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Title: Shaping the Future of Energy Efficiency for Affordable Housing

Abstract: It has long been acknowledged that low-income energy consumers spend a greater percentage of their total income on energy bills than more moderate to affluent consumers. And at the same time, low-income consumers are typically considered "hard to reach" due to barriers like limited time, diverse languages, cost to consumer for efficiency improvements, and even limited availability of low-income-focused programs. To explore and begin to address this challenge in Oregon, Governor Kate Brown took bold action in 2017 by directing state agencies to chart a 10-year course towards greater energy efficiency in affordable housing across the state. The scale of this challenge and multitude of stakeholders involved was initially daunting. And state agencies realized they needed to start with market research and a plan that could guide their efforts over the next decade. TRC partnered with the Oregon Housing and Community Services, Oregon Public Utility Commission, and the Oregon Department of Energy to perform this work: exploring the state energy burden and efficiency potential and crafting a framework for the state to stay apprised of market changes and cultivate energy solutions to serve low-income Oregon residents. Through this session, we will use the OR 10-Year Plan as a case study to help the audience identify opportunities for planning their own long-term, coordinated energy burden relief efforts for low-income and disadvantaged populations. Sample discussion points:

- Understanding the energy burden gap & the challenges to solving it
- Strategies to develop and execute a long-term efficiency plan
- Efficiency program models that prove highly effective
- Identifying and serving high priority regions
- Other factors to relieve energy burden
- renewable energy, financing, etc.

(<https://www.oregon.gov/energy/Get-Involved/Documents/2018-BEEWG-Ten-Year-Plan-Energy-Burden.pdf>)