

Meghan Duff, Association for Energy Affordability

Poster Title: All-Electric Affordable Multifamily: How to Do It

Abstract: To realize a decarbonized building stock, we must make all-electric new construction the standard, while working to wean existing buildings off of fossil fuels via electrification and renewables. In this session we aim to provide attendees with a simple framework for going all-electric for affordable multifamily buildings, both new and existing. The session will be structured around the following topics and focus on answering a number of questions for each: 1. How to Do It “ Technical and design challenges to electrification What changes in a building design when you eliminate fossil fuels and add renewables? What are the obstacles to electrification and associated solutions? What is needed to scale these approaches? 2. Getting to Yes “ Making the value proposition of electrification to owners Why should building owners and occupants want to electrify? What are some useful communication tools to address the uncertainty and discomfort with unfamiliar approaches? 3. Installation Considerations “ Working with contractors and subs What is needed to ensure contractor engagement and successful installation? 4. Show Me the Data “ Measured project performance Can electrification + PV reduce energy costs? What are the impacts of electric rates? Do heat pump water heating systems really operate as efficiently as the manufacturers say they do? We must scale up all-electric new construction and retrofits in affordable multifamily to provide healthier, more resilient homes and slow climate change. Attendees to this session will leave with solid knowledge of what challenges they are likely to face when going all-electric, and the tools to be confident they can successfully eliminate fossil fuels from their next project.