

Panel 5: Energy Efficiency and Equity: Tracking the Equitable Energy Transition

The past year included the hottest month on earth in history with climate disasters across the country that affect the grid, people's heating and cooling and consequently their health and well-being. Post the COVID-19 pandemic we have seen frequent utility disconnections, high inflation, increasing energy bills and greater housing insecurity. To meet these challenges, we have seen growing activity across the energy sector from state and local involvement to some momentous federal actions like Justice40 and investments like the BIL and IRA. We have seen growing recognition of the history and perils of the old energy system and activity towards a just one with renewables, new frameworks such as the Energy Equity Project, new technologies, improved processes and eligibility criteria, and strong local and community-driven leadership. It's 2024, two years after these investments and the ACEEE Summer Study topic is: Equity and Climate: Time to Deliver. Just and equitable energy and climate solutions are being elevated as THE path forward and we are at a point to share equity successes and barriers. A key question this panel will endeavor to answer is: How are we tracking towards an equitable energy transition, including evidence from the field? This panel strives to uplift the leadership of people working on the frontlines of environmental justice, especially those who are Black, Indigenous, or People of Color. It invites presentations from community-based organizations, academia, utilities, government, accelerators, and other organizations working to elevate frontline communities. Topics for consideration include but are not limited to:

- Energy (in)security and related issues (e.g. health impacts of energy insecurity)
- Extreme weather and community impacts, planning and response
- Extreme heat and cooling
- Energy efficiency and decarbonization implementation
- Resilient and sustainable energy systems
- Success/barriers of different technologies
- Air quality and other non-energy impacts
- Climate migration
- Inclusive coalitions and building capacity around energy topics
- Equity issues and solutions in energy for different communities (tribal, rural etc.)
- Tech transition and adoption towards an equitable energy transition
- Implementation of BIL, IRA and other investments and their equity implications
- Tracking benefits of energy investments
- Energy Equity Project Framework implementation The panel will consider different ways to capture these topics beyond traditional summer study paper submissions, including video tours, audio and visual storytelling, etc. Co-creation of submissions is strongly encouraged.