It Takes a Village: Energy Efficiency as a Resource for Low-Income Customers

ACEEE Energy Efficiency as a Resource Conference 2017

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EnergyRight® Solutions
Tennessee Valley Authority
Nation’s largest public utility

Covers 80,000 square miles and 9 million people

154 local power companies

“We keep the rivers flowing, the lights glowing and the Valley growing.”
Smart Communities – Extreme Energy Makeovers

Formed out of an agreement between TVA and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to fund energy efficiency projects across TVA’s footprint.

Extreme Energy Makeovers (EEM) was one of two Smart Communities projects with the goal of providing energy education and outreach and whole-home retrofits to 3,300+ income-qualified residents.

Through EEM, TVA deployed $42.7 million in funding across seven communities in four states – all in a span of two years.

EEM Projects Spanned the Tennessee Valley
EEM Objectives & Requirements

Participants must be income-qualified

Homes must be at least **20 years old**

Pre-audit with blower door diagnostics must target **25% projected electric energy savings**

Total project cost of **$10 per square foot** – allowing for 15% variance
Role of Partnerships

TVA set the direction and provided the funding

Local power company and community partners leveraged each other’s strengths to successfully implement their projects, serving thousands of low-income customers along the way.

These partnerships enabled TVA to meet project goals and objectives.
EEM Outcomes

Nearly 30 partnerships across seven communities:
• Community action agencies
• Local governments
• Non-profit organizations
• Energy efficiency program implementers

Completed approximately 3,400 home retrofits

Generated roughly $500 per-household electricity savings annually

Successfully invested $42.7 million in about two years
Knoxville Extreme Energy Makeover (KEEM)

Strong partners
Clear roles

Completed 1,278 retrofits representing a $12.2 million economic investment in the Knoxville community, saving participants an average of 4,754 kWh in annual electricity consumption.
Huntsville Extreme Energy Makeovers (HEEM)

1. Leveraged **internal partnerships** with City of Huntsville and Huntsville Housing Authority to scale project as additional funding became available

2. Partnered with **existing contractors** to accelerate implementation of retrofit projects

3. Led partnerships with **community organizations** to generate awareness and maintain a healthy pipeline of participants throughout the project

Completed 1,138 retrofits representing an $11.7 million economic investment in the Huntsville community, saving participants an average of 4,056 kWh in annual electricity consumption
Video
It Took a Village...

Our success was only possible because of the relationships we built with our local power companies and community partners throughout the Valley. These relationships were built on the public power model and a joint mission to serve our customers.
Contact

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