

# Voices of Experience Addressing Equity | a U.S. Department of Energy Initiative

## Examples of Utility Community Engagement and Energy Equity Efforts

Identified sample of utility-led initiatives that promoted equity or engagement

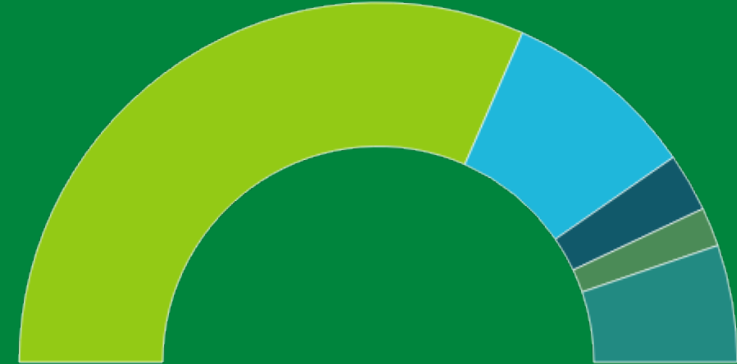
Explored engagement and forms of equity pursued

Classified the activities using existing frameworks

Analyzed characteristics and identified trends and opportunities

Major programmatic, rate design, and infrastructure development decisions must also consider impacts on local communities. Engaging with local communities to incorporate energy justice into major decisions is crucial.

### Reviewed all types of utilities in all regions of the U.S.



The included utilities serve regions in the U.S. north (24%), east (26%), south (20%), central (8%), and west (22%)

- Investor Owned
- Public Power
- Distribution Cooperatives
- Power Agency/G&T
- Multiple Utilities

### Percentage of Activity Types



% of Reviewed Activities (n=57)

- Distributional Justice (81%)
- Procedural Justice (46%)
- Recognition Justice (30%)
- Community Engagement (47%)

## A NOTE ON UTILITY EQUITY RESEARCH



Use of terminology around utility equity activities are not consistent across the U.S.

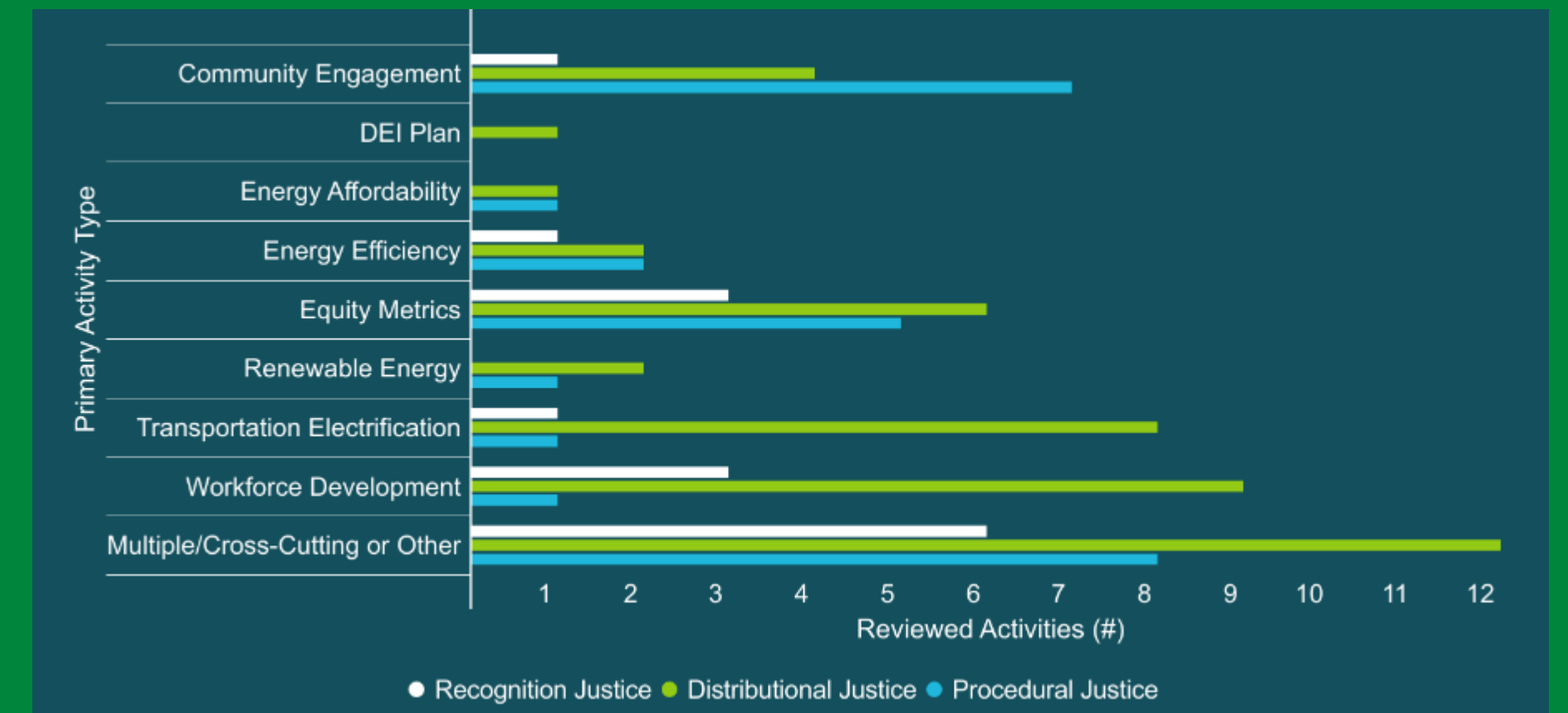


IOUs, electric distribution cooperatives, and public power utilities all have different policy directives to maintain.



Reporting requirements and guidelines around "equity-oriented" initiatives and programs are not standard and vary across the nation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE VOICES OF EXPERIENCE INITIATIVE, GO TO [SMARTGRID.GOV/VOICES\\_OF\\_EXPERIENCE](https://SMARTGRID.GOV/VOICES_OF_EXPERIENCE) AND [SEPAPOWER.ORG/VOICES-OF-EXPERIENCE/](https://SEPAPOWER.ORG/VOICES-OF-EXPERIENCE/).



**Tacoma Power, Conservation Plan (Washington)**  
Tacoma Power's Conservation Plan defines the utility's intention to use the City of Tacoma's Equity Index to guide tactical marketing and program decisions, with a goal of 40% of residential savings coming from low opportunity areas.

**Madison Gas and Electric, Energy 2030 Framework (Wisconsin)**  
Madison Gas and Electric (MGE) undertook a multistep engagement process to inform the development of its Energy 2030 framework. Engagement included community energy conversations, a customer survey, a community energy workshop, and a technical work group.

**Con Edison, PowerReady Disadvantaged Community Areas (New York)**  
The PowerReady program covers up to 100% of the cost to install DCFC and Level 2 charging stations in disadvantaged communities, specifically census block groups with the highest percentage of low-middle income (LMI) households, Department of Environmental Conservation Potential Environmental Justice Areas, and NY State Opportunity Zones and

**Massachusetts Energy Efficiency Program Administrators, MassSave (Massachusetts)**  
The MassSave program includes a public-facing map that provides access to data on program participation by town.

**Commonwealth Edison, Energy and Equity Agreement with the City of Chicago (Illinois)**  
The Energy and Equity Agreement pledges to convene formal councils and advisory groups to increase the role of city representatives, local community, environmental, and other stakeholder groups in coordinating investment decisions and providing feedback on project

**Seattle City Light, Transportation Electrification Strategic Investment Plan (Washington)**  
SCL partnered with the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods to create their Transportation Electrification Strategic Investment Plan. They conducted a racial equity analysis, which informed the 5 investment goals, and listed those investment goals in order of priority based on input from 25 environmental justice community

**SMUD, Sustainable Communities Resource Priorities Map (California)**  
The Sustainable Communities Resource Priorities Map identifies vulnerable areas based on their lack of community development, income, housing, employment opportunities, transportation, medical treatment, nutrition, education, and a clean environment. The data used to create this map is publicly available.

**Austin Energy, Austin Climate Equity Plan: Transportation Electrification (Texas)**  
Austin Energy's planning process will include direct coordination with the community through input sessions and grassroots partnerships to conduct a needs assessment that will guide and inform an EV adoption

**Puget Sound Energy, 2021 Clean Energy Implementation Plan (Washington)**  
The Clean Energy Implementation Plan describes how Puget Sound Energy will implement the Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) for 2022-2025. The Plan is a result of stakeholder input and feedback and ultimately seeks to create an affordable net-zero energy system that their customers help shape.

**Ameren, Charge Ahead (Missouri)**  
The Charge Ahead program seeks to remove barriers to EV charging by incentivizing the installation of DCFC and L2 stations for public, MUD, and workplace applications. The \$4 million program reimburses up to 50% of installation costs for qualified customers, and 10% of the program's funds are reserved for underserved communities.

**Commonwealth Edison Company, Diverse Energy Efficiency Service Provider (EESP) Incubator Program (Illinois)**  
The Diverse Energy Efficiency Service Provider (EESP) Incubator Program is a workforce development program that provides free education, training, mentorship, and networking opportunities to minority, women, and veteran contractors.

**National Grid, internal equity initiatives (Massachusetts)**  
National Grid's internal equity initiatives seek to review and incorporate equity practices into five pillars: customers, community, society, workforce, and supply chain.

**Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Equity Metrics Data Initiative (California)**  
LADWP created the Equity Metrics Data Initiative (EMDI) to quantify and report the ability of their programs, services, and resources to reach all geographic areas and demographic groups in their service territory.

**Tampa Electric Company, Drive Smart (Florida)**  
Tampa Electric's Drive Smart pilot program seeks to incentivize the installation of 200 Level 2 and 8 DCFC charging ports at workplaces, public/retail, multifamily, income qualifies, and government sites across their service territory.

**Duke Energy, The Duke Energy Foundation (North Carolina)**  
Through the Duke Energy Foundation, Duke Energy provides funding for workforce development and education at community colleges, historically Black colleges and universities, and nonprofits across the state.

Recognition Justice

Distributional Justice

Procedural Justice

Community Engagement

Smart Electric Power Alliance

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
OFFICE OF ELECTRICITY

NREL  
Transforming ENERGY

Workforce Development

Transportation Electrification

Equity Metrics