



**LA100 Equity Strategies  
Advisory Committee Meeting #5  
August 24, 2022**



# Los Angeles Department of Water & Power (LADWP)

## Project Leads



**Simon Zewdu**

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LA100 Equity Strategies Oversight  
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Community Affairs Manager



# Agenda

Start Time	Item
10:00 a.m.	Welcome
10:05 a.m.	Meeting Purpose and Agenda Overview
10:10 a.m.	Energy Affordability and Policy Solutions Analysis
11:00 a.m.	Breakout Group Discussions: Key Takeaways from Steering Committee for <i>Modeling, Analysis, and Strategy Development</i>
11:55 a.m.	Wrap Up and Next Steps



# Our Guide for Productive Meetings



*Raise your hand*  
to join the  
conversation  
(less chat  
entries, more  
talking)



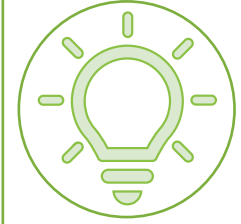
Help to make  
sure that  
everyone has  
*equal time* to  
contribute



Keep input  
*concise* and  
*focused* so that  
others have  
time to  
participate



*Actively listen* to  
others to  
understand their  
perspectives



*Offer ideas* to  
address others'  
questions and  
concerns



# Energy Affordability and Policy Solutions Analysis

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Greg Pierce, Rachel Sheinberg and Paul Ong  
UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation (LCI)  
UCLA School of Law  
UCLA Center for Neighborhood Knowledge



# Affordability, rates and revenue

**Customer affordability is among the most key considerations identified throughout the LA 100 ES process, and broader LADWP equity conversations**

- The LA 100 transition cost necessitates additional utility *revenue*
- Revenue is primarily recovered through *rates* paid by customers
- Affordability refers to customers' ability to pay their bill, the bulk of which reflects rates
  - Rate (re)design is a primary but not the only affordability policy instrument
  - Folding in of building and transport electrification costs into LADWP bill heightens affordability concerns



# LCI's Three Affordability Analyses

## **Task 1. Structural and Baseline Affordability Considerations**

- Assembling existing data sources to assess structural energy affordability and considerations for households across LADWP territory and utility itself

## **Task 2. Energy Affordability Metrics**

- Identifying and analyzing goals and metrics to inform actionable plans

## **Task 3. Energy Affordability Policy Options**

- Identifying and analyzing priority policy options to inform actionable plans

## **Deliverables**

- Each task will result in the equivalent of a report chapter, as well as briefs



# Methods and Approach

## General Approach

- LCI is synthesizing data from 4 types of sources: existing quantitative data, academic literature, published reports, and stakeholder input
- Complements NREL modeling emphasis, UCLA Law rate structure focus

## Goals

- Focus on fewer, meaningful goals and policies, building on internal efforts
- Work with partners to set up a long-term data, analysis, and strategy architecture
- Consider but do not be entirely constrained by legal challenges





# Baseline Affordability Considerations

## Guiding Research Questions

- What do we (not) know about the transition cost and its impact on rates?
- What are the implications of current rate/bill structure for in-need customers?
- What are prevailing consumption/billing levels among in-need customers?
- What is general and specific points of in-need customer satisfaction with LADWP?
- What is prevailing enrollment in assistance programs among in-need customers?
- Are there barriers to procedural equity in assistance program enrollment?
- What is the ability of in-need customers to maintain thermal comfort?
- How do tenant-landlord split incentives affect customers now and in the transition?



# Baseline Affordability Considerations

## Data Sources

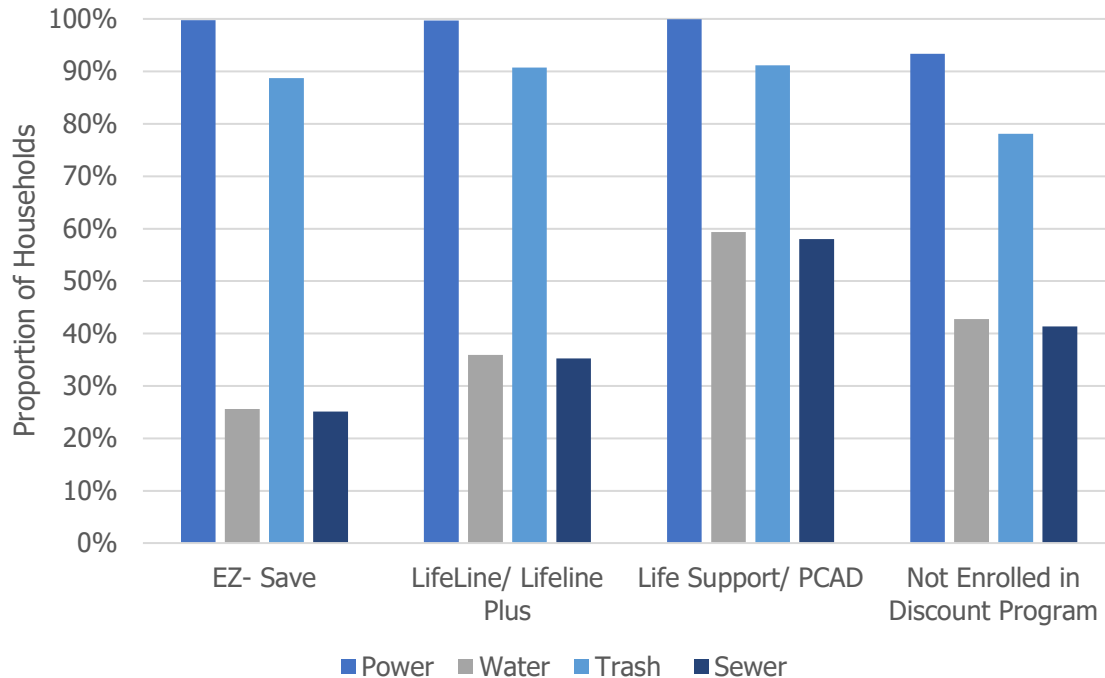
LCI is using available, representative or census-type data sources that support this assessment, including:

- Survey data from Loyola Marymount University and UCLA
- The California Energy Commission's RASS,
- LADWP CSD Service and Program Enrollment Data,
- The UCLA CCSC Energy Atlas (pending)
- NREL Model data (pending)
- OPA, City Controller several other recent city focused reports



# Considerations: Whole Bill Matters

Types of Services Customers Pay for by Discount Program

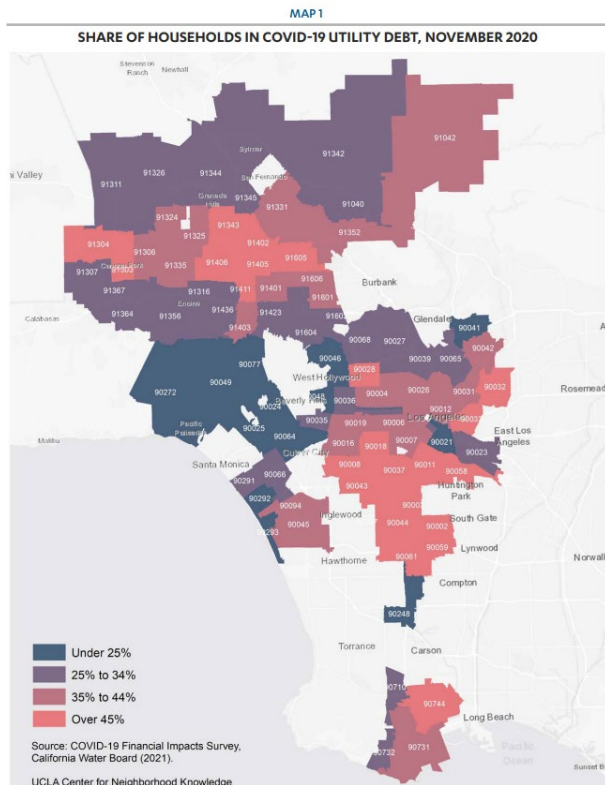


- The whole bill matters for affordability
- There are 15 combinations of the 4 services that can be on an LADWP bill
- The most common are:
  - Power only
  - Power & trash
  - Power, water, sewer & trash

Source: Calculation based on LADWP Service and Program Enrollment Data



# Considerations: Inequitable debt burden

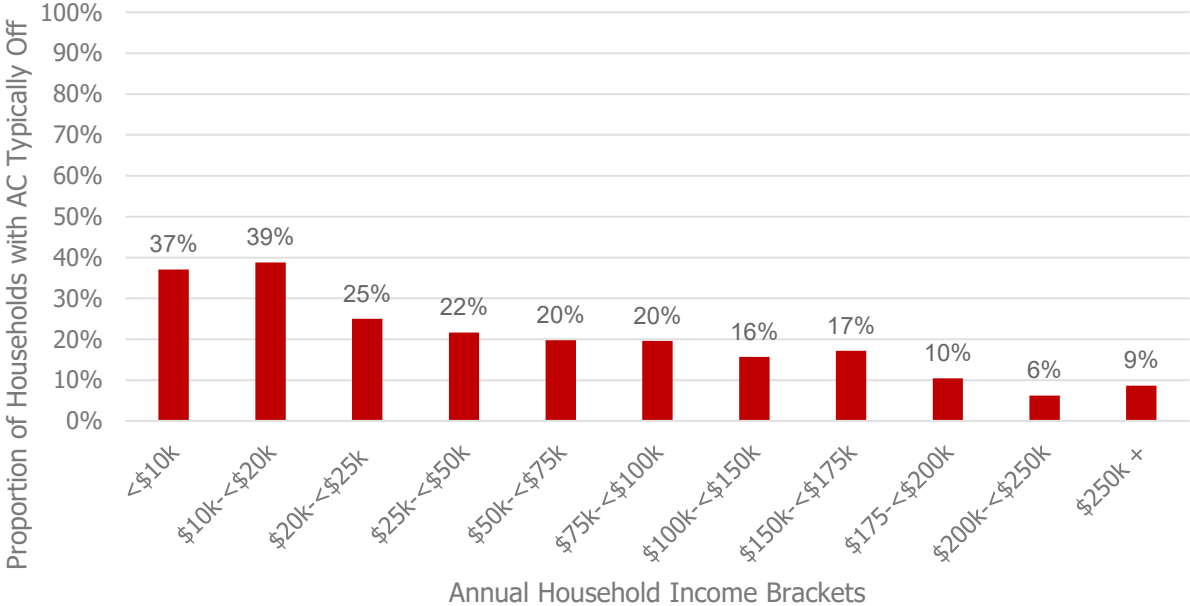


Source: Keeping the Lights and Water on: Covid-19 and Utility Debt in Los Angeles' Communities of Color (2021). Silvia R. González, Paul M. Ong, Gregory Pierce, and Ariana Hernandez. UCLA Centers for Neighborhood Knowledge and Luskin Center for Innovation



# Considerations: AC Under-Consumption

## LA City Households Not Using AC in the Evenings, By Income

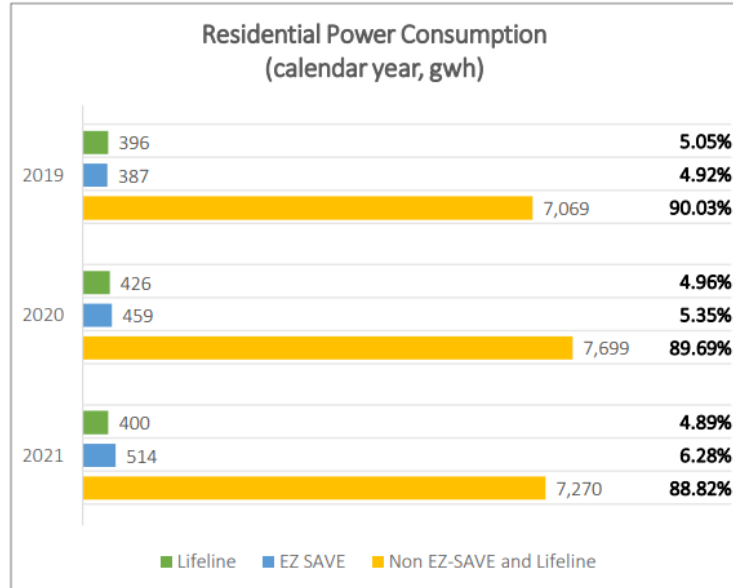
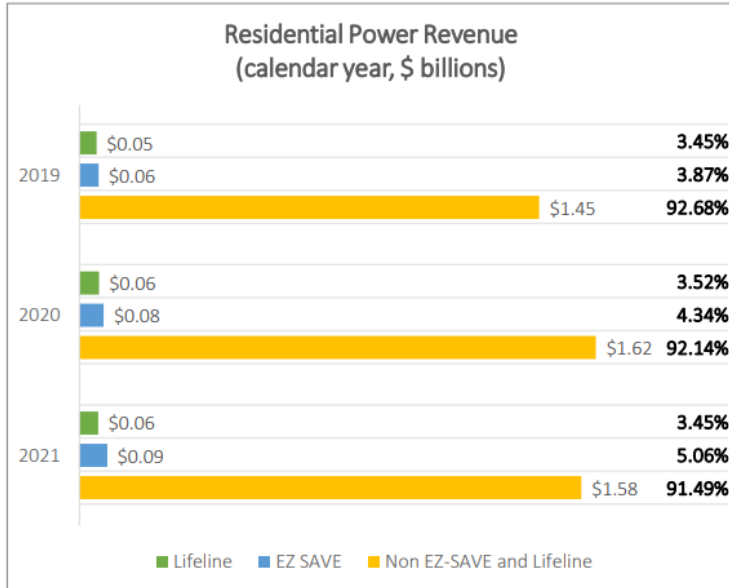


Source: CEC's 2019 Residential Appliance Saturation Survey (RASS)



# Considerations: Revenue Impacts

## Power Revenues and Consumption

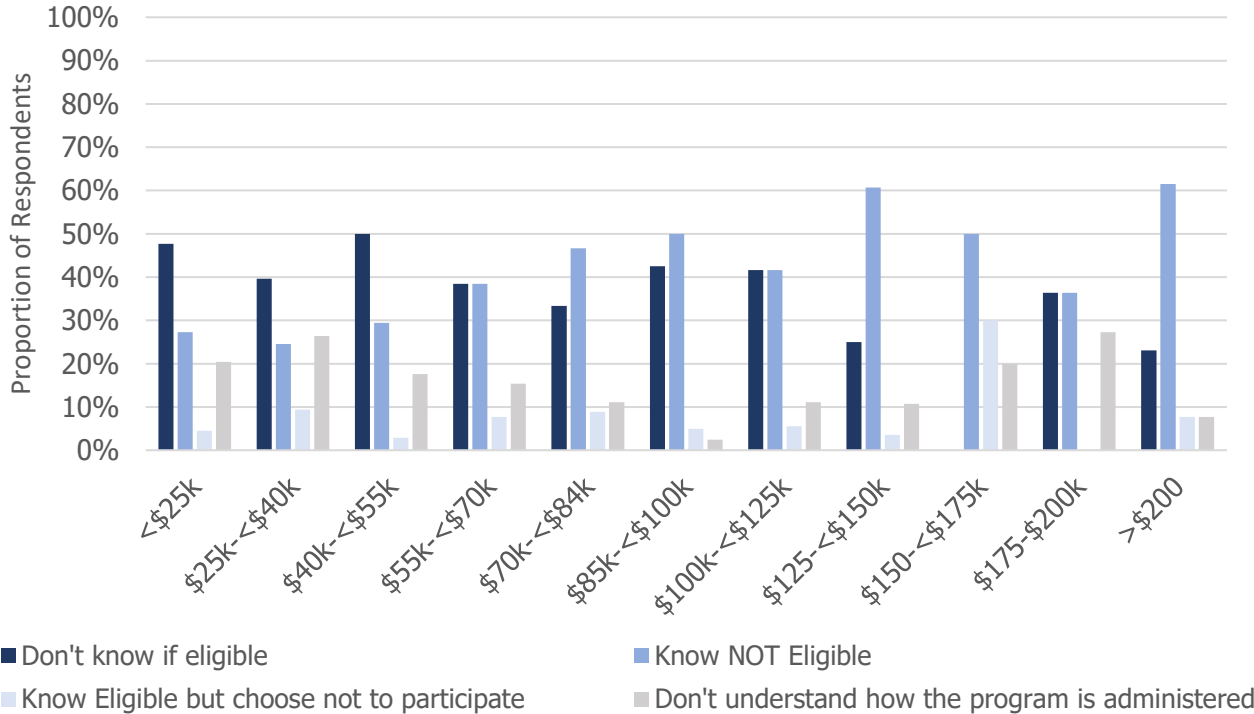


Source: LADWP CSD and FSO Estimate



# Considerations: Program Barriers

## Reasons for Not Participating in Discount Programs by Income



Source: Loyola Marymount University Survey Data



# Metrics in 1<sup>st</sup> stage analysis

Concept	Description (potential goal)
<b>Bill discount enrollment</b>	30% discount on electricity portion of LADWP bill
<b>Electricity burden/ Percentage of Income Payment Plan</b>	Limit “in need” household expenditure on electricity to 4- 6% of pre-tax income
<b>Household-based energy budget</b>	Lowest rate tier set at level above necessary household consumption level
<b>Shutoffs due to non- payment</b>	Reduction or elimination in residential customer shutoffs
<b>Thermal comfort</b>	# of households reporting they can(not) keep their indoor space cool
<b>Rating of electricity service based on cost</b>	# of in-need households rating their service as ‘poor’ on cost basis
<b>Electricity Insecurity</b>	# of households reporting they need to make tradeoffs between paying electric bill and other essential services
<b>Electricity use intensity</b>	Unclear precedent. Helps get at equitable efficiency and use v. end service disparities

- **Analyzed by:** example goals, magnitude of impact addressed, impact ability, implementation and tracking feasibility, downsides, and precedents
- **Data:** academic literature, report review, and precedent of use by other utilities
- **Next steps:** narrow to 2-4 metric concepts for deeper analysis





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# Metrics Discussion

- Which metrics are a priority to consider to track progress on affordability?
- Are there metrics which we missed, or should be discarded?



# Policy Categories in 1<sup>st</sup>-Stage Analysis

- **8 policy categories analyzed by:** policy mechanism, LADWP offerings and other relevant policy models, barriers to enrollment and scaling up, and impact of policy approach
- **Data:** primary data, academic literature, reports, and comparative utility offerings review (alongside Law analysis)
- **Next steps:** narrow to 3-5 policy options for deeper analysis



# Policy Categories in 1<sup>st</sup>-Stage Analysis

Policy/Program	LADWP Offerings	Barriers to Enrollment/Scaling	Magnitude of Impact
Appliance Energy Efficiency	Green	Yellow	Yellow
Structural Energy Efficiency	Yellow	Yellow	Green
Demand Response	Red	Yellow	Red
Direct Assistance and Crisis Relief	Green	Green	Green
Microgrids	Red	Red	Red
Rate and Billing Design	Yellow	Orange	Green
Community Solar	Yellow	Green	Yellow
Rooftop Solar and NEM	Green	Yellow	Green



# Affordability priorities for stage 2 analysis

## (Results of UCLA polling @ July Steering Committee)

Ranking	8 Metrics (16 responses)	8 Policies (11 responses)
Most popular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shutoffs due to non payment</li><li>• Bill discount enrollment</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Direct assistance and crisis relief</li><li>• Rate and billing design</li><li>• Structural efficiency</li></ul>
Moderately popular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thermal comfort</li><li>• Electricity insecurity</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community solar</li></ul>
Mixed opinion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Electricity burden</li><li>• Household-based energy budget</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rooftop solar</li><li>• Appliance efficiency</li></ul>
Least popular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rating of electricity based on service cost</li><li>• Electricity use intensity</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Microgrids</li><li>• Demand response</li></ul>



# Policies Discussion

- Which policies are a priority to consider to effect progress on affordability?
- Are there policy options which we missed, or should be discarded?
- What type of further analysis would you like to see on the prioritized policies and metrics?



# Rate Structure Analysis for Affordability and Distributed Energy Access

**Exploring Electricity Ratemaking for Affordability, Access, and DER Implementation**

**Lead:** UCLA School of Law; Dr. William Boyd and Rachel Sheinberg

**Goal:** Inform how LADWP can implement and adapt to carbon-free energy in a way that does not further existing distributional injustices

## **Research Questions:**

How can creative ratemaking be utilized to protect Low-Income residents from increasing energy costs?

How will LADWP's business model be impacted by increasing renewable penetration?

## **Tasks:**

Create a high-level portfolio of rate design and utility financing strategies informed by other states' and countries' programs

Analyze impacts of potential rate structures on bills using the energy atlas and NREL modeling



# Rate Structure Analysis for Affordability and Distributed Energy Access

## Discussion Questions

Are there affordability programs that have been mentioned today or from other utilities that we should explore further?

How do you think that rate structures such as time-of-use pricing, where electricity cost varies throughout the day, would be received by your communities? Would a changing price create additional burden on residents?





# Small Business Affordability

## Assessing Energy Affordability Barriers and Opportunities for Ethnic Minority-Owned Small Businesses (MOBs)

**Lead:** UCLA Latino Policy and Politics Institute; Drs. Paul M. Ong & Silvia R. González  
Leverages larger research project focused on California's ethnic businesses

**Goal:** formulate evidence-based policy recommendations that promote an equitable clean energy transition for racial/ethnic minority small businesses

### Tasks:

1. Analysis of secondary and administrative data to identify minority-owned businesses to assess their current energy use
2. Assessment of participation in previous DWP energy savings programs
3. Design, test, and administer a survey of minority-owned businesses in Los Angeles with support from small business serving community-based organizations



# Small Business Affordability

## Assessing Energy Affordability Barriers and Opportunities for Ethnic Minority-Owned Small Businesses

### Survey Data Collection

- **10-15 minutes**
- **Phone, internet, and in-person** in partnership with small business serving CBOs
  - Citywide
  - Prioritize ethnic economic enclaves
- **Key Modules**
  - COVID impacts and access to relief programs
  - Sustainability practices
  - Structural elements of energy burden



# Small Business Affordability

## Discussion Questions

- Are there particular issues facing minority-owned businesses which we should consider further examining?
- Are there other organizations that we should contact as part of the survey outreach effort?



# Steering Committee Feedback

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*Highlights of feedback and takeaways for modeling, analysis, and strategy development*



# Breakout Group Discussions

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An aerial photograph of a city, likely Los Angeles, showing a dense urban area with various buildings, streets, and green spaces. In the background, a range of mountains is visible under a clear sky. The image is overlaid with three green horizontal bars containing white text.

**Would you add any other considerations?**

**Do you have thoughts on the feasibility of these pathways?**

**Do these align with your agency's initiatives and goals?**



# Affordability and Rates

## Feedback

Strategies should include:

- Income-adjusted rates
- Maximum bill as share of income
- Expanding existing program participation
- Technology-install approaches

Consider whole costs to the customer (i.e., trash, water, power, housing, and gas)

Consider household size—energy use increases with multiple families in same dwelling

Anticipate administrative barriers to income-adjusted rates (i.e., collecting income data)

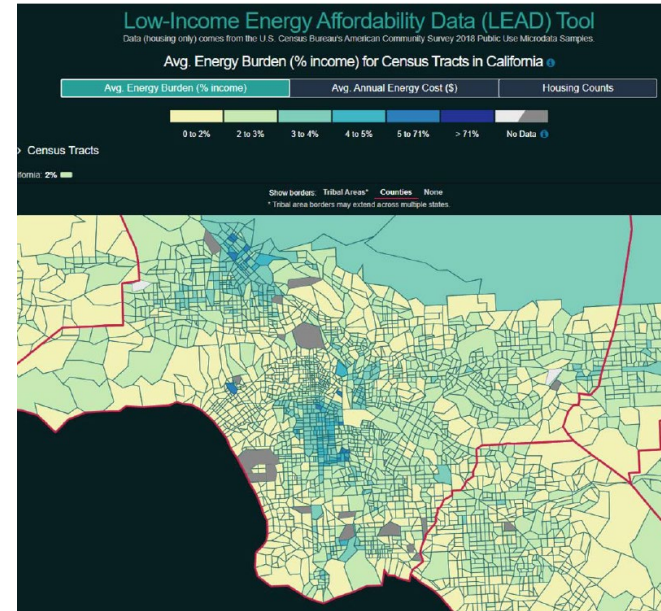
## Key Takeaways for Modeling

Model suggested strategies

Include gas and water costs, explore feasibility of including trash services in final bill estimation and analysis.

Model adaptable retail tariffs that change based on number of people in the home

Model increased program costs due to administrative barriers



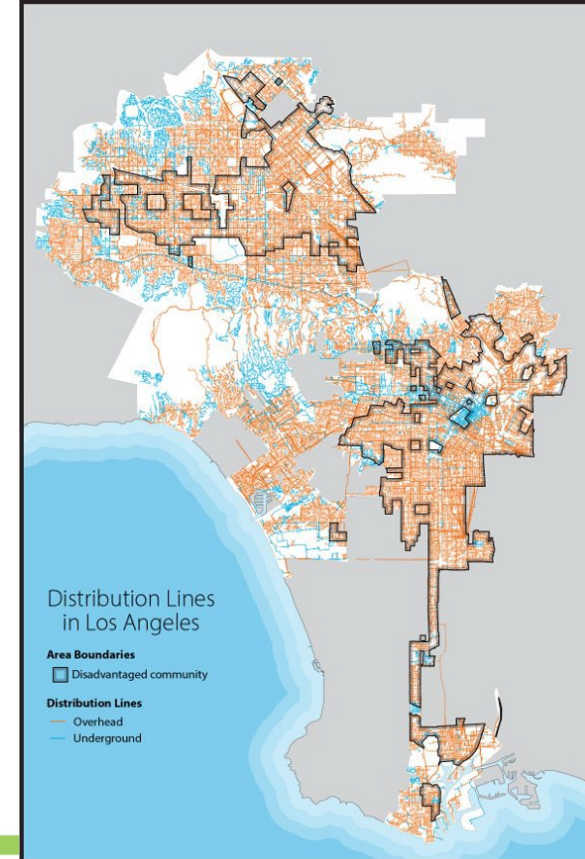
Source: *Low-Income Energy Affordability Data Tool*. Average Energy Burden (% income) for Census Tracts.  
<https://www.energy.gov/eere/sls/c/maps/lead-tool>.





# Grid Reliability and Resilience

Feedback	Key Takeaways for Modeling
Note parts of the grid, especially in DACs, already require upgrades	Incorporate today's required upgrades with upgrade schedules that prioritize DACs
Prioritize resilience hub-type opportunities (e.g., community centers) for cooling, vehicle and phone charging, potentially water purification above "cooling centers."	In-home or other close-to-the-customer solutions will be prioritized.
Older electrical panels/wiring in disadvantaged homes is a bigger challenge than grid reliability.	Include scenarios with and without electrical panel upgrades as part of the scenario sets.

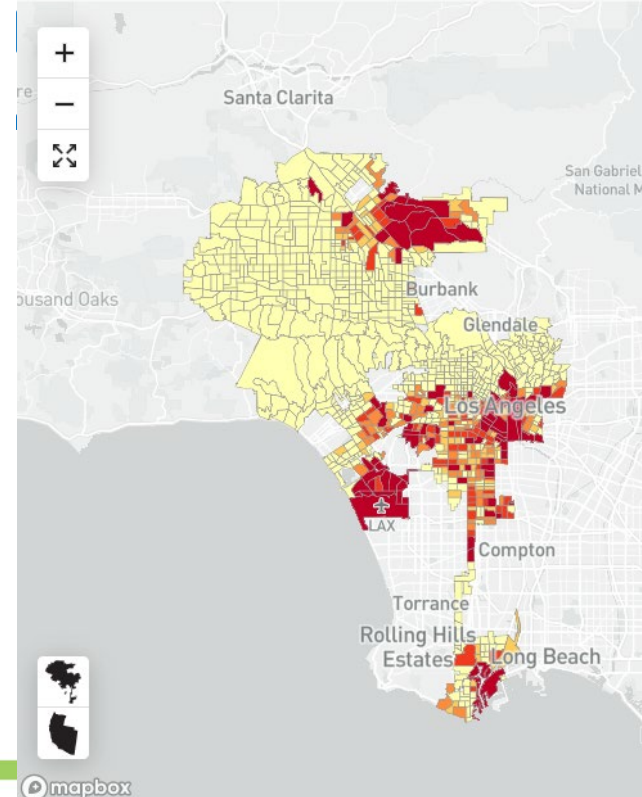


# Local Solar and Storage

Non-Rooftop Local Solar Deployment Capacity (MW)

Early & No Biofuels - High (2045)

Current Resolution: Tracts



## Feedback

Consider DAC utility bill savings, particularly renters, as a primary measure of success.

Financing, funding to pay the utility bills, and subsidizing bills are options worth considering.

Don't use rebates; just lower the cost of installation.

Shared community solar is a good option if compensation is equitable.

## Key Takeaways for Modeling

Designate utility bill savings across status groups as a key metric.

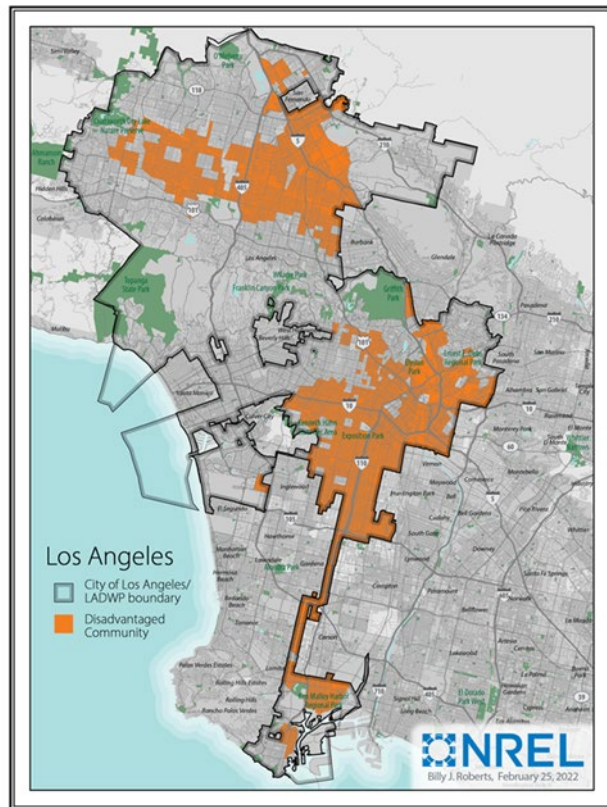
Include on-bill financing as part of the scenario analysis.

Rebates will not be considered. Incentives that lower the cost of installation will be considered in scenario analysis.

NREL will analyze the economics of community solar and siting options.

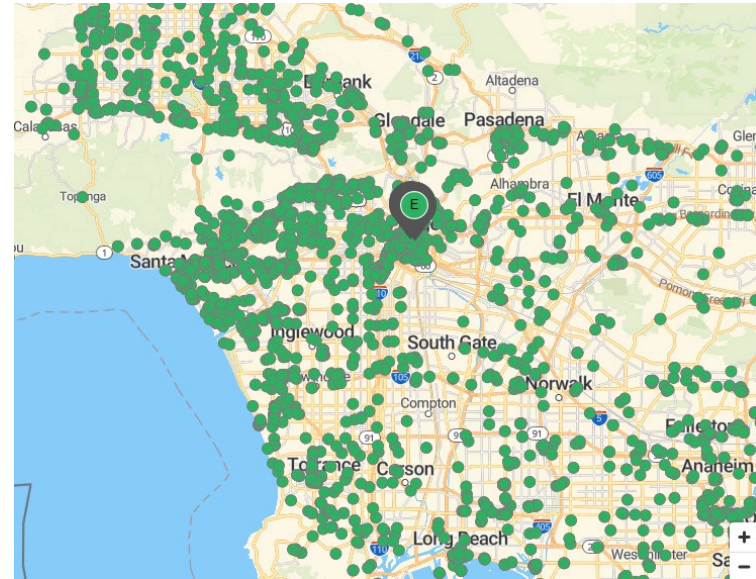
# Truck Electrification Air Quality and Health Impacts

Feedback	Key Takeaways for Modeling
Use multiple criteria (e.g., air quality related to vehicle emissions, high rates of asthma) to prioritize areas to model	Study several metrics to measure impacts on disadvantaged communities (DAC) & create a traffic-affected DAC definition
Consider truck idling, freeway corridors, and port/airport air quality and health impacts	Truck electrification analysis will focus on neighborhoods most impacted by medium- and heavy-duty truck traffic



# Transportation (light duty vehicle focus)

Feedback	Key Takeaways for Modeling
Address electric vehicles (EV) affordability and EV supply equipment (EVSE) access	Model new and used EV adoption, home/work charging access, home readiness
Recommend “use” metric to capture affordability, range, parking, access	Include adoption and use rates
Interest in e-bikes and micromobility infrastructure, concern about limited impact on power consumption	Quantify avoided energy use to assess mitigated demand
Consider distribution system limitations on the transition to EVs	Model grid upgrades needed to support equitable electrification



Source: Alternative Fuels Data Center – Electric vehicle charging station locations.  
<https://afdc.energy.gov/stations/#/find/nearest?location=los%20angeles,%20ca&fuel=EL-EC>



# Wrap Up and Next Steps

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# Upcoming SLTRP Community Meetings

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## Advisory Committee Meetings

October 26, 2022  
Virtual

- Air quality and health impact/medium- and heavy-duty vehicle emissions impact modeling approach
- Workforce development
- Household energy modeling approach

*Discussion on December/January meeting date.*

### Subsequent Meetings

- **Fourth Wednesday of every other month, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. PT**
- **Virtual** for near-term



**Thank you!**

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