


Green Communities and low-income retrofits

GREEN COMMUNITIES CANADA
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GREEN COMMUNITIES CANADA.

- national association of non profits
- help to green homes, lives, businesses, community
- unique community based approach
- design, deliver environmental programs
 - wells
 - walkable communities
 - eco-driving
 - urban water protection
 - greenspace
 - waste ...





GCC AND HOME ENERGY.

- flagship: two decades of audits and retrofits
 - 200,000 audits
 - piloted EnerGuide for Houses (EGH) '97
 - 100,000 ratings
 - designed federal incentives, 2000


GCC AND LOW-INCOME.

- community projects
- First Nations - community wide
- helped put low-income ee on the map in Canada
 - studies, reports, networking,
 - 2005 conference w. Canadian Housing and Renewal
 - 2008 Time for Action conference in Toronto
 - → host energy poverty network
- designed, delivered low income programs for utilities, governments since 1990s
- Enbridge program delivery starts this month




2006/7 OPA PILOT.

- designed, delivered Ontario Power Authority pilot
 - 9 regional offices
 - ~70% of Ontario population
- Ontario's first comprehensive, multi-measure low income retrofit program
 - ... but electric-only
- 10 months on-the-ground delivery
 - audited 300 houses
 - retrofitted 150
 - TRC positive



2006/7 OPA PILOT.

- A DELIVERY SYSTEM FOR THE FUTURE
 - scalable
 - ready to add gas, other fuels
 - retrofit management/contractor relations
 - agency referrals
 - eligibility rules (social benefits as proxy)
 - community based marketing
 - customized audit & IT systems



LESSONS LEARNED.

- MINIMIZE BARRIERS
 - barriers very high
 - electric, inefficient, low-income, pay bills
 - → *referral fatigue*
- MUST BE ALL FUEL
 - one-window access for participants, referral partners
 - eliminates major barrier to participation
 - equity issue
- ELIGIBILITY, ENROLMENT WORKED



MORE LESSONS.

- LONG-TERM, PROVINCE-WIDE
 - marketing, community/provincial partnerships
 - ramp up delivery infrastructure
- NEIGHBOURHOOD BLITZ
 - tool to find weatherization participants - experiment
- BUDGET FOR HEALTHY AND SAFETY REPAIRS
 - needed to facilitate energy upgrades
 - omitted from cost effectiveness in many US programs



MORE LESSONS.

- UTILITIES ARE IMPORTANT MARKETING PARTNERS
 - only a few fully engaged in pilot
- COMMUNITY BASED MARKETING WORKS
 - not just government agencies, also charities, community groups
- TARGET HIGH CONSUMPTION CUSTOMERS
 - → high average savings, serve greatest need
- COMMUNITY BASED DELIVERY WORKS
 - reduces barriers to participation



ENERGUIDE FOR HOUSES AUDIT.

- NEED RIGHT TOOL FOR THE JOB (COST EFFECTIVE)
 - EGH designed for middle-class homeowners
 - ratings, general advice
 - low-income needs tool to guide measure *contracting*
- ISSUES WITH ENERGUIDE
 - missing electric baseload measures - lights, appliances
 - no cost-effectiveness analysis
 - costly, unnecessary info requirements → TRC suffers
 - very high savings estimates for space heat measures



INSTEAD OF ENERGUIDE.

- SMART PROTOCOLS.
 - decision-making tools w. Ontario metrics built into software
 - used in OPA pilot
 - common in US & electric programs
 - reduced audit costs, better savings estimates
- FEDERAL INCENTIVES.
 - harmonize with made-in-Ontario system



Thanks.

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