State and Local Energy Justice Programs

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O’Neill
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
The U.S. Energy Transition: Electricity Consumption over Time
Justice Implications of the Energy Transition
Energy Poverty in the U.S.

% of Income Spent on Energy, by U.S. Household Types in 2011
Energy Poverty in the U.S. (as of 2015)

Report difficulty paying household energy bills or maintaining adequate temperatures in the house

Report that, due to high energy bills, it is necessity to forego buying other necessary household items such as food

Change in U.S. Coal Employment, 2011-2015
Technological Access not Available to All
Opportunities for Employment and Engagement not Available to All
Energy Justice Programs
Our Process

• Identified 185 programs through an extensive search of:
  • Umbrella organizations
  • Social media
  • Organizational websites
  • Local government websites
  • Economic development cabinets
  • Federal agencies
  • Grant winners for relevant state grants

• We investigated regions with a smaller online presence by contacting individuals working on transition issues within the region to solicit additional input
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Energy Justice Programs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assistance</strong></td>
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<td>Seeks to improve energy affordability and extend access to energy technologies and services. Most focus on providing support to low-income utility customers through direct bill assistance, upgrade assistance, and legal advocacy and support.</td>
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Type of Program

- State: 56%
- National: 6%
- Sub-state: 22%
- Regional or Multi-state: 16%
Programs and Organizations by Region

- **Great Plains**
  - Assistance: 3
  - Collective Action: 12
  - Democratization: 1
  - Infrastructure Expansion: 5
  - Workforce/Jobs: 7

- **Midwest**
  - Assistance: 10
  - Collective Action: 18
  - Democratization: 1
  - Infrastructure Expansion: 3
  - Workforce/Jobs: 1

- **Northeast**
  - Assistance: 5
  - Collective Action: 15
  - Democratization: 3
  - Infrastructure Expansion: 8
  - Workforce/Jobs: 5

- **Northwest**
  - Assistance: 2
  - Collective Action: 14
  - Democratization: 1
  - Infrastructure Expansion: 7
  - Workforce/Jobs: 6

- **Southeast**
  - Assistance: 2
  - Collective Action: 15
  - Democratization: 1
  - Infrastructure Expansion: 2
  - Workforce/Jobs: 10

- **Southwest**
  - Assistance: 2
  - Collective Action: 11
  - Democratization: 1
  - Infrastructure Expansion: 4
  - Workforce/Jobs: 10

**Number of Programs, Policies, or Organizations**
Number of Programs/Organizations by State
Assistance Programs/Organizations
Collective Action Programs/Organizations

[Map showing the number of collective action programs/organizations by state]
Workforce Programs/Organizations
Program Pathways
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Energy Savers program (through the Community Investment Corporation), Chicago, IL, focuses on mid- to-low-income, affordable, and subsidized properties.

Provides free energy assessments, access to utility rebates, assistance with equipment maintenance, and financing loans.
Collective Action Example

The Northern Plains Resource Council, MT, builds networks across the state to advocate for energy efficiency and clean energy, and promote coal mine reclamation and diversified jobs/economy to prepare for the transition away from coal.
Democratization Example

The Louisiana Energy Democracy Coalition, LA, hosts “People’s Movement Assemblies” that bring together communities across the state to identify problems, come up with solutions and build ownership of those solutions, and create action plans to democratically envision and own a clean energy future.
Solar Plus, WA, is funded by a $2M grant from the US DOE and seeks to deploy community-owned solar for the state’s lower income and environmental justice communities.
The **Just Transition Fund**, VA, is working to create economic opportunity for the communities and workers hardest hit by the transition away from coal—primarily acting as a grantmaker and nonprofit innovator—to help scale community-based economic and workforce development models that create a new pathways for coal workers and their communities.