BayREN Forum Q2 2025 Q+A and Resources-
Building for Health: Where Public Health and Energy Policy Intersect

Disclaimer: We have removed duplicates and edited for readability and to remove personal information, but have not fact-checked the content of this document. Answers include responses from both attendees and presenters.

Question	Answer(s)
Regarding lowering cost. In PG&E land, we use much less energy than we used to, and our bills are at least 3x more than they used to be. It is hard to buy this line anymore...	There are a lot of reasons for the increased energy costs, and it's true that costs have gone up at the same time we've become more efficient. But using more energy still leads to higher costs for everyone.
How is "number of health incidents avoided" quantified?	It was calculated as a proportion of deaths, hospitalizations, and emergency room trips that could be avoided through serving at-risk individuals. For more information, see pages 10-12 of this report: https://www.aceee.org/research-report/h2001
Do you know if those weatherization programs cover retrofits for rentals vs have a requirement for owner occupancy?	Good question! Many weatherization programs only serve owner-occupied homes; the shortage of programs open to renters is a gap that needs to be filled. However, the federal Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) accepts applications from both homeowners and renters.
Can you explain the trip and fall calculations in more detail?	I admittedly did not work on that report, so I don't have the exact data that the team used. But if you're interested in the methodology, see pages 10-12 of this report: https://www.aceee.org/research-report/h2001
Do these services include blower door testing?	Many weatherization services do include blower door testing.
Where did mold/material contamination rank in the deferral survey?	Mold and water-related risks were each 10%.
It seems that a lot of indoor air quality research is about stoves and ovens. What about hot water heaters and furnaces? I'm in marketing and if there is research that could be used to educate consumers on direct positive impacts of switching to heat pumps, I'd like to be able to reference it.	We've seen lots of research about marketing heat pumps - almost never does that research connect heat pumps with indoor air quality - but there is a strong connection with outdoor air quality. There are many other heat pump benefits that can be used in marketing messages, and much research published on this topic.
Can you share the links to the ACEEE final report?	The report on weatherization readiness programs is still in production, but here is a link to the report that calculated monetary benefits of in-home health and energy interventions: https://www.aceee.org/research-report/h2001
I've never heard of the last program. What are the current results from projects completed?	If you're referring to SoCalREN's Public Sector Energy Efficiency Project Delivery Program, you can find a summary of key results through 2024 in this ACEEE report: https://www.aceee.org/leaders-pack-2024-joint-utility-and-government.

	If instead you're asking about BEARhub, more information is available here: https://bearhub.net/.
Are there efforts in place to involve local tribes as heat communicators?	I know that the state is working with tribes; I did not hear much about local efforts to work with tribes, although that doesn't mean it isn't happening. Definitely an important question!
Is the new construction requirement being explored a passive max internal temperature (from envelope and insulation) without active cooling?	The ICC proposal would simply require that buildings be able to achieve the max internal temp at identified design conditions, without specifying how that be done. I forgot to mention, there is also a new proposed state bill which would take a similar approach: https://legiscan.com/CA/text/SB655/id/3135050
Has Ali discussed her building topics with architects, designers, and engineers yet?	Yes, these types of subject matter experts have been very involved with the ICC proposal development.

Other Resources:

- Marin County Climate and Health Dashboard: https://www.marinhhs.org/marin-county-climate-and-health
- San Francisco Heat and Air Quality Resilience strategy: https://www.sf.gov/resource--2024--heat-and-air-quality-resilience-haqr
- "Communicating Heat Risk" Report: https://innovation.luskin.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Communicating-Heat-Risk.pdf
- State Heat Policy Series: https://innovation.luskin.ucla.edu/publication/protecting-californians-from-deadly-heat/
- National Shade Map: https://innovation.luskin.ucla.edu/2025/06/02/national-shade-map-from-ucla-and-american-forests-launched-to-combat-deadly-urban-heat/
- All Heat Research: https://innovation.luskin.ucla.edu/heat/
- LA County OurCounty 2025 Update: https://cso.lacounty.gov/ourcounty-2025/
- LA County's Heat Action Plan: https://cso.lacounty.gov/the-plan/cso-current-initiatives/county-heat-action-plan/
- AESP publication (Direct to Renter Program is on pages 28-35): https://pubhtml5.com/sicr/pyev/
- LADWP's Comprehensive Affordable Multifamily Retrofit program: https://ladwpcamr.com/
- Braiding Energy and Health Funding for In-Home Programs: Federal Funding Opportunities: https://www.aceee.org/research-report/h2002
- Indoor Air Quality Resources https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/DEODC/OHB/Pages/IndoorAirQualityResources.aspx
- Bay Area Healthy Homes Initiative: https://www.baaqmd.gov/community-health/bay-area-healthy-homes-initiative
- Interventions to Address Heat and Wildfire Smoke: https://clear.ucsf.edu/community-partnered-research-pcori