

2007 EPS Roundtables Summary of Comments and Suggestions

Numerous and diverse comments made and suggestions offered, including:

- Funds from the Systems Benefit Charge are not available in all areas;
- Weatherization and energy efficiency programs needs to be streamlined, better coordinated, more accessible, and expanded;
- Easy to understand information about existing programs needs to be developed to encourage participation;
- Programs and funding should be increased and targeted to low-income consumers;
- Small businesses need information about programs, as well as one-stop shopping assistance;
- Large businesses, while sophisticated, still need information;
- Environmental impacts are heavier in communities of color and low-income;
- An “Energy Use Mapping” study should be conducted in communities of color and low-income to determine how and where energy efficiency funds should be allocated;
- Training and workforce development in energy efficiency technologies is needed in low-income communities.

Outreach and education suggestions included:

- Use mass media to reach low-income communities;
- Messages must be in multiple languages, consistent and simple;
- Information should be provided in many ways – on easy to navigate Web sites, at job fairs, in home improvement stores and community centers; and,
- A statewide energy efficiency curriculum should be developed.

Overall, participants agreed that the “15 X 15” goal is important. To reach the goal, they suggested:

- Information must be provided about available programs;
- The programs should be easy to access;
- Funding should be increased; and communities and businesses should have an opportunity to assist in the design of energy efficiency programs.

Information on the EPS proceeding will continue to be provided and input on key recommendations will continue to be sought. All the information will be shared with the decision makers to assist them in making decisions.