

Panel 5: Energy and Opportunity: Serving All

The transformational benefits of energy improvements—both for individuals and entire systems—have not been accessible to everyone. This panel will explore opportunities to expand the reach of new energy technologies, ensuring they can better serve all communities. We seek to identify and quantify ways that energy advancements can not only reduce energy bills but also deliver a host of other beneficial outcomes. These include wider access to advanced equipment, more affordable housing, economic development, and steady employment opportunities, as well as improved building-level and community responses to extreme weather events.

Panel themes include achieving greater, broad-based access to new energy technologies and services; reducing home energy costs, energy burdens, and housing costs; enabling greater affordability from lower-cost appliances; expanding access to high-performance equipment innovations, developing education and awareness programs that can reach broader audiences; increasing deployment of upgrades that improve performance and durability; and improving participation rates in incentive programs.

Topics for papers and posters in this panel could include the following:

- Quantification of energy bill savings across a community or region from program or incentive efforts
- How energy technologies can complement or augment other solutions to provide greater affordability, reliability, and access
- How energy savings interfaces with non-energy impacts to provide broader benefits
- How to grow the economic pie through increased support of industrial activities, labor development and training programs, supply chain development, and improved competitiveness
- Technologies, policies, programs, and/or deployment results that improve affordability, access, and/or where integrated benefits are captured
- How to enable broader participation in energy incentive programs
- How to achieve greater adoption and deployment of energy savings measures and technologies that can improve affordability
- Corporate efforts to improve affordability and/or access, or increase domestic employment
- Labor development programs to increase employment and improve the local economy
- Supply chain development and competitiveness to grow the economic pie across all areas
- Novel approaches to deploy energy technologies and/or improve energy services and lower first costs (e.g., cooling-as-a-service to lower or eliminate first costs and reduce annual energy costs)
- How new policies impact affordability and economic development