

Chapter 3

Empowered Communities

Equitable Participation in Distribution Decisions

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Empowered Communities at a Glance

Enabling equitable
participation in the
clean energy transition

Community Engagement		
Stage 3		Utilities collaborate with CBOs and environmental justice communities so that community needs inform DSP project identification and implementation. "Community needs" could address energy burden, customer choice and resiliency.
Stage 2		Reflecting UM 2005 outreach requirements, utility holds ongoing community stakeholder meetings during grid needs assessment, solution identification, and action planning.
		Utilities and OPUC agree on community goals, project tracking and coordination activities.
		Conduct baseline study to increase detailed knowledge of service territory communities. Engage CBO experts to inform co-created community pilot(s).
		Consult with communities to understand identified needs and opportunities, then seek to co-develop solution options, documenting longer-term needs.
Stage 1		Hold four public pre-filing workshops with stakeholders on Plan development.
		Utilities create a collaborative environment among all interested partners and stakeholders. Utilities document community feedback and utility’s responses.
		OPUC prepares accessible educational materials on DSP with consultation from CBOs and utilities.
		Prepare a draft community engagement plan as part of Plan.
		Utilities conduct focused community engagement for planned distribution projects.
		OPUC to host quarterly public workshop and technical forums after Plan filings.
2021 - 2022		2023 and beyond
		40



Empowered Communities represents the company's efforts as an essential service provider to both engage and understand where our customers live, work, learn and play, as well as co-develop solutions with them that provide direct community benefits and access to clean energy.

PGE sees it as incumbent upon itself to pursue the twin goals of racial equity and decarbonization and ensure that the company addresses and acknowledges disparities and impacts within all the communities PGE serves.

Overview



HUMAN-CENTERED DESIGN AND PLANNING:

PGE acknowledges the harm the resulting from historic inequity and seeks to engage environmental justice communities to better understand how best to address and overcome disparities in our electricity system.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN:

PGE seeks to advance beyond its current stage of DEI maturity to advocate and implement best practices that will aid in accomplishing community-defined goals, objectives and desired outcomes.



LEARNINGS TO APPLY TO PART 2:

Through application of an equity lens PGE has identified gaps and impacts that it may now address along the spectrum of engagement to build trust and co-develop solutions that meet community needs

Spectrum of Community Engagement to Ownership

- A human-centered approach requires a long-term orientation
- PGE aims to engage our communities and build relationships that move to the right on the spectrum

	0	1	2	3	4	5
Stance toward community	Ignore	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Defer to
Impact	Marginalization	Placation	Tokenization	Voice	Delegated power	Community ownership
Community engagement goals	Deny access to decision-making processes	Provide the community with relevant information	Gather input from the community	Ensure community needs and assets are integrated into process and inform planning	Ensure community capacity to play a leadership role in implementation of decisions	Foster democratic participation and equity through community-driven decision-making; bridge divide between community and governance
Message to community	Your voice, needs and interests do not matter	We will keep you informed	We care what you think	You are making us think (and therefore act) differently about the issue	Your leadership and expertise are critical to how we address the issue	It's time to unlock collective power and capacity for transformative solutions

Chapter Regulatory Response

DSP Section	Summary Description	Action
4.3.a.i	A utility should host at least two stakeholder workshops prior to filing each Part of the utility's Plan, at a stage in which stakeholder engagement can influence the filed Plan.	May 22-23; 3hr sessions, 40+ participants; Energy/DSP 101 (Sat); DER 101 (Sun); Participants were provided with a \$250 stipend for attending both workshops.
4.3.a.ii (1-4)	A utility should develop a Community Engagement Plan that describes actions the utility will implement in order to engage community members and CBOs during development of the pilot concept proposals required in Solutions Identification requirements (Part 2, Section 5.3. (d)).	Scope of Work (SOW) with CBO partners included technical and language translation, recruitment and facilitation, and best practice recommendations
4.3.a.iii	Utilities should aim to create a collaborative environment among all interested CBO partners and stakeholders.	ETO, NWECC and PGE served as technical advisors to CBO partners
4.3.a.iv	With consultation from utilities and stakeholders, OPUC will prepare accessible, nontechnical educational materials on DSP to support public engagement	Contextual materials were provided to workshop participants and made publicly accessible
4.5 (a-c)	As Part of its Part 1 filing each utility should prepare for the upcoming transition period and include a high-level summary to discuss how legacy distribution planning practices will be transitioned and by when, as well as efforts to synchronize IRP activities with requirements of Part 2	PGE expects to coordinate CBO engagement activities for IRP and DSP in support of HB2021 mandates

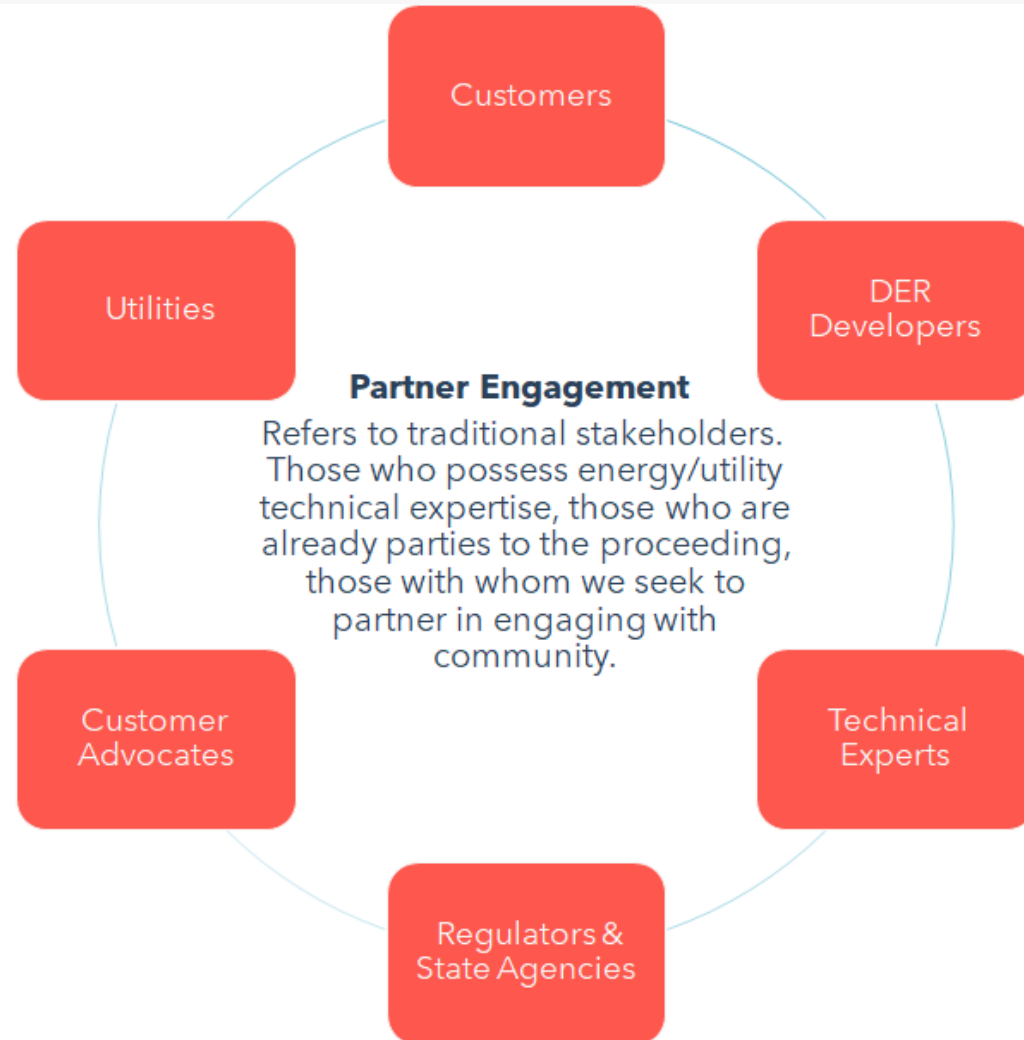
Workshop Approach

Community Engagement Definition

In the context of the DSP, community engagement refers to the education and outreach to non-traditional stakeholders; those who have not historically had a seat at the table, those who have not historically been provided access or granted procedural equity, those who represent the Environmental Justice community.

Partner Engagement

Refers to traditional stakeholders. Those who possess energy/utility technical expertise, those who are already parties to the proceeding, those with whom we seek to partner in engaging with community.



How Did We Get Where We are Today

- Empowering Communities supports environmental justice and community benefit goals (HB2021)
- Partnered, compensated and deferred to community-based organizations (CBO) to recruit, convene, translate and elicit feedback in workshops with environmental justice communities across the service territory
- Workshop insights, best practice and recommendations will be integrated into the Community Engagement Plan, a subsection of the larger DSP Action Plan, and is expected to inform engagement in Part 2 and beyond



Chapter Take-Aways

Focus Area	Goals	Objectives	Outcomes
Develop Competency	Build skills and resources that help PGE address our gap in competency in community engagement and operationalizing equity	In NWA, Part 2, ensure frequent communication, feedback loops, follow-thru, early and often engagement and transparent report outs.	Build durable, long-lasting, and mutually beneficial relationships with community partners and after relationship is cultivated, work towards partnership with community-based organizations (CBOs) representing environmental justice communities.
Activate CBO Participation	Center meaningful participation of environmental justice communities	In NWA, Part 2, advocate for representation on House Bill 2021 Community Benefit and Impact Advisory Group (CBIAG), build CBO capacity/resources via financial assistance, and pursue direct community engagement as a complement to CBO partnership	Members of environmental justice communities are able to contribute and be involved in a meaningful way
Unlock Demographic Data	Rely upon a diversity of data (GARE Racial Equity Tool, Step #2) and diversity of research (including both quantitative and qualitative)	Ensure engagement is informed by data and tailored to the needs and interests of affected communities.	Understand community energy needs, desires, barriers and interest in clean energy planning and projects and where opportunities exist.

Learnings and Feedback

Requirement area	Learnings
Baseline data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To better understand the needs and wants of the communities PGE serves, it must first understand where environmental justice communities live, work and play. PGE may begin to identify these communities by examining demographics or attributes that include income, race/ethnicity, age, disability, language spoken and heat type. A map and its dimensions enable PGE and stakeholders to apply a human-centered approach to grid topology and planning.
Hosting capacity analysis (HCA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The HCA is a tool upon which a community needs analysis may be based in a subsequent phase, so it is important to carefully consider the screens applied to this data. Staff guidance states that pilot concept proposals should be reasonable and meet the guidelines, even if the individual proposal may not be cost-effective, likely because screens like cost-effectiveness may have the unintended consequence of disqualifying certain locations and perpetuating structural inequities.



“toda la informacion me fue muy util ya que no sabia de donde proviene la luz, ahorrar luz estar preparados para desastres naturales mucha informacion que me gusto y aprendi bastante gracias.”


English Translation

All the information was very useful to me since I did not know where the [energy] comes from, how to save [energy], be prepared for natural disasters. There was a lot of information that I liked and I learned a lot, thank you.


Electricity and Climate Resilience
Part 2

Resiliencia Climática Y Electricidad
Parte 2



Coalition of
Communities of
Color



Today’s focus: How we can be more resilient

Enfoque de hoy: Como podemos ser mas resilientes?

Questions?

Please email us at
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