

Distributed Systems Planning Pilot Workshops: Summary & Evaluation of Community Feedback



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Purpose of Pilot Workshops

Provide PGE with a community-centered engagement model that:

- Demonstrates relevancy and accessibility of energy-related topics to BIPOC, immigrant and refugee, and low income communities.
- Builds awareness about of energy systems, climate related impacts, and climate resiliency.
- Centers community feedback about pilot workshops.

Workshop Topics

Day 1

- Electricity Production
 - How?
 - Where?
- The Grid and Peak Load
- Natural Disasters

Day 2

- Distributed Energy Resources
 - Renewables & Storage
 - Energy Efficiency
 - Smart Technology

Unite Oregon

We work across Oregon to build a unified intercultural movement for justice. We work to build collective community power through **community organizing**, **leadership development**, **civic engagement** and **political advocacy**.



Community Energy Project

We believe everyone deserves a safe, healthy, and efficient home, regardless of income.



Community Engagement

- DIY Weatherization
- Lead Poisoning Prevention
- Oregon Community Solar Program

Direct Home Services

- Repairs
- Weatherization
- Energy analysis and Upgrades

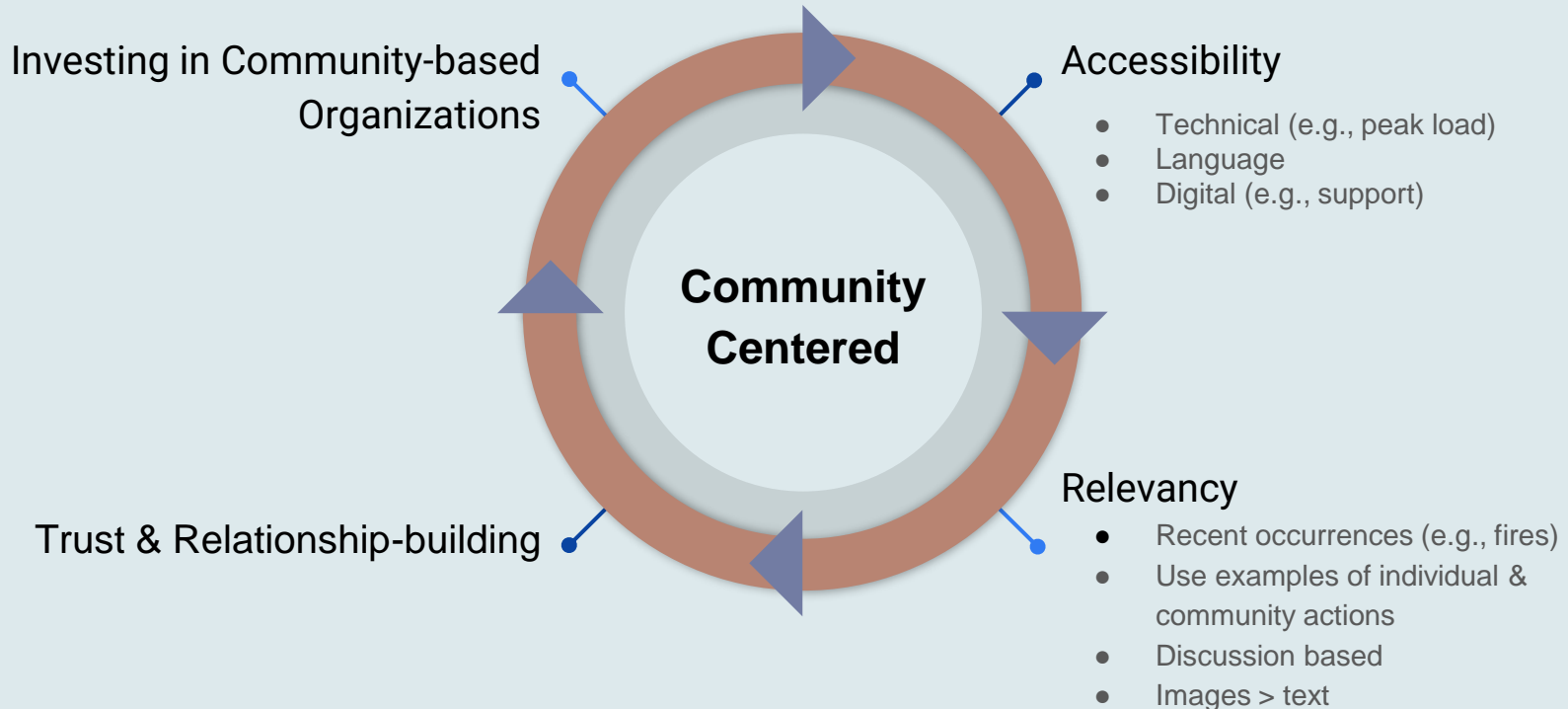
Coalition for Communities of Color

Mission

To address the socioeconomic disparities, institutional racism, and inequity of services experienced by our families, children and communities

To organize our communities for collective action resulting in social change to obtain self-determination, wellness, justice and prosperity.

Our Approach



Welcome

Bienvenidos

Screen Name: Make sure it reflects the name you want to be called in this space and include your pronouns

Nombre en la Pantalla: Asegure que refleje el nombre que quiere que le llamen e incluya sus pronombres. Si quiere estar en grupito con hispanohablantes, pon ESP en frente de su nombre

Community Agreements Acuerdos Comunitarios



Take Space Tome espacio

Share your thoughts and experiences



Confidentiality Confidencialidad

Keep personal details confidential but share lessons learned



Make room for JOY Haga espacio para la alegría

Joy = connection



Make Space Haga espacio

Actively listen and ask questions



Be present Este presente

Your presence is your present



Accept & Expect non-closure Acepta y espera una falta de conclusión

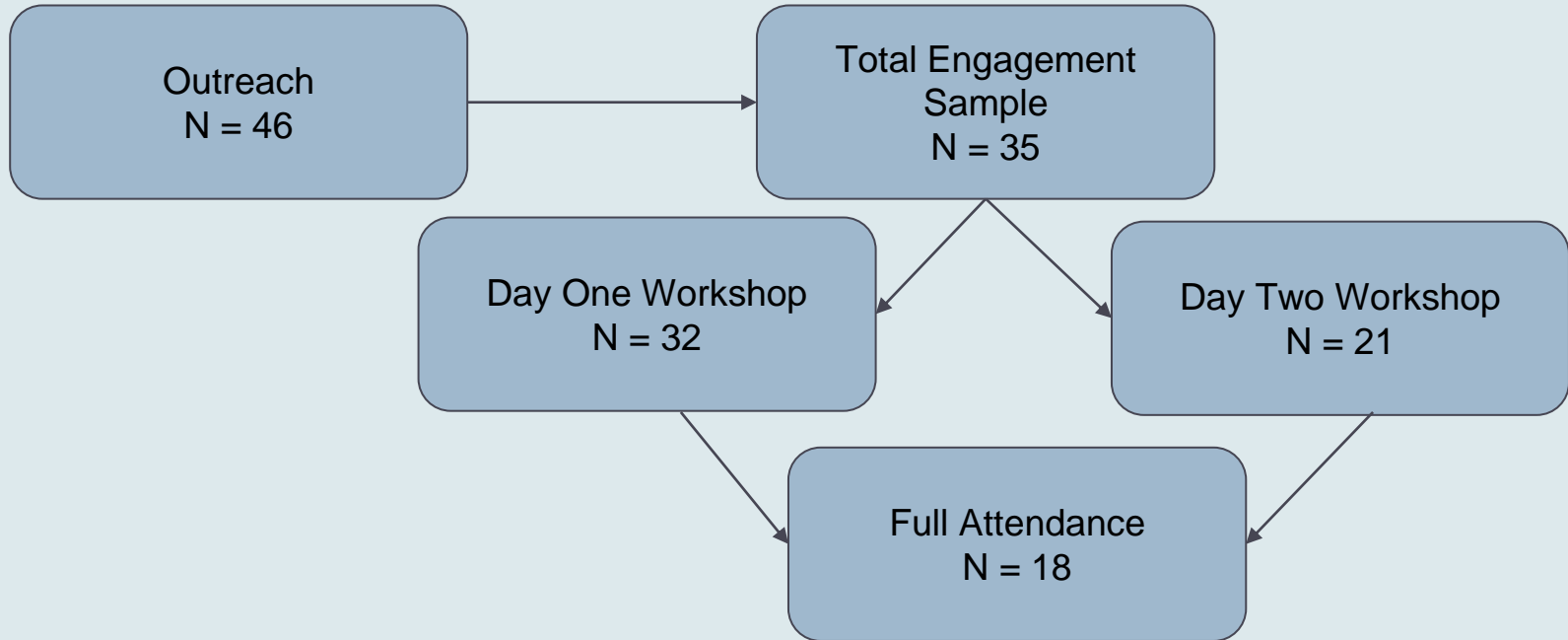
Current Engagement Context

- Online vs In-person Engagement
 - Accessibility
 - Outreach
 - Engagement
 - Digital/Physical Space
- Deep Community Investment: Time, Money, Trust, & Continuity
- Community needs during various crises

Data Sources

- Notes from meetings with PGE, CEP & Unite (during the planning process & workshop debrief session)
- Notes from attending and observing both workshops
- Participant registration data
- Post-workshop surveys

Participant Sample Size



Note: Total outreach indicates how many people registered for both workshops. Total Engagement Sample is the number of participants for both workshops, below is the sample sizes for day one and day two. Full Attendance represents the number of participants that attended both workshops.

Participant Demographics

| Race and Language Needs | Outreach %(Count) | Engagement %(Count) |
|---|----------------------|------------------------|
| Black Communities (e.g., African American, Afro Caribbean, and North African) or Black African* | 22%(10) | 18%(5) |
| Latinx Communities | 52%(24) | 54%(15) |
| AAPI/Asian Communities | 11%(5) | 18%(5) |
| Language Needs (Spanish) | 30%(14) | 34%(10) |
| Technical Support Needs | .08%(4) | .07%(2) |

Note: Race and Language Needs represent participants who completed the registration (outreach) and the survey on workshop day one (engagement).

*= One participant Identified as Black African

Participant Demographics

| Other Identities | Outreach %(Count) | Engagement %(Count) |
|------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Person of Color | 65%(30) | 55%(16) |
| Immigrant | 48%(22) | 55%(16) |
| Refugee | 11%(5) | 10%(3) |
| Low Income | 70%(32) | 62%(18) |
| Renter | 59%(27) | 59%(17) |

Note: Other Identities represent participants who completed the registration (outreach) and the survey on workshop day one (engagement).

Participant Demographics

| Gender and Sexuality | Count | Percent |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Woman/Girl/Feminine | 23 | 68% |
| Man/Boy/Masculine | 9 | 26% |
| Straight | 20 | 59% |
| Bisexual/Pansexual* | 4 | 6% |
| Queer | 2 | 6% |
| Questioning | 2 | 6% |
| Did not want to share sexual identity | 2 | 6% |

Note: This table represents all the participants that completed the survey from day one workshop. None of the participants indicated they identified as lesbian, gay, transgender, agender, non-binary, or unsure of their gender identity.

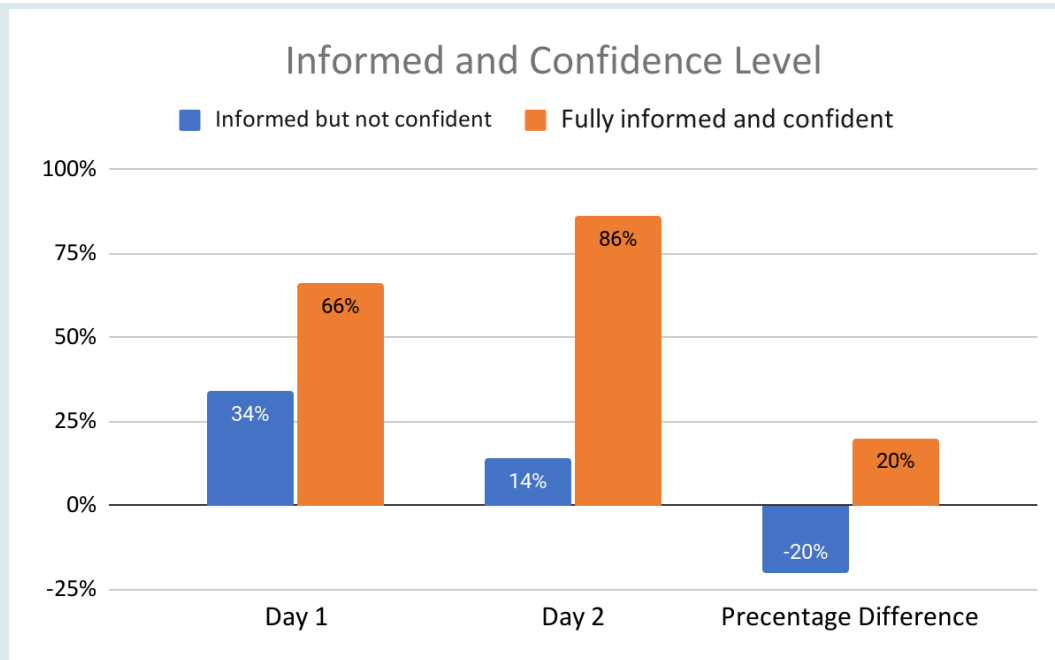
*= Among bisexual and pansexual participants 2 identified as bisexual, one identified as pansexual, and one identified as either sexuality

Participant Demographics

| Unite Oregon Chapter Affiliation | Outreach %(count) | Engagement %(count) |
|---|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Multnomah County | 16%(7) | 24%(8) |
| Rogue Valley | 16%(7) | 9%(3) |
| Washington County | 22%(10) | 18%(6) |
| Clackamas County | 47%(21) | 47%(16) |
| PGE Affiliation | 41%(19) | 48%(14) |

Note: Unite Oregon Chapter Affiliation represents participants who completed the registration (outreach) and/or the survey on workshop day one (engagement). PGE affiliation represents all the participants that completed the registration section.

How well informed and confident do you feel to engage with discussions and decisions about energy in Oregon?



Note: Participants indicated knowledge and confidence on a 4 point scale [1 = still unclear - 4 = fully informed and confident]. On both surveys, all participants indicated that they were either “Informed, but not confident” or “fully informed and confident.”

Most Useful Topics According to Participants

Day 1

- Reduce & save energy at household level
- Power grid & where power comes from
- Peak hours
- Renewable energy sources
- Winter storms & wildfires

Day 2

- Microgrid & example of energy resilient community and connection with institutional/structural conditions
- How to save/decrease energy use
- Strategies for countering peak demand
- Resources section

Energy Systems: Community Affects & Needs

- Our communities are... (affects)
 - ...still recovering from past fires
 - ...not informed/do not have intentional planning to prevent these impacts
 - ...surviving these crises through mutual aid and resilience -- more state support would minimize this burden
 - ...working outside; they need to be prepared
- Our communities need... (needs)
 - ... to be centered in these discussions as drastic climate changes have sudden impacts on low-income and immigrant communities
 - ...more education, less barriers to access, and lower cost to participate in these new systems (e.g., weatherization, smart technology, & alternative energies)
 - ...more climate aware spaces that are community centered
 - ...utility payment support due to COVID-19

Participant Suggestions for Future Workshops

- Many were happy with what was offered
- Popular Education approach throughout engagement (e.g., activities like kahoot)
- Different levels of experience (e.g., beginner, intermediate, etc.)
- More depth around personal, community, and institutional/government levels
- More examples of climate resilience
- Tools for community: prepare for weather situations, how to save energy, encourage children to save energy, etc.
- More resources and time to discuss them -- state-funded programs/institutions helping with climate change
- Understanding of energy decision makers and who community can hold accountable
- More of these efforts to keep learning about energy and growing in community
- Invite folks to provide testimony (affected by or work on resiliency efforts)
- Interpretation issues (e.g., more practice before hand, slowing speaking)

Team Reflections

- Stories allowed for people to connect early on.
- Pauses and prompts for people to process and relate to was helpful.
- Learning from community - “what tips and tricks do participants have?”
- More opportunities for popular education model
 - More trivia/polls/jeopardy model (answers first - participants guess the questions)
- Discussing different levels of climate resiliency and EJ: personal, community, and institutional/governmental levels.
- Include resources / action items earlier, and CBO’s with resources
- Stronger environmental justice lens (how to balance PGE’s goals with EJ goals?)
- Develop a sheet of terms/glossary
- Conduct a pre-survey to figure out expectations and gauge understanding

Participant Recommendations

- Integrate energy-related resources throughout the workshops and time to discuss/explain
- Incorporate more participant engagement and interaction opportunities
- Set aside time to discuss strategies for reducing energy-burden and consumption, and how communities can access renewable energy sources at lower costs
- Include more community-based examples/strategies of climate resiliency (e.g., CA microgrid example)
- Offer more in-depth workshops that connect energy topics/issues to: individuals, communities, and governments/institutions
- Invite and involve more CBOs in the workshops
- More clarity about “why” these conversations are needed now -- what laws, regulations, etc. are important to know about?

Community Partner Recommendations

- Budgeting for community engagement must include:
 - At least 4-6 months of planning in partnership with community-based organizations for: outreach, recruiting, event planning (if in-person), coordinating with interpreters, facilitators, and back-end support, procuring transportation, food, child care (if in-person), etc.
 - Stipends for all participants
 - Funds to shareback findings with community members
- Prepare and practice with interpreters (Unite's model)
- Building community-based feedback loops into engagement plan
- Share back community engagement findings with community
- Incorporate pre-workshop survey/evaluation to gauge expectations versus experience
- Use REALD and SOGI format on participant evaluation tools/surveys to better capture demographic diversity of participants