CA Disaster Strategies Coalition Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2020

Facilitator: June Kailes

Minutes: Megan Cowdell

# The California SGIP Program

1. Background of Program
   1. Self-Generation Incentive Program – initiated in 2001.
   2. Created during 2001 when there were frequent brownouts.
   3. Focus of the program changed in 2009 – focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
   4. Storage portion of the program grown since 2016.
   5. Hasn’t been used much for low-income and other disadvantaged communities.
2. CPUC Program Expansion 2019
   1. Concerned on people who had health related power needs.
   2. Created the Equity Resilience Budget - $100 Million
      1. Targeting customers on medical baseline or who have notified their utility they have a serious condition.
3. Equity Resilience Budget Eligibility
   1. Residential Customers & Non-Residential Customers
      1. ILCs are specifically included thanks to advocacy
   2. This budget is only for batteries – however, much larger than the average Yeti.
4. How does SGIP work?
   1. Reimbursements for installation of power storage.
      1. Funding for integrated systems, not something like a Yeti.
   2. Overview of the application process.
      1. Not quick, can take a year or two.
5. Limitations & Barriers to Participation
6. Experiences
   1. PG&E indicated they would provide backup power to common areas of an apartment complex – problem is getting owners to agree.
   2. Often the contractor will apply for you
   3. Difficult finding a contractor who will do a battery-only installation.
7. Discussion
   1. Since you were able to advocate to include ILCs, do you see other advocacy options in the future?
      1. Yeah. Unsure how much latitude the commission has and what changes would be operating beyond their legislative authority.
   2. Large barrier is it requires technology which needs to be installed in the building, really won’t work for renters. This might require legislation.
   3. There wasn’t inclusion of our community when creating this program.
   4. Are you connecting with Cal OES? If not, what is the reasoning?
      1. Reached out to Berkeley OES who shared there wasn’t any infrastructure for this.
      2. Suggestion to also attempt to have this conversation with the Governor’s office.
   5. How do we do our small part to contribute and move this forward more quickly?
      1. Can we use some of the money for bridge funding?
   6. What price points are we looking at?
      1. Batteries are a dollar a watt.
   7. PG&E is looking into paying half the upfront cost, then expecting the contractors to wait to receive the other half.
   8. ILCs are often renters as well, how do they get around the renter issue as a service organization?
      1. Worth asking the landlord what the back up is, especially for features like elevators.
   9. Could an ILC be part of the pilot program?
      1. Tried to get the Ed Robert’s Campus some funding
   10. Are there issues for people who live in condos?
       1. Could be complex as well, probably depends on the size of your condo and the condo association.
   11. What’s the size of a power wall?
       1. Vary in size, some are low profile, project about six inches from the wall. Can be as big as a refrigerator. Can theoretically be installed in an apartment or condo. Need to get an electrical permit.

# Listos Program Update

1. Currently in react mode with COVID-19, program designed to be a one-to-one person outreach.
   1. Moving all online may not be impactful, much of the community being served don’t have internet access.
   2. Needs to be figured out at a State level. How do you reach people when you have to stay put?
2. Funding for preparedness message for wildfire, flood, and earthquakes. Main large CBOs are funding local CBOs who work directly with individuals.
   1. It’s not just the hazards, but also the consequences of the hazard.

# Next Steps

1. ACTION ITEM: Email [megan@cfilc.org](mailto:megan@cfilc.org) if you would like to be added to the listserv.
2. Next Call: 3/26 @ 10:30 AM