



DATE: February 23, 2022

TO: Energy Council

FROM: Candis Mary-Dauphin, Program Manager
Ben Cooper, Program Manager

SUBJECT: Overview of Bay Area Healthy Homes Initiative and Energy Equity for Renters Initiative

SUMMARY

At the February 23 meeting, staff will present about two initiatives that leverage the BayREN Multifamily program to advance equity: The Bay Area Healthy Homes Initiative and the Energy Equity for Renters Initiative.

DISCUSSION

The Bay Area Healthy Homes Initiative (BAHHI) is a multi-organizational partnership that includes Alameda County Asthma Start, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), Contra Costa County Public Health, and the Association for Energy Affordability. BAHHI seeks to improve health outcomes for Alameda County and Contra Costa County residents living in communities disproportionately impacted by air pollution by integrating multiple interventions that address the burden of cumulative indoor air pollution. This project supports StopWaste's guiding principle of advancing equity, because it aims to improve housing conditions for families living within 1000 feet of freeways by funding equipment to improve indoor air quality. On behalf of BAHHI, BAAQMD applied for and was awarded a \$2 million dollar grant from the California Attorney General's office to carry out upgrades. BAAQMD is subawarding \$20,000 to the Energy Council for finding and recruiting program participants in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. Participant recruitment will leverage the BayREN Multifamily program's technical assistance and outreach activities.

In addition to our partnership with BAHHI, the BayREN Multifamily program was also recently selected as one of five recipients nationwide to receive technical assistance from the [American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy \(ACEEE\)](#) through its [Energy Equity for Renters Initiative](#). Staff, in partnership with the City of Berkeley, applied for assistance to incorporate renter protections into both voluntary energy programs, such as the BayREN Multifamily Program, and mandatory policies, such as Berkeley's Building Emissions Saving Ordinance. The goal is to ensure that all residents have access to healthy housing conditions and are not faced with higher energy costs, rent increases, or

displacement as a result of energy-related upgrades to their buildings. Through this initiative, ACEEE will conduct research on the best practices for incorporating strong renter protections into building retrofit programs and assist with local stakeholder engagement, with the goal of informing changes to the BayREN Multifamily program as well as development of equitable building electrification strategies in our member agencies.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for information only.