Energy Democracy: Supporting Community Innovation

Challenges and Opportunities for Communities of Color and Tribal Nations Briefing

Anthony Giancatarino, Coordinator for Research and Advocacy
March 18 2013
The Center for Social Inclusion

- Ideas
- Leadership
- Communications

Solutions that work for everyone

Center for Social Inclusion
Demographic Shifts Mean a New Majority

- **2010**: Majority of new births are people of color
- **2032**: Majority of people age 20-34 are people of color
- **2042**: Majority of all Americans are people of color

Population

- People of Color
- White

CENTER FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION
Why Community Scale?

Huge potential for producing renewable energy

Local renewables create jobs

Efficient and Cost-Saving

Builds Political Economy

Source: NREL “Economic Development Impacts of Community Wind Projects”
Communities of Color Live in Areas with Great Solar Potential

Source: U.S. Census, NREL, ESRRI
Local Solar is not Happening in Communities of Color

Current Solar PV Projects in the US and Majority People of Color (by Census Tract)
Source: U.S. Census, NREL Open PV, ESRI

[Map showing distribution of solar projects and population of color across the US, with different regions highlighted.]
Communities of Color have the Assets to Develop Energy Democracy

- Engaged Climate Activists
- Local Leadership
- Strategic and Innovative Ideas
- Physical Infrastructure

Source: San Antonio Current: Southwest Workers Union
Barriers to True Energy Democracy

- Lack of Property Ownership
- Lack of Inclusion in Local Planning Processes
- Lack of Technical and Legal Capacity Support
- Lack of Access to Capital and Financing
Federal Solutions to Achieve True Energy Democracy

- Set a national standard for Feed-in Tariff payments that support community-scale projects, particularly in environmental justice communities.

- Pilot Energy Independence Districts jointly supported by DOE and EPA in areas with high poverty, poor health outcomes, low educational attainment, old housing stock, and environmental injustice.

- Establish matching grant opportunities to support EID innovation through the proposed Energy Trust.
SOLUTIONS THAT WORK FOR EVERYONE

Visit us at: http://centerforsocialinclusion.org/
On Facebook and Twitter:
http://www.facebook.com/centerforsocialinclusion
http://www.twitter.com/theCSI

Contact: Anthony Giancatarino
agiancatarino@thecsi.org
212-248-2785 x1451