



Community Based Energy Programs: *Wider Economic Benefits & Impacts*

While utility-based energy efficiency programs are well established in the US, newer community-based programs can provide broader energy supply and use opportunities. EDR Group offers economic insights to enhance program planning and evaluation of these newer programs, and has been working with our global affiliate, EBP, to expand program and policy assessment for these community programs.

Evaluation of Community-Based Energy Efficiency Program in Low Income Communities. EDR Group is currently developing an evaluation methodology for a pilot anti-poverty energy program operated by our partner, EBP, for the town of Renca, located outside of Santiago, Chile. The first of its kind program in Chile, this program provides installation of energy efficiency measures, education on best practices, and behavioral changes promoting energy efficient lifestyle in a low-income population.

Evaluation of Clean Energy Community Programs. EDR has been selected to evaluate the Boston Area Metropolitan Area Planning Council's portfolio of community-oriented energy programs. They range from technical assessments of community energy needs, to integrating with the Massachusetts *Green Communities Program*, as well as *Community Choice Aggregation* and local energy efficiency initiatives.

Community Choice Energy (CCA) Programs. EDR Group (under subcontract to MRW) assessed economic impacts related to Community Choice Energy Aggregation programs in California. These programs allow a County to purchase or self-generate lower carbon emitting energy, invest in their own renewable generation, and deploy additional energy-efficiency. The studies for Alameda County and Contra Costa County assessed job impacts resulting from electricity rate changes, and the shift from existing generation and distribution systems to lower carbon technologies.

Geotargeting Evaluation. For Vermont Department of Public Service, Mike Sherman of EDR Group led the process evaluation of an innovative set of geographically targeted energy efficiency improvements in local areas to delay or avoid expensive transmission & distribution investments in constrained areas.

Community Energy Efficiency Initiative. Mike Sherman of EDR Group conducted a "Lessons Learned" study for the Cambridge Energy Alliance, a consortium of foundations that funded a pioneering municipal-based initiative to seek broad energy savings and Greenhouse Gas emissions reductions. He assessed factors affecting outcomes of the five-year Community Energy Efficiency initiative and lessons learned from comparable efforts in other cities.

Monitoring, Reporting & Verification for Energy Cities in Chile. Our affiliate EBP is developing a Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) System to enable Chile's Energy Cities program to quantify their achieved emissions reductions. Chile's program is based on the Swiss Energy Cities Label and the European Energy Award (EEA), and was established largely through the work of EBP. Currently, more than 20 cities are participating, implementing a variety of renewable and energy efficiency measures.

Community Energy Strategy. Our affiliate EBP worked with local authorities and energy suppliers to develop an Energy Master Plan for Bern, Switzerland. The plan aims to shift most of the City's heating and electricity to renewable resources by 2035, to ensure that regional development and energy use are well coordinated, energy efficiency is increased and renewable energy sources are effectively promoted.