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# Equitable Building Decarbonization & a Just Transition

CalPlug-IAC, UC Irvine



*Ericka Flores, NRDC*

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**Distinction between  
Equitable Building Decarbonization  
(EBD) &  
Building Electrification (BE)**

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# EBD v. BE

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## **Equitable Building Decarbonization (EBD)**

- Broader term that takes the concept of decarbonization further
- Focuses on justice and equity (ex., a Just Transition)
- Encompasses both reducing emissions and ensuring energy efficiency resources are given to populations who need it the most
- Primarily concerned with people and communities

## **Building Electrification (BE)**

- Refers to the process of replacing systems that rely on fossil fuels with systems powered by clean electricity (ex., AC --> HP)
- Goal is to reduce carbon emissions by eliminating the burning of fossil fuels within buildings (ex., houses, apartments, buildings in general)
- Primarily concerned with technology and energy (switching from gas to electric)

# Equitable Building Decarbonization

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## Focus Areas of Equitable Building Decarbonization (EBD)

- **Affordability**- ensuring low-income households access & can afford a transition to clean energy technologies- think electric heat pump, induction stoves, electric water heaters, and EE appliances
- **Accessibility**- inclusive of historically disadvantaged communities and include them in clean energy transitions, policy drafting, EE program implementation
  - Job creation and work training in the green economy
  - Education and language inclusivity of EE technologies
- **Environmental Health**- improve health outcomes by addressing indoor air quality

# Equitable Building Decarbonization

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- **Benefits**
  - Socially inclusive, improves public health, and advances climate goals
- **Challenges**
  - Requires strong and intentional policy frameworks, strong legislation, good leadership, and large financial

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# **What is a Just Transition?**

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# Just Transition?

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- Process of moving toward a sustainable, low-carbon economy **ensuring energy and climate justice**, especially for workers and communities that are most affected by the shift
- Addresses the social and economic challenges that arise from transitioning away from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources

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## Effective Just Transition in Climate and Energy Justice

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- **Protects the Most Vulnerable Communities**
  - Prioritizes frontline communities overburdened by environmental racism, climate injustice, and pollution/health impacts
- **Supports Workers in the Fossil Industry**
  - Advocates for new employment opportunities and training in the renewable energy sector
  - As we decarbonize, workers in oil drilling, coal mining, etc., face job losses
- **Public Participation**
  - Emphasizes inclusive decision-making processes from affected communities
  - Includes Indigenous groups, workers, women, and marginalized populations

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# **Equitable Building Decarbonization (EBD) and Direct Install (DI) Program at the CEC**

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# Program Goals and Benefits



- Part of an effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from buildings (homes) while promoting energy equity- **advances climate goals to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045 in CA**
- Originally authorized by AB 209 with funding from AB 179 in 2022
- Originally \$922M (later cut to \$412.95M due to state budget cuts)
  - Some money now coming from IRA (\$154M)
- Provides low-income households with all-electric appliances and building upgrades at no cost to them
- Upgrades include installing heat pumps (use for both heating and cooling), heat pump water heaters (electric alternative to conventional gas water heater), and other insulation upgrades, weatherization, or energy-efficient windows to improve overall efficiency in a house
- Focused on upgrades to single-family homes, multifamily homes, and manufactured homes to decarbonize housing

# Program Implementers & Outreach



- Program broken up in 3 regions: Northern, Central, and Southern CA
- CEC selected Regional Administrators who are to collaborate closely with selected CBOs to engage in
  - Cultural appropriate outreach, education, support & implementation (this will be key)
  - Provide guidance in screening homes for awards
- Workforce standards are a key part of the implementation requiring fair wages, training, and promoting job creating in the clean energy sector
- Anticipating implementation to begin in 2025- 2026 and will go on until all funding is used
- Read my blog :)

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# **Other Energy Efficiency Programs to Advance EBD**

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## SUITE OF PROGRAMS BENEFITING CALIFORNIANS AND ADVANCING CLIMATE GOALS

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- **Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates** (HEAR or HEEHRA in California)
  - Provides \$80M for low- and moderate-income (LMI) households to retrofit their homes with efficient electrification projects. Owners and agents of multifamily buildings may apply for rebates on heat pump heating and cooling units and other electric appliances and equipment
- **Building Initiative for Low-Emissions Development (BUILD) Program**
  - Offers incentives/guidance for new, low-income home construction
  - Launched in 2022, funds up to 300 hours of technical assistance related to the construction of low-income, single family and multi-family all-electric homes
  - Offers incentives to developers and builders of \$3,300 per multifamily unit or \$5,500 per single family home up to a \$2 million program cap per applicant.
- **California Electric Homes Program (CalEHP) offers incentives for new, market-rate home construction**
  - Launched in 2023 with a \$75M budget to encourage the construction of market-rate single-family and multi-family homes and manufactured housing as all electric and/or with energy storage systems. Currently accepting applications from developers and builders.

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**Email:**  
**eflores@nrdc.org**

**Linkedin:**  
**[linkedin.com/in/ericka-flores](https://www.linkedin.com/in/ericka-flores)**

