Making a Clean Energy Future an Equitable One

November 19, 2020

CLIMATE ADVOCACY LAB

RAP®

Please introduce yourself in the chat box with your **Name**, **Location**, and **Organization/Affiliation**

Helena Rose via IG: @earthbyhelena

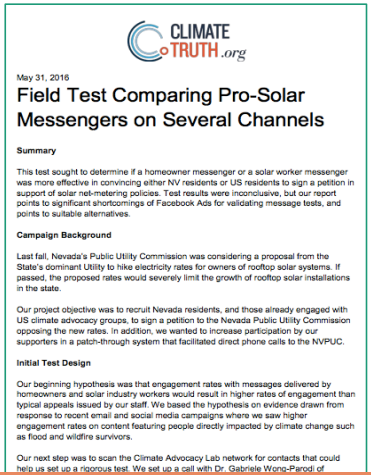
About the Climate Advocacy Lab

Helping the climate community build grassroots power and win through evidence-based advocacy.

Please introduce yourself in the chat box with your **Name**, **Location**, and **Organization/Affiliation**

Our (awesome!) members

Workshops & Webinars



Research & experimentation

Online platform & newsletter

Contact: info@climateadvocacylab.org

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Welcome to our speakers!

Please introduce yourself in the chat box with your **Name**, **Location**, and **Organization/Affiliation**

Donna Brutkoski
Regulatory Assistance Project

Yesenia Rivera
Solar United Neighbors

Jacqueline Hutchinson
People's Community Action Corporation

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Energy Infrastructure

Sources of Inequities and Policy Solutions for Improving Community Health and Wellbeing

April 29, 2020

Synapse Energy Economics, Inc.

Community Action Partnership

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Please introduce yourself in the chat box with your **Name**, **Location**, and **Organization/Affiliation**

Roadmap

- Welcome, overview, and introductions
- The report! (Donna)
- Solar energy equity (Yesenia)
- Successes and challenges (Jackie)
- Discussion
- Q&A
- Close

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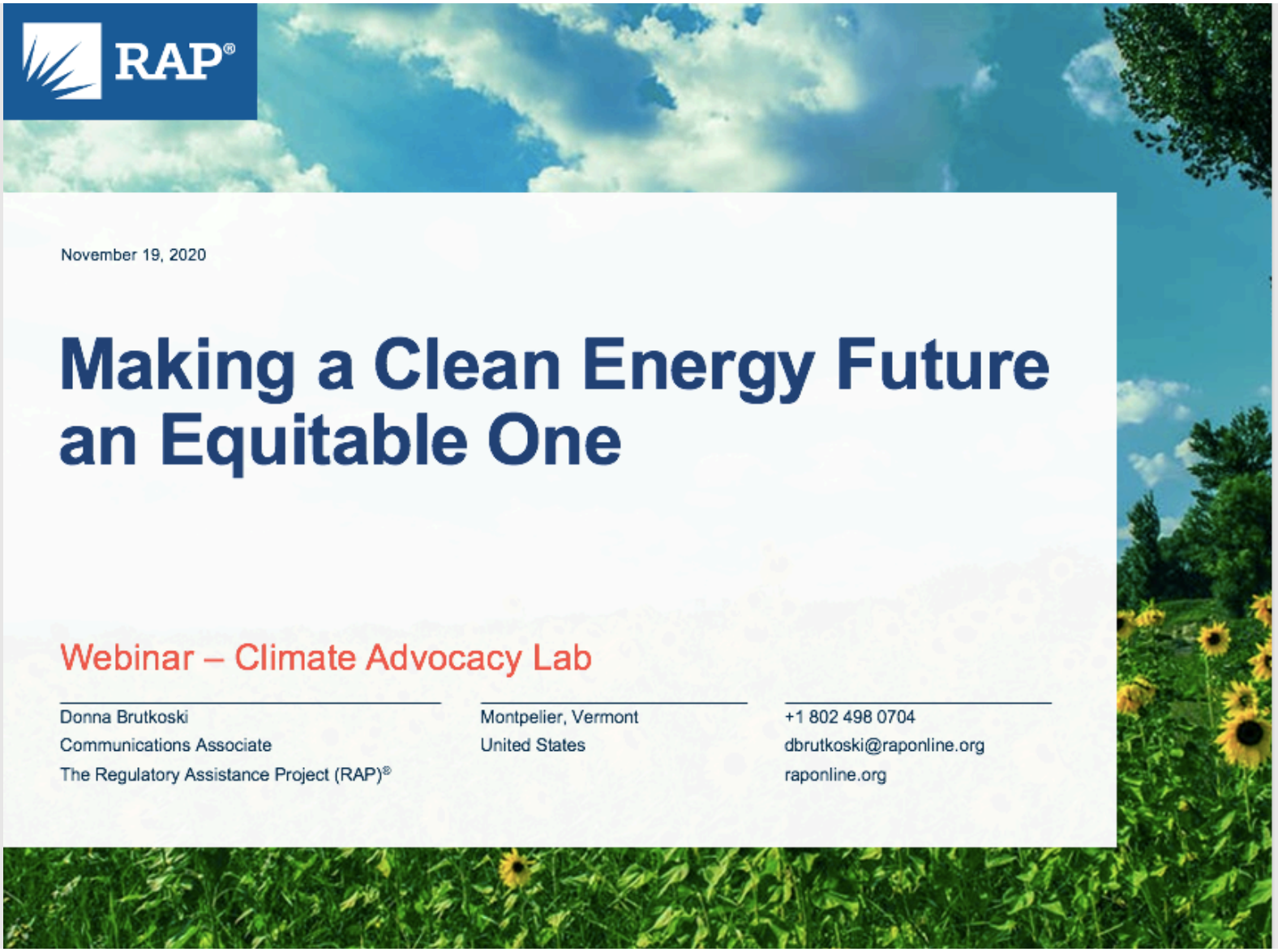


November 19, 2020

Making a Clean Energy Future an Equitable One

Webinar – Climate Advocacy Lab

Donna Brutkoski
Communications Associate
The Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP)®

Montpelier, Vermont
United States

+1 802 498 0704
dbrutkoski@raponline.org
raponline.org

Energy Infrastructure

Sources of Inequities and Policy Solutions for Improving Community Health and Wellbeing

April 29, 2020

Synapse Energy Economics, Inc. | Community Action Partnership | RAP®

Where to find the report

- **Blog post:** https://www.raponline.org/blog/making-a-clean-energy-future-an- equitable-future/

- **Full report:** https://www.synapse-energy.com/project/energy-infrastructure-sources-inequities- and-policy-solutions-improving-community-health-and

Equity Landscape

Focus of the Project

- Electricity and natural gas
- Community-level focus: low-income, rural, smaller towns and cities, and communities of color
- Impacts: access, affordability, climate change and pollution, jobs
- Deep perspective on who makes decisions in the sector and how they are made, and who is left out of the process
- Methodology
  - In-person and web-based convenings and interviews with many stakeholders

Four Case Studies

Enable the clean energy transition for all	Bloomfield, Iowa's bid for energy independence
Update utility regulation	Minnesota's performance-based regulation
Improve energy affordability	Ohio's Arrearage Management Program
Reduce environmental hazards and work across boundaries	Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

Themes

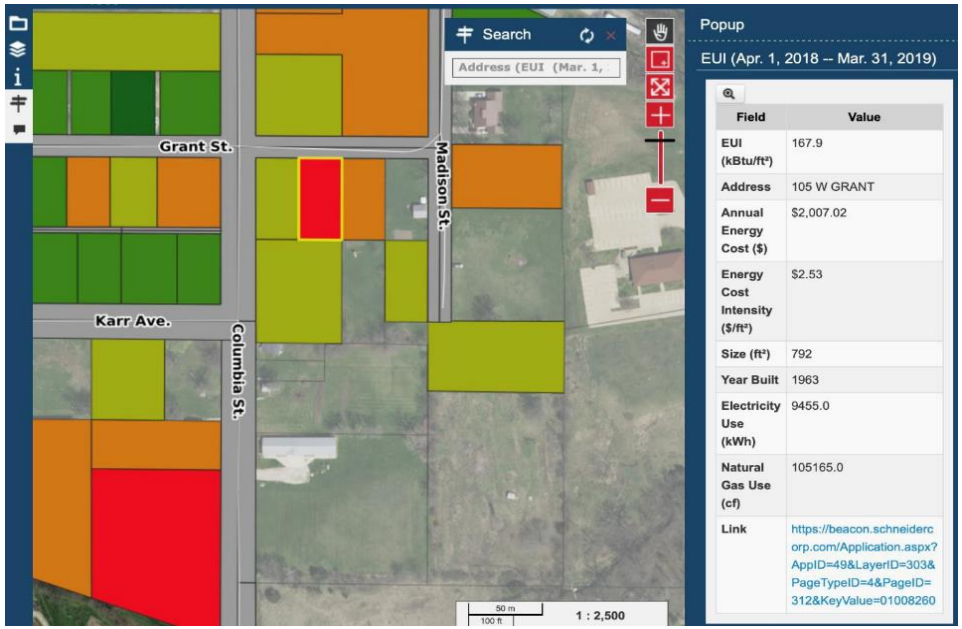
- Energy should be a right
- Energy transformation is happening quickly – access is essential for communities with high economic and environmental burdens
- Improvements in regulations, communications, and education have key roles to play

Recommendations from the report

1. Enable the clean energy transition for all
2. Promote employment and diversity
3. Improve affordability
4. Update utility regulation
5. Reduce environmental hazards
6. Work across sectors
7. Build capacity of communities and advocates

Recommendation:
Enable the clean energy transition for all

Bloomfield, Iowa



Source: The City of Bloomfield Iowa. 2019. Residential Energy Use Map.

Available at [https://www.cityofbloomfield.org.](https://www.cityofbloomfield.org)

Recommendation: Promote diversity in the sector

Targeted job training in clean energy

- California's low income solar programs

Photo credit: Grid Alternatives 2016. Single-family Affordable Solar Homes (SASH) Program Semi-annual Program Status Report

Recommendation: Improve affordability

Ohio's Arrearage Management Program

- Percentage of Income Payment Program (PIPP)
- One Stop Shopping
- Periodic Improvements
- Better links to Energy Efficiency?
- Minimum Payment reconsideration

Recommendation: Update utility regulation

Alternative utility regulation in Minnesota

- Adopted metrics
  - Average monthly bills for residential customers
  - Total arrearages for residential customers
  - Total disconnections for nonpayment for residential customers
- Proposed metrics
  - Reliability metrics related to equity
  - Metrics relating to equity in customer service quality
  - Metric(s) to measure workforce and community development impact, which may include workforce diversity

Recommendation: Reduce environmental hazards, work across boundaries

Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

- Multi-state, multi-agency effort
- Expanding to add states
- Public health benefits
- Periodic program review and improvements
- Equity update needed

Recommendation: Work with other sectors

- Transportation
  - Reducing environmental burdens with electric vehicles
- Broadband
  - Enabling clean energy transition in rural areas
- Water
  - Implementing efficiency
  - Rate design, utility structures

Recommendation: Build capacity

Co-ops

- Board structure, diversity
- Clean Energy offerings
- Example – Kit Carson, NM

Advocates

- Education on energy issues
- Enabling advocacy at state and federal level

Where can advocates get involved?

Education

- Complex topic and regulatory structure
- Community-based efforts, ex. Partnership for Southern Equity

Opportunities

- Not just state or federal level!
- See: recent webinar on cities and public utility commissions working together

Partnerships

- Cross-cutting
- Ex.: Environmental-labor alliances

About RAP

The Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP)® is an independent, non-partisan, non-governmental organization dedicated to accelerating the transition to a clean, reliable, and efficient energy future.

Learn more about our work at raponline.org

Advancing Equity, Solar Growth through State Policy

Renewable Portfolio Standards in the District of Columbia

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What is a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS)?

Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS)

- State-level policy to increase the use of renewable energy in the electric power sector
- Sets binding targets for electric utilities
- Sometimes called Renewable Electricity Standards or Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards
- Reliable way to grow renewables, but only as effective as the targets they set

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For example, Washington, D.C.'s RPS:

Standard

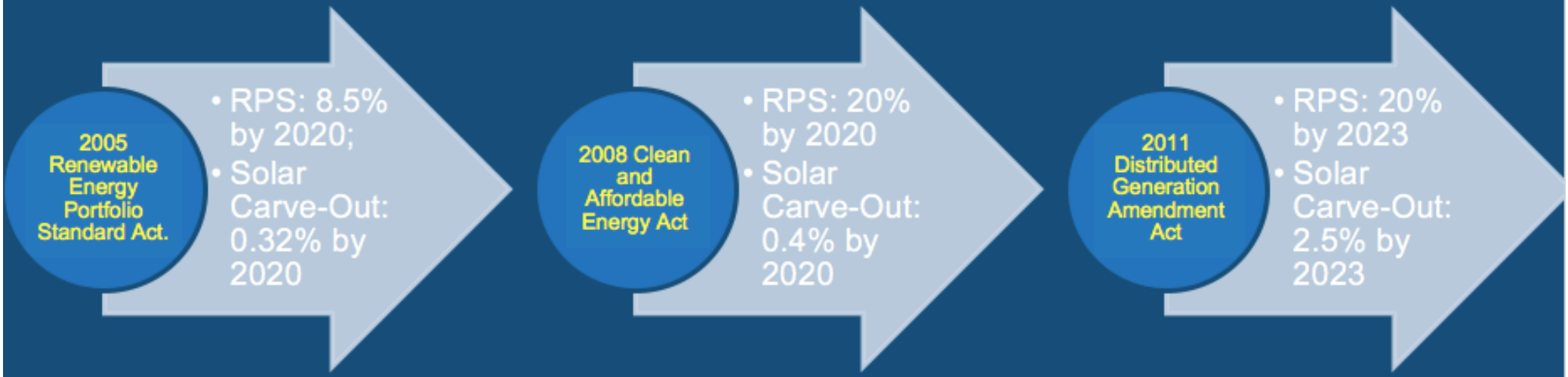
Electric utilities must get 100% of their electricity from renewable sources by 2032. 10% must come specifically from solar.

Statute usually lists eligible technologies

Target year. Statute usually sets schedule with intermediate goals

Solar Carve-Out

Timeline of D.C.'s Renewable Portfolio Standard



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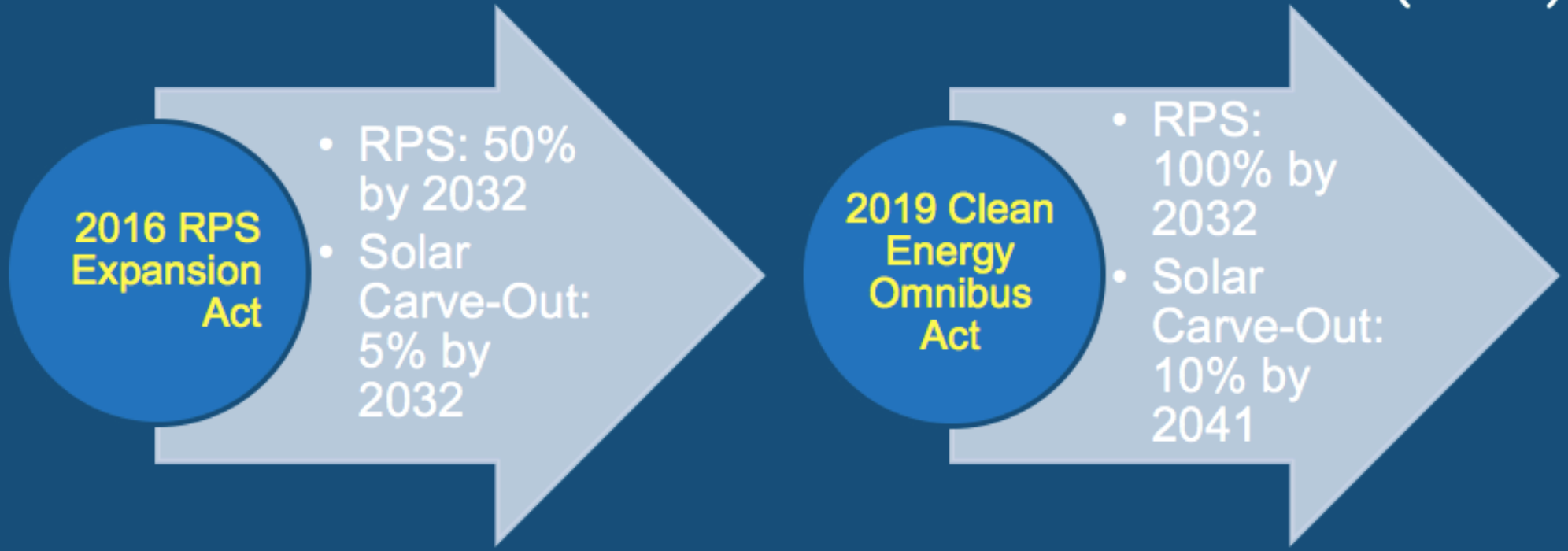
Timeline of D.C.'s Renewable Portfolio Standard (cont.)



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Community Solar

- 2011-2013: Coalition building.
- 2013: Community Renewables Energy Amendment Act of 2013 passed.
- 2015: Proposed rules did not extend full net metering credit to solar subscribers.
- 2016: Council passed the Community Renewable Energy Credit Rate Clarification Amendment Act to restore full retail distribution credit.

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Energy Equity in D.C.

- Established by the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) Expansion Amendment Act of 2016
- Increases the amount of solar energy generated in the District, and provide those benefits to seniors, small local businesses, nonprofits, and low-income households
- Serve 100,000 low-income households & cut their electric bills by an amount equivalent to at least 50% of the District's average residential electric bills.
- Funded by Renewable Energy Development Fund (RPS alternative compliance payments)

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Energy Equity in D.C.

Establish a Solar Market

Strengthen the market while building diverse coalition

Use the coalition and the supporters you have garned through the years to push for equity.

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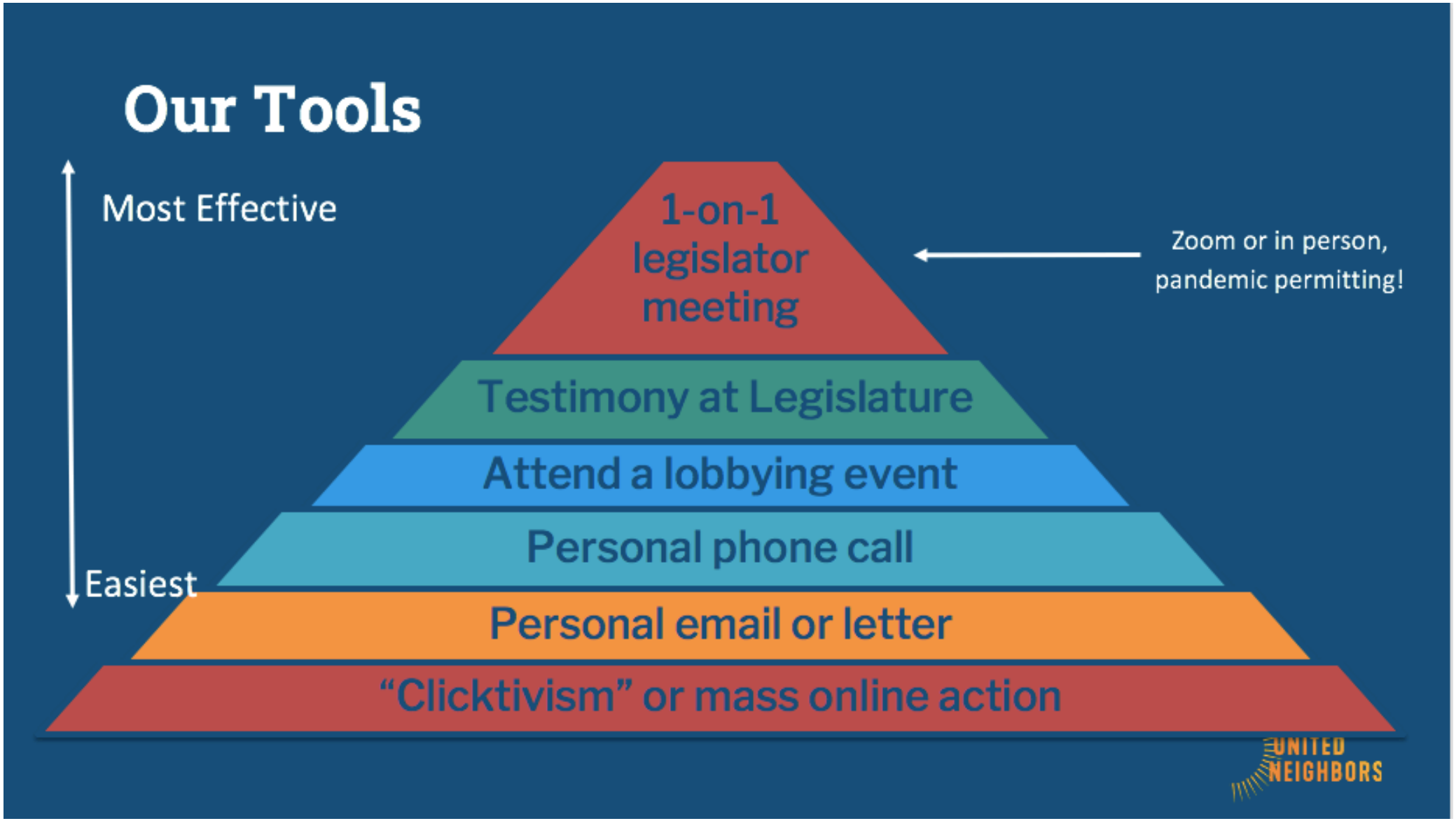
Our Tools
Most Effective
Easiest
1-on-1 legislator meeting
Zoom or in person, pandemic permitting!
Testimony at Legislature
Attend a lobbying event
Personal phone call
Personal email or letter
“Clicktivism” or mass online action
UNITED NEIGHBORS

Thank you!

yesenia@solarunitedneighbors.org

SOLAR UNITED NEIGHBORS

Making a Clean Energy Future Equitable

PRESENTED BY JACKIE HUTCHINSON, MS, CCAP

Considerations as we create an equitable energy future

The Home Energy Affordability Gap

National Gap 2019	Missouri Gap 2019
$40,979,488,238	$697,578,567

THE HOME ENERGY AFFORDABILITY GAP 2019 - Roger Colton

Home energy is a crippling financial burden for low-income families

In Missouri and many other states:

- ❑ Families at 50% of poverty pay average 28% of their income for utilities
- ❑ Families at median income pay 6% of their income for utilities

THE HOME ENERGY AFFORDABILITY GAP 2019 - Roger Colton

By 2030 Elderly will out-number children in the US

- Elderly over 85 are expected to be the fastest-growing age group in our population over the next 10 years

- Isolated elderly are at highest risk of potentially life-threatening illness and death from the effects of heat waves

Health Considerations

- Studies have shown that elderly skip meals and buying medication to pay utilities
- Impact on children with Asthma
- Children at higher impact of heat related illness
- Inability to keep and prepare food
- Risk of frostbite

Inequities in Communities of Color

- Communities of color are benefiting less from new clean energy technologies and, as a result, they are paying more for their energy
- When it comes to solar and renewable energy, African Americans, Latinos and low-income groups face barriers
- Racial disparities in the energy sector are linked to the legacies of segregation and redlining in most major cities

Working toward an equitable future
What is your role?

Work for Equitable, not Equal Policies

- Diversity and inclusion in clean energy sector and energy technology jobs
- Equitable distribution of cost for new technologies
- Solutions for rural communities
- Data driven solutions that do no harm

Future Energy Needs - Closing the Gap

- Expanded Energy Efficiency Programs reaching low-income
  - Increase weatherization focus
  - Increase ability for needed home repairs
  - Expanded alternative energy solutions in low-income communities
- Expanded Utility Affordability Programs
  - Percentage of income payment plans
  - Low-income customer rate class
- Focus on policies and programs that impact low-income customers
  - LIHEAP and other safety net programs
  - Minimum wage
  - Cold/hot weather protections
  - Affordable housing

My successes and challenges

- ❑Local public hearings – getting out the voices
- ❑ Regulatory process
  - intervening
  - cold weather rule proceedings
  - settlement agreement
  - Developing efficiency programs
- ❑ Legislative process – educating policy makers
- ❑State-wide energy policy council

Building vital Partnerships to expand policy reach

- State, Local & national partnerships
- Access to safe, affordable efficient housing
- Minimum Wage
- Access to education and job training
- Equal access to banking and financial services
- Sharing successes – gaining ideas

Thank You!

Discussion and Q&A!

Feedback

https://forms.gle/KL4TeUsqffb8Ps329

Contact

info@climateadvocacylab.org

dbrutkoski@raponline.org

yesenia@solarunitedneighbors.org

jhutchinson@pcacstl.org

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