



Office of the City Manager

April 30, 2018

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: *DWR* Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Subject: Grant Award for Equity in Energy Transformation Project

The City of Berkeley is part of a group of eight North American cities that received a \$127,000 grant to identify strategies for local governments focused on making clean energy more accessible to low and moderate income households, including renters. The project is part of the City's ongoing efforts to further integrate equity into our operations and services.

The transformation from fossil fuels to clean energy technologies, such as rooftop solar, electric vehicles, and electric heating and cooling (heat pumps) is fundamental to Berkeley and other cities achieving ambitious climate action goals. However, to date, low and moderate income households have been less able to access clean energy technologies. The new East Bay Community Energy Program (EBCE) will allow all households in Berkeley to access cleaner electricity at rates equal to or lower than PG&E rates. But EBCE does not address natural gas use, and more will need to be done to make rooftop solar and other technologies more accessible for households at all income levels.

The project that the City of Berkeley is participating in will bring a group of cities together along with a consultant to research and recommend strategies moving forward. Staff will share findings with City Council. The project is expected to be completed in July 2018.

Berkeley's participation is led by the Office of Energy and Sustainable Development in the Planning Department. Other participating cities are the City of Burlington (VT), Buffalo (NY), Aspen (CO), Fort Collins (CO), Park Forest (IL), Sacramento, and Toronto. The grant was awarded by the Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN).

For more information please contact Timothy Burroughs, Director of Planning at tburroughs@cityofberkeley.info or 510.981.7437.

cc: Jovan Grogan, Deputy City Manager
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