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Presentation Title: Lifting Lives by Engaging People in Energy

Abstract: The City of Baltimore began robust energy efficiency programming 8 years ago and has been doing it ever since. Multiple city agencies provide energy efficiency programming that serves the needs of low- and moderate-income residents, as well as offering grant and loan funds to organizations who serve low income individuals. Innovative administration of the funds has enabled the City to reach many nonprofits, saving them valuable dollars on energy bills, using the savings to boost their services in order to lift lives. Residents receive weatherization programming along with education and for many, including seniors living on fixed incomes, it helps enable them to remain in their homes. In addition, it is also often necessary to make updates to zoning laws and building codes to turn nudges into leaps. The Baltimore City Green Construction Code is a section of the City code that updates every 3 years along with the ICC code family. In the latest update, the City is proposing the requirement of benchmarking and that all buildings are 15% better than the current MD energy code. Also in the IgCC, International Green Construction Code, compliance path, an elective is being created to help fund future efficiency projects in the city. These programs at their core address equity, energy efficiency and sustainability.