic structural discrimination on marginalized communities, including new immigrant and indigenous communities. The second phase of this work will develop and implement strategies to create a more climate just Gulf Coast where people of color are included as decision-makers and owners of a more sustainable energy economy.	Yes	Yes	Slidell	LA	http://movingforwardgc.org/lawpolicy.php

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Pilots/Efforts to Deploy Community-Scale Energy Efficiency and Renewable-Energy Generation								
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Holmes Road Landfill Solar Project	Renewable Energy Farms	Local government and private partnership	The City of Houston is working with the federal EPA on a pilot project to turn a former brownfield into a renewable energy generating site. In partnership with the US Sustainable Business Council and the private energy company NRG, the project will generate over 12,500 kilowatts of energy, about 1 percent of the city's energy purchasing. The project is expected to spur a local market for solar energy systems and create jobs in the renewable energy field. In addition, project implementation will reduce the city's greenhouse gas emissions by providing an alternative source of power for municipal operations.			Houston	TX	http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/sustain_plts/factsheets/houston_susfs.pdf
How\$martKy	Efficiency and Renewables for Homeowners	On-bill financing	How\$martKy is a partnership between Mountain Association for Community Economic Development and four rural utility cooperatives in Eastern Kentucky. The program overcomes the biggest obstacle to energy retrofits for homeowners and small businesses by eliminating upfront payments. The utility conducts a house energy assessment and oversees the upgrades. Customers pay by installment as part of their monthly electric bill, which is lowered because of the energy savings. Renters are eligible as long as the property owner agrees.			Berea	KY	http://www.howsmartky.com/
Hull Wind Projects	Renewable Energy Farms	Local government and private partnership	Prompted by residents advocating for renewable energy, the municipal electric utility in Hull, MA, has installed two wind turbines that together produce over 10% of the town's electricity. Hull 1, commissioned in 2001 is a 660 kW system that in its first year eliminated the town's cost for street lighting and generated over \$150,000 from sales of RECs. Hull 2, commissioned in 2006, is a 1.8 MW system built on the site of a former landfill. Hull residents voted in favor of installation of four additional turbines to be located offshore. The town contracted with Vestas Wind Systems for the production and installation of the two wind projects.			Hull	MA	http://www.hullwind.org/

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Pilots/Efforts to Deploy Community-Scale Energy Efficiency and Renewable-Energy Generation								
Project Name	Category	Approach	Short Description	Racial Equity**	Community of Color Led	City	State	For More Information
Kaupuni Village	Efficiency and Renewables for Homeowners	Public Support for Affordable Housing	Kaupuni Village on the island of Oahu is the first net-zero energy affordable housing community in Hawai'i. Built on land provided by the Department of Hawai'ian Home Lands (DHHL), with support from the US Department of Energy, the village consists of 19 single-family homes and a community resource center. The buildings were designed to reduce energy consumption as much as possible and renewable energy fills the gap to make the overall development net zero. DHHL's mission is to provide a permanent land base for native Hawai'ians, and all Kapuni Village homeowners were selected from its waiting list. In keeping with traditional cultural practices, residents have the capacity to raise fish and vegetables through aquaponics, and the community center is a gathering space for group activities.	Yes		Oahu	HI	http://www.nrel.gov/tech_deployment/news/2012/1875.html
Lakota Solar Enterprises	Efficiency and Renewables for Homeowners	Off-Grid Solar Projects	Lakota Solar Enterprises (LSE) is a Native American-owned renewable energy company on the Pine Ridge Reservation that manufactures and installs solar heaters. Through the Red Cloud Renewable Energy Center (RCREC), LSE trains others to do the same in their tribal communities. The heaters, which cost about \$2,000 installed, provide supplemental heat and significant savings for low-income families. RCREC, with support from the non-profit Trees, Water & People, has provided hands-on training to more than 150 Native Americans from all over the US, and more than 1,400 of the solar heaters have been installed.	Yes		Pine Ridge	SD	http://lakotasolarenterprises.com/
Living Cully	District Approach	Community Organizing	Cully is a primarily low-income and community of color neighborhood in NE Portland that has suffered the negative impacts of pollution and disinvestment. In 2010, three organizations in the neighborhood – Verde, Hacienda Community Development Corporation and Native American Youth and Family Center – established Living Cully: A Cully Ecodistrict to empower residents to make their community environmentally healthy and sustainable. Partnering with other community organizations, Living Cully transformed a former brownfield into a community farm and public park to offer a safe space for families to grow healthy food and youth to play. Hacienda CDC used green building practices, including solar hot water heating, in rehabbing 108 housing units and earned the first in the nation LEED Silver certification for a multi-family affordable housing project. Living Cully is also creating workforce opportunities and job training for green building work. A recent collaboration with Portland State University produced anti-displacement strategies to keep investment in building a more sustainable Cully neighborhood from leading to gentrification.	Yes	Yes	Portland	OR	http://verdenw.org/ ; http://letusbuildcullypark.org/

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Pilots/Efforts to Deploy Community-Scale Energy Efficiency and Renewable-Energy Generation

Project Name	Category	Approach	Short Description	Racial Equity**	Community of Color Led	City	State	For More Information
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Feed in Tariff Program	Efficiency and Renewables for Homeowners	Feed-in-Tariff	<p>In January 2013, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the city's municipal utility, became the largest provider of Feed in Tariffs (FiTs) in the country. FiTs are a contract between renewable energy producers and a utility company that guarantees payment over a number of years, typically 20. FiTs are recognized as a critical way to finance community-scale renewables because the dedicated payment stream can help residents secure financing. The Los Angeles program aims to create 100 MW of local renewable energy by 2016. While most projects are solar, all renewable energy resources are eligible. Projects can range from 30 kW to 3 MW in size. 20% of FiTs are reserved for small projects less than 150 kW.</p> <p>Further, the LADWP has worked to identify areas of high solar potential and high economic need (high economic need areas are defined as neighborhoods that have over 12% unemployment, 25% of population living under 150% of Median Household Income, and 50% of population having a High School degree or less). As of July 2013, there were over 35 solar projects participating in the FiT, 20 of which are located in zip codes with high solar potential and high economic need.</p>	Yes		Los Angeles	CA	www.ladwp.com/fit
Mad River Valley Energy Network	Renewable Energy Farms	Virtual Ownership	The Mad River Valley Energy Network was formed to develop community solar farms that will be owned by individual shareholders who will directly benefit from federal and state tax credits and incentives and see their portion of the power produced by the solar farm credited to their monthly utility bill. The project is still in the initial planning stages for how to install solar PV on top of an existing leach field.			Mad River Valley	VT	http://mrve.net/
Maine Feed in Tariff Program	Efficiency and Renewables for Homeowners	Feed-in-Tariff	In 2013, the state of Maine is considering making its Community-Based Renewable Energy Pilot Program permanent. Started in 2009, the program supports small-scale (under 10 MW) projects with at least 51% local ownership. Qualified projects are eligible for long-term contracts with utilities that buy the power they produce at a guaranteed rate of return, commonly known as Feed-in-Tariffs (FiTs). These contracts are recognized as a critical way to finance community-scale renewables because the dedicated payment stream can help residents secure financing. The pilot program was capped at 50 MW with 10MW reserved for projects with capacity less than 10kW. Maine's expanded program would provide financing for a range of projects guaranteeing a rate of return of 8% to 10% for solar PV and 3% to 7% for all other renewables. The contracts would last for 20 years and participants would be rewarded with extra financial incentives for using local content (such as solar panels produced in the state).			Statewide	Maine	http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/bills_126th/billtexts/SP036701.asp

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Marin Clean Energy	Public Ownership	Community Choice	Community Choice Aggregation (CCA), authorized by the California legislature in 2002, gives cities and counties a mechanism to move away from dirty energy, provide savings for residents and support local economic development. A CCA can negotiate a price for electricity from current renewable sources or develop new renewable generating capacity in the community. The existing utility company for the area continues to handle transmission, distribution, billing and other administrative matters. Marin County's CCA, known as Marin Clean Energy, is the only operative one so far. MCE offers two levels of service: Light Green (50% renewable energy sources) and Deep Green (100% renewable sources). The cost for Deep Green averages \$5 more per month. MCE is working on plans to develop its own generating capacity, which will contribute to the local economy.			San Rafael	CA	https://mcecleanenergy.com and http://www.localcleanenergy.org/resources/communitychoice and http://www.pluginillinois.org/MunicipalAggregationList.aspx
Moapa Solar Energy Center	Renewable Energy Farms	Federal and Tribal Partnership	The Moapa Solar Energy Center is a joint endeavor of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Moapa Band of Paiute Indians, Environmental Protection Agency, US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service to develop 200 MW of solar energy on a 1,000 acre site on the Moapa Reservation. The project "will help to provide a long-term, diverse, and viable economic revenue base and job opportunities for the Moapa Band while assisting Nevada and neighboring states meet their State renewable energy needs." Plans call for a PV solar project up to 100 MW utilizing 175,000 panels and a Concentrating Solar Power project that produces steam that is sent to a turbine to generate electricity.	Yes	Yes	Moapa	NV	http://www.moapasolarenergycenteris.com/index.html
Montpelier District Energy Project	District Approach	Local Government and Private Partnership	<p>The city of Montpelier is working with the state of Vermont and the US Department of Energy's Community Renewable Energy Deployment Project to create a three-pronged approach to energy efficiency and renewable generation in the city. First, Montpelier is investing in a \$4.9 million central district energy system that would heat state, city and private buildings within the capital district.</p> <p>Second, it will build a \$18.6 million central heating plant using forest-harvested wood as its energy source, moving away from reliance on oil and gas. The plant will create over 41 million thermal units that can heat up to 1.8 million square feet of building space, while generating an additional 1.8 million kWh of renewable electricity. The Department of Energy provided \$8 million dollars for this project.</p> <p>Third, the city has adopted a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) system that allows homeowners to finance energy retrofits, such as new windows or insulation, and renewable energy technology, such as solar panels, through their property tax bills. These payments stay with the property. So, if a homeowner moves the next owner takes on the costs. By 2015, Montpelier's goals are to have half of all homes and half of all buildings in the downtown district retrofitted.</p>			Montpelier	VT	https://www1.eere.energy.gov/office_eere/de_commre_montpelier.html

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Pilots/Efforts to Deploy Community-Scale Energy Efficiency and Renewable-Energy Generation								
Project Name	Category	Approach	Short Description	Racial Equity**	Community of Color Led	City	State	For More Information
Mosaic	Efficiency and Renewables for Community Institutions	Crowdfunding	Mosaic uses online crowdfunding to offer individuals a way to become investors in solar projects that benefit communities. Investors get a 4-5% rate of return. The community organizations, schools and housing developments where solar is installed save on electricity and reinvest their savings in serving the community. Once investors are paid, the solar panels belong to the host organization, which then reaps larger savings. Over \$2.1 million has been invested to date.			Multiple Cities and Towns	CA, NJ, NY, AZ and others	https://joinmosaic.com
Mosaic: Affordable Housing Development	Efficiency and Renewables for Community Institutions	Crowdfunding	Mosaic's first major offering to investors was in January 2013 to finance solar energy for four affordable housing developments in California. The online offering sold out in less than 24 hours, bringing in more than \$313,000 from over 400 investors. With shares priced at \$25, the average investment was \$700. The estimated rate of return is 4.5% over nine years. The performance of this initial offering demonstrated huge pent-up demand to invest in renewables and tremendous potential for non-profits to share in the benefits of going green. Mosaic has expanded to financing solar on schools in Colorado and community centers in New Jersey.			Multiple Cities and Towns	CA, NJ, NY, AZ and others	https://joinmosaic.com
Mosaic: Asian Resource Center Solar	Efficiency and Renewables for Community Institutions	Crowdfunding	The Oakland-based company, Mosaic, pioneered crowdfunding as way to raise money to bring solar energy to community-based non-profits. Its first pilot project used online contributions plus grants and a large donation to put 120 solar panels on the roof of the Asian Resource Center, a converted warehouse in Oakland's Chinatown that houses numerous non-profits, retail businesses, medical facilities and a community art gallery. The East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation (EBALDC), which owns and operates the building, had a long-standing interest in solar energy but couldn't afford the upfront costs or take advantage of tax credits that support renewables since it is a non-profit. With Mosaic's help, EBALDC has realized significant savings on utilities, which means it can continue to help its non-profit tenants serve the community by keeping their rents low.	Yes	Yes	Oakland	CA	https://joinmosaic.com

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Pilots/Efforts to Deploy Community-Scale Energy Efficiency and Renewable-Energy Generation								
Project Name	Category	Approach	Short Description	Racial Equity**	Community of Color Led	City	State	For More Information
Mosaic: People's Grocery Solar	Efficiency and Renewables for Community Institutions	Crowdfunding	For People's Grocery, Mosaic's second pilot site, going solar was an opportunity to live out the organization's mission to support a healthy community. The 9 kW project produced a 40% drop in the organization's energy bill, which freed up resources to invest in helping West Oakland residents create their own food businesses.	Yes	Yes	Oakland	CA	https://joinmosaic.com
Mosaic: St. Vincent dePaul Solar	Efficiency and Renewables for Community Institutions	Crowdfunding	Mosaic used crowdfunding to raise money for a 26 kW solar system on St. Vincent dePaul's roof. Within the first month, the organization's energy bill dropped \$1,800 – money that can help fund their programs like Kitchen of Champions, which prepares people for careers in the food and hospitality industry. SVdP saved space on the roof for a solar water system to cut hot water costs and envisions utilizing its 1,800 square foot warehouse in East Oakland for a 150 kW rooftop solar project.	Yes	Yes	Oakland	CA	https://joinmosaic.com
Mosaic: Youth Employment Project Solar	Efficiency and Renewables for Community Institutions	Crowdfunding	The first organization benefiting from Mosaic's new investment financing model was the Youth Employment Project (YEP), Oakland's largest youth employment training program. The 47 kW installation attracted over \$40,000 from 51 investors. A grant and tax rebates covered the rest of the cost.	Yes	Yes	Oakland	CA	https://joinmosaic.com

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Pilots/Efforts to Deploy Community-Scale Energy Efficiency and Renewable-Energy Generation								
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MPower Portland	Efficiency and Renewables for Homeowners	On-bill financing	MPower makes energy and water efficiency accessible for multi-family affordable housing properties in Oregon with no upfront costs to the owners. MPower offers technical support and financing for a range of building upgrades. Building owners repay 75% of MPower's investment through their utility bills, and the monthly fee is covered by what they save on energy. MPower is a partnership between Energy Trust of Oregon, Enterprise Community Partners, Green for All and Network for Oregon Affordable Housing, with \$18.1 million in funding from US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Craft 3, Clean Energy Works Oregon and the MacArthur Foundation. The building upgrades are done by contractors who abide by MPower's high road principles for local economic development, including paying family-supporting wages and providing career paths out of poverty. MPower's first big project is the Henry Building, a 153-unit SRO property in downtown Portland that offers transitional housing to under-served populations.	Yes		Portland	OR	http://www.chpc.net/dnld/04_MPowerOverview.pdf and http://www.craft3.org/About/newsroom/CustomersPartners/2013/01/04/mpower
Multifamily Affordable Solar Housing (MASH)	Efficiency and Renewables for Homeowners	Public Support for Affordable Housing	The California Solar Initiative (CSI), adopted by the state legislature, created the Multifamily Affordable Solar Housing (MASH) program to provide incentives for installing solar on multifamily affordable housing complexes. Landlords can apply for rebates, which are higher if the savings from the solar are shared with tenants. The Public Utility Commission reserved \$108 million dollars to fund MASH programs. As of August 2013, over \$28 million had been invested into 147 projects generating of 7.9 MW of solar energy. An additional \$45 million is dedicated to another 175 projects that will generate more than 13 MW of solar energy.	Yes		Statewide	CA	http://www.gosolarcalifornia.ca.gov/affordable/mash.php
Namaste Solar	Entrepreneurship	Employee Cooperative	Namaste Solar is an employee-owned cooperative that helps Colorado residents, businesses and nonprofits go solar by providing "one stop shopping" for planning, feasibility assessments, financing and installation. As a cooperative, profits are shared by the 52 employees, but 20% are set aside for grants to help finance commercial scale (up to 10 kW) systems for non-profit organizations in the Denver and Boulder area. This first of its kind grant program provides up to \$30,000 and Namaste helps find additional sponsors and donors to help with the cause. The coop has installed 31 projects through its version of corporate giving.	Yes		Boulder	CO	www.namastesolar.com

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Pilots/Efforts to Deploy Community-Scale Energy Efficiency and Renewable-Energy Generation								
Project Name	Category	Approach	Short Description	Racial Equity**	Community of Color Led	City	State	For More Information
Neighbor to Neighbor	Efficiency and Renewables for Homeowners	State-Municipal Partnership	The Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge was designed to encourage Connecticut residents to reduce their energy consumption through home energy assessments; efficiency upgrades, including switching to CFL light bulbs; and solar installations. The Challenge offered residents discounted rates for energy audits and connected them to state rebates and zero or low-interest loans for energy upgrades. Fourteen towns participated. For each individual action taken by a resident the town earned points toward rewards ranging from smart thermostats to electric vehicles. The Challenge was administered by the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund and supported by a \$4.17 million grant from the US Department of Energy's Better Buildings program.			Statewide	CT	http://ctenergychallenge.com/
New Energy Economy	Efficiency and Renewables for Community Institutions	Local Government and Nonprofit Partnership	New Energy Economy is a non-profit "dedicated to creating economic opportunity in New Mexico powered by clean energy". It works in partnership with diverse allies on energy policy reform and public education. It also aids communities, particular on tribal lands or in rural areas, with energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. In Santa Fe County, New Energy Economy helped install solar on the Tesque fire station, which will save the county money that can be invested in fire safety equipment that is critical as firefighters respond to the increasing number of wildfires connected to climate change. The organization also launched a Native Power Initiative, which is included in this scan.	Yes		Santa Fe	NM	http://newenergyeconomy.org/
New Energy Economy: Native Power	Efficiency and Renewables for Community Institutions	Local Government and Nonprofit Partnership	The Native Power Initiative was started by New Energy Economy to help bring community-scale energy efficiency and renewable energy to Navajo and Pueblo communities in New Mexico. Its first solar project, in partnership with the Navajo Nation Crown Point Chapter, provides 100% of the electricity for the Crownpoint Chapter House, home to the political and social gatherings for the community. The project utilizes 16 panels on a tracker that follows the path of the sun. Native Power's second partnership put a solar energy system on the Pueblo of Tesque's Taytsugeh Oweengeh Intergenerational Center. Both projects save money on energy that can be used to meet other community needs, and they demonstrate how solar can replace coal and uranium, two energy sources that have brought environmental disasters to Native communities in the region.	Yes		Navajo Nation	NM	http://newenergyeconomy.org/native-power/

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Our Power Campaign	Structural Change	Community Organizing	The Our Power Campaign is led by the Climate Justice Alliance, an affiliation of more than 35 community-based and movement support organizations working together to bring about a just transition from an economy based on unsustainable energy to one in which fairness, equity and a healthy environment are core values. The Our Power Campaign seeks to build local democratic economies and create 10 million good, green and family-supporting jobs for workers who are unemployed, underemployed or formerly employed by extreme energy industries. The campaign is kicking off pilot projects in three "hot spots" where community of color organizations are leading innovative efforts around clean energy.	Yes	Yes	National		http://www.ourpowercampaign.org
Our Power: Black Mesa Solar	Renewable Energy Farms	Community Organizing	The Black Mesa Water Coalition (BMWC), a Native American environmental justice organization, is leading the Just Transition Initiative in Arizona, one of three Our Power Campaign pilot sites. The area, which is sacred in Navajo and Hopi cultures, has been severely impacted by coal mining and coal fired power plants. BMWC is organizing to hold Peabody Coal accountable for the damage done to the community's environment, water and health. At the same time, it is working to replace the coal-fired plants with a large-scale community-owned solar project. The project would provide clean energy to the community and send the excess power to California, which currently depends on the area's coal-fired plants. Revenue from the solar project would support other sustainable businesses, creating green jobs and economic development for Native communities.	Yes	Yes	Black Mesa	AZ	http://www.blackmesawatercoalition.org/ourwork.html#greenjobs
Our Power: Detroit	Structural Change	Community Organizing	Despite its economic crisis and environmental pollution, Detroit is a center of innovation and opportunity where residents are organizing to eliminate pollution sources like trash incineration and leading efforts to use vacant land as an asset for agriculture and solar generation. As an Our Power Campaign Hot Spot, community leaders are coming together to develop a shared vision and strategy for a more sustainable and equitable local economy. The East Michigan Environmental Action Council (EMEAC) is the anchor organization for this broad-based effort called the Detroit Climate Justice Alliance.	Yes	Yes	Detroit	MI	http://www.emec.org/

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Our Power: Richmond	Structural Change	Community Choice	In Richmond, CA, a majority people of color city, residents have long suffered from environmental pollution, particularly from a massive Chevron oil refinery, and from high unemployment. The Asian Pacific Environmental Network and Communities for a Better Environment are leading the local Our Power Campaign to tackle both problems and build a more healthy and sustainable Richmond. Initially, they are working on policies to prohibit Chevron and other companies from refining dirty grades of oil, like tar sands. Second, they are taking advantage of California's Community Choice energy policy to push for investment in local, renewable energy projects that will create jobs for Richmond residents and help build a cleaner, more equitable economy.	Yes	Yes	Richmond	CA	http://www.ourpowercampaign.org/apen-cbe/
Plateau Solar Project	Efficiency and Renewables for Homeowners	Off-Grid Solar Projects	IINA Solutions, a Navajo non-profit, created the Plateau Solar Project to bring solar energy to elders living in remote areas of the Navajo Nation that are currently without electricity or running water. The Project builds off-grid solar systems for individual homes providing hot water and heating. Components include a water tank, 16 solar batteries, 2 kW solar PV electricity, solar thermal and hot air space heating and hot water heater. Phase 2 of the project would add compostable toilets and solar powered showers. With the assistance of USDA rural development funds, other grants and a solar contractor who volunteered his labor, the project has installed 37 systems. Transitioning the more than 18,000 Navajo homes that do not have electricity from kerosene to solar electricity would save them money, make the air cleaner and enhance the wellbeing of the community.	Yes		Navajo Nation	AZ	http://iinasolutions.com/tag/plateau-solar-project/
Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative (PAREI)	Efficiency and Renewables for Homeowners	Community Organizing	Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative (PAREI) is grassroots organization, which promotes energy conservation and renewable energy through education, community building and increasing accessibility to energy services. Its members are eligible for home energy assessments and discounts on clean energy products, and can get professional solar assessments and installation from PAREI's crew. Alternately, PAREI's Energy Raisers bring neighbors together in the tradition of a barn raising to install their own solar home energy systems. A member who works on two or three Energy Raisers can then host one at his or her home. PAREI has more than 400 members and has helped install 223 solar systems saving the equivalent of 57,980 gallons of oil per year. PAREI also offers support to other communities interested in adapting its model.			Plymouth	NH	http://www.plymouthenergy.org/

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PUSH Green	Structural Change	Bulk Purchasing	<p>PUSH Green NY is a community-based energy efficiency program created by People United for Sustainable Housing (PUSH) Buffalo to help residents, small businesses and non-profits get affordable efficiency upgrades and to create green jobs. PUSH NY bundles residents' purchasing power to negotiate with contractors for discounts on their services and commitments to hire local workers at living wages.</p> <p>The program's Community Energy Advocates go block-by-block to enlist residents who are primarily lower-income and people of color in the Friends and Neighbors Program. Once five or more homeowners who live close together agree to get energy assessments and upgrades from a single contractor, they are eligible for the negotiated discounts. The more neighbors who come together, the bigger the discount. PUSH NY also connects residents with on-bill financing made available through Green Jobs-Green New York, a program administered by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).</p>	Yes	Yes	Buffalo	NY	http://www.pushgreenwny.org/how-it-works and http://powerupcommunities.com/the-powerup-process/
Renew East Kentucky	Structural Change	Rural Electric Coop Reform	<p>Kentuckians for the Commonwealth is a grassroots membership organization that is promoting clean, affordable energy as part of a broad effort to bring about a just transition from reliance on coal production to a diverse, sustainable economy. A major part of the effort focuses on reforming Rural Electric Cooperatives to make them more democratic and accountable. The platform developed by KFTC members calls for coops to provide "affordable energy; clean, renewable energy choices; good local jobs; sound financial decisions; respect for landowners; open and fair elections; open meetings; and open records."</p>	Yes		Frankfort	KY	http://www.kftc.org/campaigns/renew-east-kentucky/reforming-the-electric-co-ops
RE-Volv	Efficiency and Renewables for Community Institutions	Revolving Loan Fund	<p>RE-Volv is a conduit for people to donate money to help build community solar energy projects. Donations are pooled to create a "Solar Seed Fund", which acts as a revolving loan fund to finance rooftop solar on community centers such as schools, hospitals and places of worship. Re-Volv installs the solar panels and leases them to the community centers for 20 years at rates that allow the centers to save on energy costs while Re-Volv recoups its costs and earns a small fee that goes back into the revolving loan fund. By enabling communities to go solar, Re-Volv aims to build greater public support for a renewable energy future. RE-Volv is in the early stages of development.</p>	Yes		San Francisco	CA	http://re-volv.org/

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Pilots/Efforts to Deploy Community-Scale Energy Efficiency and Renewable-Energy Generation

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Sacramento Municipal Utility District	Renewable Energy Farms	Virtual Ownership	<p>SMUD, the community-owned utility serving the Sacramento area, has been a leader in renewable energy since building the first utility-scale solar array in the country in 1984. SMUD purchases excess power from home solar systems and offers all customers the option of getting solar power through SolarShares. For a flat monthly fee, participants buy a share of a local solar farm and get credit on their bills for the amount of power generated by their share. Customers who join SMUD's Greenenergy program choose to get 50% of their electricity from renewable sources for an additional \$3 charge per month or 100% renewable for \$6 per month. Forty percent of Greenenergy payments are used to develop new local renewables like the three wind turbines at SMUD's Solano Wind Farm.</p> <p>A third option, SMUD's Carbon Offset Program, lets customers support projects that reduce greenhouse gas emission by paying an additional \$10 per month on their bill. A recently completed project is a dairy digester that uses methane from cow manure to run a turbine that makes electricity to power the dairy.</p>			Sacramento	CA	https://www.smud.org/en/residential/environment/solar-for-your-home/solar-leases.htm
Santa Clara Green Power	Efficiency and Renewables for Community Institutions	Virtual Ownership	<p>Santa Clara Green Power is a program that offers Silicon Valley Power customers the opportunity to get 100% of their electricity from renewable sources at low cost. Residential customers pay an extra 1.5 cents per kWh, which amounts to \$7.50 for the average resident who uses 500 kWh a month. Large commercial customers can purchase 100 kWh blocks for \$15 per block. Through their participation, subscribers also support the Neighborhood Solar program, which builds solar projects at schools and nonprofits in Santa Clara. Initial projects are at the Haman Elementary School and the Valley Village Retirement Center.</p>			Santa Clara	CA	https://siliconvalleypower.com/index.aspx?page=2013 and https://siliconvalleypower.com/index.aspx?page=2014
Seattle 2030 District	District Approach	Local Government and Private Partnership	<p>The Seattle 2030 District is a public-private partnership taking a district approach to improving energy efficiency in downtown Seattle to help meet the city's goal of carbon neutrality by 2030. The effort aims to reduce energy use in individual buildings and create opportunities for district-wide heat recovery, distributed generation and other efficiencies that reduce demand.</p>			Seattle	WA	http://www.2030district.org/seattle/

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Seattle City Light Community Solar	Efficiency and Renewables for Community Institutions	Virtual Ownership	Seattle's municipal utility, City Light, partnered with Seattle Parks and Recreation in its first community solar project completed in 2011 with assistance from NorthWest SEED (Sustainable Energy for Economic Development). They built three picnic shelters in Jefferson Park with roofs constructed of solar panels. The project will produce 24,000 kWh of electricity per year "enough to run 3 households or brew 146,000 pots of coffee". Any Seattle resident could participate by paying a one-time fee of \$600 per panel. Participants get credits on their electric bill for their share of the power produced plus state incentives. With over 450 residents participating, the pilot project was a big success and plans are underway for a second project.			Seattle	WA	http://www.seattle.gov/light/solar/Community.asp
Single Affordable Housing Solar (SASH)	Efficiency and Renewables for Homeowners	Public Support for Affordable Housing	SASH is a \$108 million dollar program created as part of a state law requiring that 10% of all California Solar Initiative (CSI) projects reach low-income communities. SASH is administered by the nonprofit organization Grid Alternatives and is open to customers of the three major utilities in the state – PG&E, SDG&E, and SCE. The program fully subsidizes a 1 kW solar system for single-family owner-occupied households whose household income is at or below 50 percent of the area median income (AMI). Partial subsidies are available for households with incomes less than 80% of AMI. Over 2,800 projects have been installed providing 8.7 MW of solar energy, with 1.8 MW of solar capacity left to install.	Yes		Statewide	CA	http://www.gridalternatives.org/sash/
Solarize Portland	Efficiency and Renewables for Homeowners	Bulk purchasing	Solarize Portland was a successful neighborhood-led group buying program for residential solar installations that launched in 2009. It was initially developed by Southeast Uplift, a neighborhood coalition in the Mt. Tabor area of Portland. As interest spread to other areas of the city, Portland's Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS) provided funding and staff resources to help the neighborhoods organize and build their own local programs. Neighbors in a participating community received technical assistance, went through a competitive process, selected a contractor and bought solar energy systems as a group, thus taking advantage of bulk purchasing power. Throughout the program, this led to savings of 15-20 percent and helped drive innovation in the regional solar market. With the addition of state tax credits and cash incentives, homeowners who participated in the program could recover up to 80% of the cost of solar installations.			Portland	OR	http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/51902

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Solarize Washington	Efficiency and Renewables for Homeowners	Bulk purchasing	Solarize Washington helps homeowners go solar by providing technical assistance, selecting contractors and bulk purchasing solar panels to save on upfront costs. In its first two years, the program installed over 1.2 MW of solar energy, a \$6 million investment in the local economy. Half of the installations were in the city of Seattle but about 30 communities around the state have expressed interest in bringing the program to their areas. Participating homeowners benefit from the federal production tax credits, state tax credits and "Buy Washington" provisions that reward purchasers of solar panels manufactured within the state by doubling the credit for each watt produced. Solarize Washington is a project of NorthWest SEED (Sustainable Energy for Economic Development), a nonprofit dedicated to "the development of clean energy with substantial community ownership and involvement."			Seattle	WA	http://solarizewa.org/get-started/northwest
Sonoma Clean Power	Public Ownership	Community Choice	Community Choice Aggregation (CCA), authorized by the California legislature in 2002, gives cities and counties a mechanism to move away from dirty energy, provide savings for residents and support local economic development. A CCA can negotiate a price for electricity from current renewable sources or develop new renewable generating capacity in the community. The existing utility company for the area continues to handle transmission, distribution, billing and other administrative matters. Sonoma Clean Power (SCP) is the second community choice program implemented in California. Community and environmental leaders built a broad coalition of support among businesses and residents to push for legislation granting the county authority to manage its own energy supply and sources. Currently, SCP is negotiating with an energy provider to provide the county with renewable energy and at lower electricity rates than current opportunities from PG&E. Once an agreement is in place, the SCP will sign on businesses and residents to participate in the community choice energy program. SCP is set to be in full operation by January of 2014. Additionally, the monetary savings from the CCA will be reinvested into locally generated and owned renewable energy projects within the county. To support this effort, the county is currently revamping its rezoning policies to support the development of renewable technologies on businesses and agricultural land.			Sonoma County	CA	http://www.scwa.ca.gov/ccaf
Tangerine Power	Efficiency and Renewables for Community Institutions	Crowdfunding	Tangerine Power develops community-scale solar energy projects financed by individuals who buy shares or "Sun Slices". The approach opens ownership to those who can't install solar on their homes or don't own their homes. A "Sun Slice" costs \$1,000. Purchasers are paid back over 7-10 years through an annual rebate or credit on their electric bill, depending on the project. So far, Tangerine Power has developed two community solar projects in Washington State.			Austin	TX	http://www.tangerinepower.com

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Tangerine Power: Edmonds Community Solar	Efficiency and Renewables for Community Institutions	Crowdfunding	Tangerine Power's first project was installed on the Frances Anderson Community Center in Edmonds, WA, saving the center money on its electric bills that can be invested into community programs and upkeep of facilities. More than 90 participants invested over \$173,000 and will receive payments on their investment through 2020. In addition to the payments, participants are eligible for the Washington State community solar tax credit.			Edmonds	WA	http://communitypowernetwork.com/node/222
Tangerine Power: Greenback Farm Island Community Solar	Efficiency and Renewables for Community Institutions	Crowdfunding	Greenbank Farm, a publicly owned farm in Whidbey Island, WA, is bringing its community-asset approach to solar production. With support from Tangerine Power, they are piloting a 25 kW solar array financed by investments from island residents and Puget Sound Energy customers anywhere in its service area. Twenty-three participants have invested over \$10,000 each in the solar project, expecting payback over a 10-year period. The project also has support from USDA's Rural Energy for America grants.			Whidbey Island	WA	http://greenbankfarm.biz/solar-installation/
The Energy Coop	Structural Change	Consumer Cooperative	Founded by a neighborhood food-coop in 1979 to use its members' purchasing power to negotiate discounts on home heating oil, the Energy Coop has expanded to five counties and added electricity to the energy services it provides. Because Pennsylvania has de-regulated electricity, consumers can choose among providers and Energy Coop offers the option of buying 100% from local renewable sources (99% from wind farms and 1% from rooftop solar) or 25% from renewables. The Coop also developed the BlackGold Biofuel business which turns restaurant and kitchen grease into biodiesel fuel for cars and trucks. The Coop spun off the production of biodiesel but continues as a distributor to large fleets, including numerous nearby school districts. With 7,500+ members, the Energy Co-op "seeks to influence the regional energy market towards more environmentally and economically responsible products, support our communities through a stronger economy and make our region more sustainable."			Philadelphia	PA	https://theenergy.coop/about/history

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Union County Renewable Energy Initiative	Efficiency and Renewables for Community Institutions	State-Municipal Partnership	In response to a state mandate that municipalities achieve 30% renewable power by 2020, Union County announced an initiative in 2010 that provided \$500,000 to help municipalities, public schools and other local authorities install solar or wind devices to generate renewable energy. The goals of the program were to build county-municipal partnerships, reduce reliance on retail electricity and offset the costs of renewable projects. The Union County Improvement Authority (UCIA) administered the program and all debt incurred for capital projects was structured and held by the Authority. Working through UCIA gave projects lower cost on site analysis and installation and better pricing for power purchasing agreements with private companies that would install, maintain and own the system. The local entities benefit by saving money on their energy bills that can be directed to other government services. More than 31 solar projects were installed on public buildings, which are expected to save taxpayers more than \$5 million dollars over 15 years. The Initiative ended in 2013. The County is considering a second round.			Elizabeth	NJ	http://www.ucianj.org/RenewEnergy.asp
University Park Community Solar	Efficiency and Renewables for Community Institutions	LLC	University Park Community Solar is an LLC formed by a group of residents to increase the use of solar power and reduce carbon emissions. Their first project installed a 22 kW system on the roof of University Park Church of the Brethren. The LLC sells electricity to the church at below-market rates and through net-metering receives payments from the local utility for any excess electricity that the church does not use. The LLC model allowed the investors to take advantage of federal and state incentives that a non-profit, like the church, could not access. The LLC also earns money by selling its solar renewable energy certificates (SRECs).			University Park	MD	http://solarpanelhost.org/garden/maryland/university-park-solar and http://www.greenbeltcommunitysolar.com/
Washington DC SEU	District Approach	SEU	The District of Columbia Sustainable Energy Utility (DC SEU) helps "District residents, businesses, and institutions save energy and money through energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. Homeowners can get up to \$1,000 in incentives for energy efficiency upgrades. All residents are eligible for rebates on energy saving appliances, heating systems and light bulbs. DC SEU offers rebates to businesses for upgrading to energy-efficient equipment and technical and financial incentives for energy efficient construction or rehabilitation of affordable multi-family housing developments. In FY 2012, its first year of operation, "DC SEU created 43 jobs, saved enough electricity to power 2,000 homes for a year, and invested \$4.7 million in energy efficiency improvements for low-income District residents." It "served 18,795 households, 11,395 of them low-income". DCSEU is led by the Sustainable Energy Partnership, a team of organizations, businesses and individuals knowledgeable in the energy field, under contract to the District Department of the Environment.	Yes		Washington	DC	www.dcseu.com

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