

San Diego Community Power Plan

Phase 3: Report Back

Listening Sessions Co-Hosted with Community-Based Organizations Summary (Round 2)

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Prepared for

San Diego Community Power

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1. Overview

San Diego Community Power (SDCP) is developing a Community Power Plan (CPP) that will provide a decision-making framework to guide its strategy and development of local programs. Based on findings from a community needs assessment, the CPP will guide investments in developing local renewable generation, demand reduction, storage, and other distributed energy resources in SDCP's service territory.

Community engagement for the CPP occurred in three phases. The first phase focused on listening and information gathering about community priorities and needs around energy-related issues across different communities. This phase informed the development of the community needs survey questions and community needs assessment. Between July and August 2022, SDCP co-hosted a first round of six listening sessions with community-based organizations to hear from a range of community members in Communities of Concern¹.

The second phase focused on encouraging as many people as possible to take the community needs survey and continuing to build relationships with communities in SDCP's service area. SDCP developed and distributed the community needs survey with the support of the project team (Arup and Kearns & West), staffed tables at events in SDCP's service area, and targeted engagement in National City and the unincorporated communities of San Diego County.

The third phase focused on reporting the results from the community needs assessment and hearing community perspectives on the results. Between November and December 2022, SDCP co-hosted a second round of six listening sessions with the same community-based organization partners.

This summary documents the second round of listening session objectives, community-based organization partners, when and where the listening sessions occurred, and format and input themes from each session. Input from each listening session is documented in the appendices.

2. Objectives

The specific objectives for SDCP's second round of listening sessions co-hosted by community-based organizations were to:

- Continue to build relationships with community-based organizations and community members, especially from Communities of Concern
- Report back on results from the community needs assessment and hear community perspectives about the results
- Encourage community members to continue to stay involved in the CPP process

3. Community-Based Organization Partners

The listening sessions in Phase 3 were conducted with the same community-based organizations that co-hosted sessions during Phase 1. Please refer to the Phase 1: Listening summary for information

¹ Defined as the top 25% scoring areas from CalEnviroScreen, known as Disadvantaged Communities (DACs), as well as the additional census tracts identified by the Cities of [San Diego](#) and [Chula Vista](#) through their Climate Equity Index (CEI) reports. Specifically, the City of San Diego identified these census tracts as areas with very low, low, and moderate access to opportunity, whereas the City of Chula Vista defined them as the top 25% scoring areas within its own analysis. If other member agencies were to identify additional census tracts as the cities of San Diego and Chula Vista have done, SDCP would recognize those designations under the umbrella of Communities of Concern.

about the approach for selecting the community-based organizations, their roles in the listening sessions, and compensation. Participants in Phase 3 may or may not have included the same community members as Phase 1; participants were not required to attend both rounds of sessions.

4. When and Where

The community-based organizations determined if the listening sessions should be held in-person or virtually based on their community knowledge. Table 1 summarizes the details of the listening sessions, including the community-based organizations and the communities they represent or targeted for the listening sessions, date, time, and location of the listening sessions, estimated attendees, and languages the listening sessions were held in, including if interpretation was offered.

Table 1: Listening Sessions Information

Community-Based Organization/ Geography	Date/Time	Location	Estimated Attendees	Language/ Interpretation
Chicano Federation (Portside)	Wednesday, November 2, 2022 10:00-11:30 a.m.	SDCCU North Park Branch 3180 University Ave. San Diego, CA 92104	35	Spanish with English interpretation
MAAC (North County)	Tuesday, November 15, 2022 6:00-7:00 p.m.	Virtual (Zoom)	20	English with Spanish interpretation
Art Produce (Mid-City San Diego)	Wednesday, November 16, 2022 5:30-7:00 p.m.	Art Produce Gallery 3139 University Ave. San Diego, CA, 92104	10	English
MAAC (East County)	Thursday, November 17, 2022 6:00-7:00 p.m.	Virtual (Zoom)	5	English with Spanish interpretation
Project New Village (Southeastern San Diego)	Saturday, November 19, 2022 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Mt. Hope Community Garden 4261 Market St., San Diego, CA 92102	15	English
Casa Familiar (San Ysidro)	Thursday, December 1, 2022 5:00-6:30 p.m.	San Ysidro Civic Center 212 W Park Ave., San Diego, CA 92173	30	Spanish with English interpretation

5. Listening Sessions

The following sections summarize the major input themes from each of the listening sessions, with all input documented in the appendices [Appendix A: Chicano Federation, Appendix B: MAAC (North Session), Appendix C: Art Produce, Appendix D: MAAC (East Session), Appendix E: Project New Village, Appendix F: Casa Familiar]. The discussion questions for each session varied slightly depending on the meeting format and discussion groups but generally covered the following:

1. Major Challenges
 - a. Any thoughts on the major challenges or issues we learned from the community?
 - b. Anything surprising, interesting, or important?
2. Energy Issues
 - a. Any thoughts on the energy issues we learned from the community?
 - b. Anything surprising, interesting, or important?
 - c. What energy issues do you feel are missing?
3. Energy Solutions
 - a. Any thoughts on the energy solutions we learned from the community?
 - b. Anything surprising, interesting, or important?
 - c. What energy solutions do you feel are missing?
4. Do you have any other questions about what we learned?

Chicano Federation

Format

The Chicano Federation listening session was held in Spanish with English interpretation available and took place in person at Chicano Federation's office in the North Park community of San Diego. As participants gathered, they were welcomed by Chicano Federation staff and the project team and asked to sign in.

The listening session began with a short presentation about SDCP, the CPP process, and results from the community needs assessment. A Q&A portion and set of discussion questions followed where participants were asked to take part in a large group discussion facilitated by the project team. Participants had the opportunity to write their input on sticky notes or provide input verbally while the facilitator and project team took written notes.

Input

Major input themes from the session are summarized below with all input received included in Appendix A: Chicano Federation Input.

- Key priorities identified by participants included:
 - Reduce the cost of electricity bills
 - Support education on energy consumption and bills
 - Affordable housing initiatives and improving the quality of housing
 - Improve access to clean air by reducing air contamination
 - Improve community safety, security, lighting, and access to basic needs
 - Increase access to trees and green spaces

- Many participants said what was heard from the first round of listening sessions and community needs assessment resonated with them, particularly the input regarding the need for clean air in communities and addressing the high cost of energy, gasoline, food, and other basic needs.
- Access to educational resources to better understand bills, available programs, renewable energy, and reliable sources for solar panels, and limiting energy usage were identified as priorities by several participants.
- Numerous participants talked about affordable housing as their number one priority, along with the need to improve housing quality while not increasing rents. Participants noted general community improvements like better security and improved streetlights.
- Several community members stated that they are impacted by heat as a result of climate change and would benefit from more trees and green spaces in their community.
- Some community members expressed concerns about vehicular traffic and air pollution, as well as an interest in electric vehicles, including their benefits and how to access them.

MAAC (North Session)

Format

The MAAC listening session targeting North County community members was held in English with Spanish interpretation available and took place virtually on Zoom. As participants joined, they were welcomed by MAAC staff and the project team.

The listening session began with a short presentation by SDCP staff about SDCP, the CPP process, and results from the community needs assessment. This was followed by a Q&A portion and a set of discussion questions. Participants were moved into three breakout discussion groups; one discussion group was facilitated in Spanish and the other two were facilitated in English. Participants had the opportunity to provide input verbally or via chat.

Input

Major input themes from the session are summarized below with all input received included in Appendix B: MAAC (North Session) Input.

- Key priorities identified by participants included:
 - Reduce the cost of electricity bills
 - Support education on energy consumption and bills
 - Job creation and training
 - Reliable access to energy
- Numerous community members expressed concerns about affordability and the need to reduce the cost of electricity and the energy burden for low-income communities. Some shared that residents are being double charged for electricity despite paying their bills on time.
- Several community members expressed the need to provide reliable energy to communities and ensure a backup plan in the case of emergencies.

- Some participants also noted general community improvements such as recycling and decreased food waste.
- Concerns around the reliability of electric trucks, buses, and vehicles were noted by several participants.
- Some community members stated that they are faced with challenges in securing affordable housing.

Art Produce

Format

The Art Produce listening session was held in English and took place in person at the Art Produce Gallery in North Park. As participants entered, they were welcomed by Art Produce staff and the project team and asked to sign in.

The listening session began with a short presentation about SDCP, the CPP process, and results from the community needs assessment, and was followed by a Q&A portion and set of discussion questions. Participants were asked to participate in a large group discussion facilitated by the project team. They had the opportunity to provide input both by writing their own notes and verbally while project team members took written notes.

Input

Major input themes from the session are summarized below with all input received included in Appendix C: Art Produce Input.

- Key priorities identified by participants included:
 - Reduce the cost of electricity bills
 - Support job training in the energy sector
 - Provide energy education and outreach
 - Reduce energy consumption
- Many community members expressed the need for reducing energy costs and housing costs and raised the issue of accessible and affordable housing.
- Some participants also stated that tax breaks can also be more beneficial to communities than rebates.
- Numerous participants highlighted the importance of energy job training and education and noted opportunities for collaboration with existing job training programs (e.g., San Diego City College).
- Several participants emphasized the need for energy education, specifically noting the importance of understanding how to use energy efficiently beyond just reducing costs. One-on-one educational outreach was also noted, along with using devices, visuals, and fun activities to educate community members and youth.
- Some community members stated that it is important to balance the need to reduce energy costs while also reducing energy consumption. Some participants noted the need to focus on consumption from larger businesses and corporations.

- Some participants expressed concerns over the increased development of large-scale generating energy facilities in the desert and the impacts on resources and Tribes. Several questions were raised around SDCP's capacity for storing power.

MAAC (East Session)

Format

The MAAC listening session targeting East County community members was held in English with Spanish interpretation available and took place virtually on Zoom. As participants joined, they were welcomed by MAAC staff and the project team.

The listening session began with a short presentation by SDCP staff about SDCP, the CPP process, and results from the community needs assessment. This was followed by a Q&A portion and a set of discussion questions. Participants were asked to participate in a large group discussion facilitated by the project team. Participants had the opportunity to provide input verbally or via chat.

Input

The following sections summarize the major input themes with all input received included in Appendix D: MAAC Input (East Session).

- Key priorities identified by participants included:
 - Support education on energy consumption and bills and in schools
 - Affordable housing initiatives and improving the quality of housing
 - Improve access to clean air by reducing air contamination and increasing green spaces and trees
 - Support job training in the energy sector
- Some community members expressed the need for education and information on what is impacting their electricity use, ways to reduce their electricity use, and how to understand their bills. Several participants noted incentives to customers that reduce their consumption.
- Numerous participants expressed concerns about affordable housing and the high rent burden among communities. Questions were raised around incentivizing affordable housing and current programs available for low-income communities.
- Several residents noted general community improvements such as open space, trees, and access to solar panels in communities. Concerns around water needed to maintain trees and green spaces were also noted.
- Some participants emphasized the importance of access to high-paying jobs in the energy sector.
- Education about energy issues in schools was also noted by several participants.

Project New Village

Format

The Project New Village listening session was held in English and took place in person at the Mt. Hope Community Garden in southeast San Diego. As participants gathered, they were welcomed by Project New Village staff and the project team and asked to sign in.

The listening session began with a short presentation about SDCP, the CPP process, and results from the community needs assessment by SDCP staff. A Q&A portion and set of discussion questions followed. Participants were asked to participate in a large group discussion facilitated by the project team. Participants had the opportunity to provide input verbally while the facilitator took written notes.

Input

Major input themes from the session are summarized below with all input received included in Appendix E: Project New Village Input.

- Key priorities identified by participants included:
 - Increase access to trees, fresh food, and green spaces
 - Traffic and access to clean public transportation
 - Affordable housing initiatives and homelessness
 - Improve access to energy-efficient appliances and homes
- Many community members emphasized the need to reduce traffic by improving clean public transit across San Diego County, especially in the southern portion of the county.
- Numerous community members expressed concerns over green space, trees, and food access. Some participants noted the importance of access to fresh fruit and vegetables via fruit trees in neighborhoods. Other participants noted some concerns over tree maintenance and the need to pay residents to maintain the trees that are provided. Homeowner association (HOA) restrictions and priorities around native plants were also discussed.
- Some participants shared that while job creation is essential, there is limited information about the full details (e.g., job creation can take away space from natural spaces). Other participants highlighted the potential of worker-owned cooperative education (co-op) programs as a longer-term solution to job creation.
- Several participants noted concerns over gas infrastructure in buildings. Some suggested enforcing penalties on housing developers that choose not to decarbonize and electrify buildings.
- Within homes, some community members identified concerns over indoor air quality and a lack of access to electric appliances.

Casa Familiar

Format

The Casa Familiar listening session was held in Spanish with English interpretation available and took place in person at the San Ysidro Civic Center. As participants entered, they were welcomed by Casa Familiar staff and the project team and asked to sign in.

The listening session began with a short presentation about SDCP, the CPP process, and results from the community needs assessment, and was followed by a Q&A portion and set of discussion questions. Participants were asked to participate in small group discussions facilitated by the project team and Casa Familiar staff. Participants had the opportunity to write their input on sticky notes or provide input verbally while the facilitator took written notes.

Input

Major input themes from the session are summarized below with all input received included in Appendix F: Casa Familiar Input.

- Key priorities identified by participants included:
 - Reduce the cost of electricity and expand program eligibility for different income ranges and housing types (e.g., manufactured homes/RVs)
 - Improve access to information about programs and resources on how to reduce electricity use
 - Improve community safety, security, cleanliness, lighting, and access to basic needs
 - Increase access to energy-saving resources, such as more energy-efficient appliances and efficient electric technology (e.g., solar panels) while not increasing housing costs
 - Expand access to clean public transit
- Many participants talked about how San Diego residents are facing high costs and bills. Several expressed the need for more equity programs based on income and housing and that are responsive to low-income and disadvantaged communities.
- Numerous participants noted concerns over housing costs and a lack of affordable housing in their communities.
- Access to educational resources to better understand energy use and incentives were identified as key priorities for numerous participants. Other participants noted the need for education on the benefits of renewable energy and electric vehicles.
- Some participants highlighted the need to improve community engagement and create more opportunities for people to participate in listening sessions.
- Numerous participants talked about traffic and air pollution concerns, particularly near the US-Mexico border. Some residents highlighted the need for accessible, consistent, and reliable public transportation so they won't need to be reliant on their car. Other participants highlighted successful free transit programs for the elderly in Chula Vista that should be a model for other cities in San Diego.

- Several community members noted community improvements that they would like to see, such as better lighting, more trees, green spaces in their community, and solar panels in schools. Others noted concerns over trash in San Ysidro, poor quality sidewalks and walkways, and a lack of access to handicapped parking spaces.
- Community members expressed interest in energy-efficient appliances (e.g., lightbulbs, windows, refrigerators) and upgrades in their homes while ensuring housing costs don't increase as a result. Some participants shared that home upgrades increased rent by as much as \$500 per month.
- Several community members noted the importance of increasing access to good, high-paying jobs. Some participants shared that some community members receive unreliable information about jobs, and many are unaware of how to obtain higher-paying jobs.

Appendix A

Chicano Federation Input

General Questions and Comments

- More survey responses were needed.
- Communication in different languages is very important. I like having access to information in the language I speak.

Are any of these results surprising or are they what you expected? Why or why not?

- The result on clean air is important to community members.
- Lowering bills is important.
- Better lighting is needed in communities.
- Support affordable and safe housing.
- In agreement with all the results from the survey, especially the results addressing the contamination of the air. (2 comments)
- Affordable housing should be number one. (5 comments)

What results do you find particularly interesting or important? Why or why not?

- Contamination of the air (4 comments)
- The heat impacts and the cost of living, especially food and gasoline

What energy issues do you feel are missing?

- There is not enough light in the streets. There needs to be a conversation about lighting.
 - Chollas View lights aren't bright; we need lighting directly on the streets.
 - Lights in parks are essential.
- Education about the consumption of energy and how we can save energy, like knowing the peak times
- Education on how to reduce my energy bill
- Too much vehicular traffic
- There is a need for more trees and plants in the community. (2 comments)
- We need better quality homes with more windows for ventilation.

Do you have any other questions about the energy issues identified?

- I want more information on how solar panels work. (2 comments)
- We need a guide to reliable sources for solar panels. Many families have been scammed and we want government-approved companies that can help.

- I want more information about actions I can take and what financial opportunities are available to me. (2 comments)
- What benefits does an electric vehicle have apart from not contaminating the air?
- How much charge would I get with an electric vehicle and how long would the charge last? What kind of programs exist and is it flexible to buy one?
- I would like more information on the different programs available. (3 comments)
- What is my landlord's motivation to implement some of these energy-saving programs? Will it give them more reason to raise my rent?
- What kind of trash is reused?

Appendix B

MAAC (North Session) Input

General Questions and Comments

- The cost of power in homes should be income-based.

Any thoughts on the major challenges or issues we learned from the community? Anything surprising, interesting, or important?

- Electric trucks are a waste.
- The railroad industry has invested plenty in electric vehicles. The city of Pomona also has electric buses that do not perform well.
- I would like to be able to find housing right now. There are plenty of homes and apartments that are overpriced.
- The cost of everything is going up. How is SDCP going to help those of us that are low-income?

Any thoughts on the energy issues we learned from the community? Anything surprising, interesting, or important?

- Look at reducing the bill.
- Provide reliable resources.
- These energy issues sound correct.
- Energy bills are going up. People who are low-income are being double charged despite paying the electricity bill on time.

What energy issues do you feel are missing?

- There needs to be a program for cleaning solar panels because there is a reduction in solar output when the panels are not clean.
- Jobs should be created with a backup plan.
- Power should be provided by the government as a backup in case anyone has an emergency.

Any thoughts on the energy solutions we learned from the community? Anything surprising, interesting, or important?

- Parking lots would be good to use for solar panels because that's wasted space.
- Happy to see efforts like the Living Coast Discovery Center (formerly known as the Chula Vista Nature Center) that are getting people connected to nature.
- Hoping to see efforts such as recycling and less food waste in low-income areas and not just in wealthy areas.
- Need a legitimate power supply with the little resources that are available.

What energy solutions do you feel are missing?

- People should have access to energy that will be accessible to all incomes.

Do you have any other questions about what we learned?

- None

Appendix C

Art Produce Input

General Questions and Comments

- Were the surveys sent to National City and San Diego County?
- Putting solar on commercial buildings is challenging/impossible.
- Outreach is needed on issues regarding electrical panel upgrades.
- New tax breaks for panels would be helpful.
- Does SDCP have any solutions for costs?
- Where are the opportunities for cost efficiency?
- Why are energy costs lower elsewhere in the country?
- What is the driving goal of SDCP?
- Who are the founders of SDCP?

Any thoughts on the major challenges or issues we learned from the community?

Anything surprising, interesting, or important?

- These are my top priorities as well.
- Switching over to more energy-efficient appliances is a priority.
- Why not promote passive cooling improvements instead of air conditioning?
- Eliminate issues that aren't related to SDCP's core mission.
- Where are the issues related to affordable housing and energy measures?
- Training and education (e.g., vocational school)
- Energy jobs
- Connect with the community colleges and offer internships.
- Switch the order of the top two priorities. The goal is to encourage people to use less energy and address climate change.

Any thoughts on the energy issues we learned from the community? Anything surprising, interesting, or important?

- Utilize existing programs for job training (e.g., San Diego City College training/internships).
- Does reducing energy costs cause people to use more energy?
- Keep costs lower than SDG&E rates.

What energy issues do you feel are missing?

- Educational components (i.e., working with residents to understand how to use energy efficiently vs. just reducing costs)
- One-on-one educational outreach
- Support tax breaks vs. rebates.
- Use devices to educate about energy usage (e.g., OhmConnect).
- To avoid data overload, create visuals with educational/outreach materials, make it fun, and involve kids.

Any thoughts on the energy solutions we learned from the community? Anything surprising, interesting, or important?

- None

What energy solutions do you feel are missing?

- Need education for residents on reducing consumption (e.g., awnings).
- Need intensive education in all communities.
- Make education fun and interactive for kids, including classroom activities.
- Give out OhmConnect smart plugs.

Do you have any other questions about what we learned?

- Is rooftop solar better than large-scale generating facilities?
- There are concerns about new generating facilities in the desert and impacts on resources and Tribal resources.
- What is SDCP doing to store power?
- As new homebuyers in a disadvantaged community, people are inundated with dishonest solar providers. What can be done to reduce predatory installers?
- When is it beneficial to install solar vs. buy renewable energy?
- How is SDCP working with larger businesses on their consumption?
- Why does San Diego have higher energy rates than the rest of the country?
- Check out the San Diego Green Building Council/Switch is On resources.

Appendix D

MAAC (East Session) Input

General Questions and Comments

- Regarding not having enough trees, shade or natural areas, and open spaces, we need more water. How will that be dealt with?
- Regarding lack of affordable housing, how to do it? What programs are currently available?
- Regarding reducing energy bills, there need to be more workshops on how to save energy.
- Regarding creating good, well-paying jobs in the energy sector, ensure jobs are not just minimum wage. We're facing high rents but low wages and must make decisions between paying for rent or food. There's a high rent burden. Homes in National City are old. How do you/we take action to incentivize building of more housing to lower rents?

Any thoughts on the major challenges or issues we learned from the community?

Anything surprising, interesting, or important?

- More access to solar panels

Any thoughts on the energy issues we learned from the community? Anything surprising, interesting, or important?

- Teach kids about energy issues at school.

What energy issues do you feel are missing?

- None

Any thoughts on the energy solutions we learned from the community? Anything surprising, interesting, or important?

- Incentives to customers for low energy consumption
- Communities would benefit from the knowledge of how to make a difference by understanding the amount of energy we consume.
- It would be very important to know how to read the energy bill. (3 comments)
- I hope SDCP has more clarity in the bills they send because that would help our community a lot.

What energy solutions do you feel are missing?

- For energy, there is nothing more to add because everything is based on resources.

Do you have any other questions about what we learned?

- None

Appendix E

Project New Village Input

General Questions and Comments

- If we are automatically enrolled, does that mean we already have PowerOn (i.e., 50% renewable energy)?
- Are there currently electric buses in San Diego?
 - There are electric buses in North County, but that goes to show that it is a social justice issue because they exist in North County areas, but not in South County. It's always the lower-income neighborhoods that receive resources last.
- Is there a law about electric vehicles? Are we getting rid of gas-powered vehicles?
- Are there grants available to install solar panels?
- Many of these solar installing companies need to establish trust with communities. We worked with GRID Alternatives for our installation and found them to be highly reliable.

Any thoughts on the major challenges or issues we learned from the community?

Anything surprising, interesting, or important?

- I find it interesting that all these problems are related to “our” work [architecture]. For example, shade is an equity issue and that ties very well with architects because that's a design issue.
- I recently learned why there are no fruit trees in our community. People say it attracts homeless individuals, but I think it's important to have access to fresh fruit regardless of whether you have housing or not.
 - I want to add that when I first moved here, I noticed the same thing. I was shocked there was not more access to fresh fruits.
- SDG&E has a free tree program. You get a free tree, but you have to do all the work to maintain it. Why doesn't SDG&E provide incentives like paying the stewards for taking care of it? People are already struggling to pay for things like housing, gas, and food, so provide incentives for both sides of the issue. SDG&E gets a tree, and the community gets money.
 - Homeowners Associations (HOAs) are very strict on the types of trees you can have, and this is very limiting.
 - Trees and shade are important, but we should also include native plants in the conversation.
- Too much traffic
 - When I see that as a general challenge, I don't see a major problem because I think it is solvable. We can solve that by improving public transportation.
- Homelessness is a general challenge that is missing.

Any thoughts on the energy issues we learned from the community? Anything surprising, interesting, or important?

- People don't know the full details behind job creation. What does that mean? Many times, job creation also means taking away space from natural spaces.

What energy issues do you feel are missing?

- Are there worker-owned cooperative education (co-op) programs that can be involved in job creation? When we think of job creation our immediate reaction is training, but worker-owned co-op models are longer term and can be a good alternative to traditional forms of employment.
- I live in student housing, so I don't have to worry about an energy bill.
- I would say it's generally very hard to find ways to reduce energy usage. It's hard to access high-quality resources.
- An energy issue missing is how [do] we deal with the gas infrastructure.

Any thoughts on the energy solutions we learned from the community? Anything surprising, interesting, or important?

- Horticulture and indoor air quality – this is a way for families not to have to rely on all electric appliances in the home.
- There need to be incentives for developers to install all electric appliances or even a penalty on developers for those who only use gas.
 - That ties in with education for developers on affordable housing.
- I rent and don't have money to move to all electric appliances, so what do I do? What opportunities are there for existing buildings?

What energy solutions do you feel are missing?

- How can we use the carbon credit model at the local level? What incentives exist for decarbonization at the local level? For example, removing blacktops and fake grass and replacing them with other more sustainable methods? With a local carbon credit program, it allows the community to be involved and promotes local ownership.
- There are opportunities for innovative projects. We can look at community gardens and think about how we can enhance the infrastructure of local spaces, like solar panels. Agencies can partner with these spaces and promote pilot projects.

Do you have any other questions about what we learned?

- None

Appendix F

Casa Familiar Input

General Questions and Comments

- What to do for people that want solar panels in apartments?
- What percentage of the bill does solar cover?
- Will this program help me and others that live in RVs?
- What does “clean energy” refer to?
- I have solar panels on my home. What happens to the energy that accumulates? How much energy can I sell?
- What happens if everyone has solar panels? What happens to the electricity company?
- Are there solar panels for apartments?
- Should we talk to our apartment managers about solar panels?
- Sometimes solar panels only reduce a small portion of the bill.
- Will there be more meetings in the future like this one?

Any thoughts on the major challenges or issues we learned from the community?

Anything surprising, interesting, or important?

- With electric vehicles (EVs) increasing and gas cars disappearing, we need to generate enough energy for all the EVs.
- Plan in the future to sustain the energy needed to go fully electric.
- Provide enough programs for EVs/solar panels so it's affordable.
- Rents are rising and people want to live in RVs – provide solar panels for those living in RVs
- Do programs still exist to get solar panels? Are there discounts available for installation?
- Are programs available for people that live in RVs?
- Electricity costs are extremely high during high heat and extreme cold weather events. Some people pay up to \$300 for electricity during these periods.
- Refrigerators use a lot of energy. Is SDCP working to address this and help residents transition to more energy-efficient appliances?
- Renovations of homes and appliances are needed.
- Some people are paying electricity costs for electricity outside of their own home (e.g., streetlights).
- Technology is needed so that we know when energy is cheaper to use. Sometimes energy costs more when we're not using it.
- Making the trucks and buses electric is interesting.

- We're not saving money because rent and gas prices keep increasing.
- Do you offer any types of help with affordable housing?
- Can we change from SDG&E to SDCP? If SDCP worked separately from SDG&E, I would change to SDCP.
- Do you offer discounts like SDG&E does?
- If we had better-paying jobs, we would have more money to pay for electricity.
- With the pandemic, all prices have increased but salaries aren't increasing.
- Can't drive the car on certain days depending on the license plate number.
- The air pollution is bad near the US-Mexico border.
- How do you check the air quality?
- There are more concerns about air pollution as people get older.
- The places with the most traffic have the most air pollutants.
- The traffic and air pollution challenges relate to one another.
- The electric bus program done in Mexico City should also be done here.
- Landlords are not interested in clean energy/improving the quality of life for people.
- Not everyone in the community participates in sessions like these.
- There needs to be a better understanding of the benefits of solar and EVs.
- More informational programs
- Financial incentives and programs for accessing solar are needed.
- There is a lack of good lighting and green spaces. (2 comments)
- Poor quality sidewalks and pedestrian walkways
- Few handicapped parking spaces (high need for this)
- The San Ysidro community is treated like a landfill.
- There aren't enough trash cans in the community and trash is everywhere.
- There are safety concerns over large, parked vehicles/RVs that stay in the same spot.

Any thoughts on the energy issues we learned from the community? Anything surprising, interesting, or important?

- Gas prices and overall costs have gone up significantly. (2 comments)
- Food costs have increased significantly.
- Better paying jobs are needed to keep up with increasing costs.
- Minimum wage is not enough to pay for essentials.

- Many people are unable to pay for gas due to increasing costs.
- Community members are unaware of how to obtain good, high-paying jobs.
- Some community members receive unreliable or untruthful information about potential jobs.
- There need to be more opportunities to inform communities about these issues.
- It is important for community members that are attending these sessions to take information back to their communities.
- Take into account the mistrust of government agencies among community members.
- Communities need to support children and one another.
- The cost of the bill is the number one concern for everyone.
- If salaries aren't increasing, the prices of everything should not increase either.
- Nobody [in the community] really knows why or how stock market prices go up or down.
- What does the "keeping the power on at my home" (e.g., preventing power outages) result mean?
- When to do the laundry, for example, but the time change affects when we can do things
- The double-pane windows keep the home warm, and people can suffer without them.
- People are charged high rents for substandard housing. Can SDCP do something about the condition of the houses?
- Changing the refrigeration can sometimes help with electricity costs, but the building manager may not always let you swap appliances.
- Rents can increase with home improvements and electrical upgrades which makes it difficult to ask for these changes.
- Refrigerators can use a lot of energy. New refrigerators can save energy. Is there a way to monitor the energy that is used by each appliance?
- Provide a 50% discount to make the change so the air will be cleaner.
- Light bulbs and efficient appliances should be donated to make them more affordable for people.
- Tube lights often save the most energy, but some people don't like the light color.
- Need to focus on the basics such as costs, rent, and jobs that pay well and help the environment.
- Everyone is interested in saving energy because of the high costs to bring it here.
- If given the opportunity, people would help to generate their own energy here in San Ysidro.
- Chula Vista made transit and vans free for elderly people. Another service exists in Downtown San Diego, as well. They drive people to the grocery store and anywhere they need to go. This should be replicated in other communities.
- San Ysidro is the poorest community in San Diego.

- It would be great if public transit were cheaper and more frequent so people would not need to use their cars. In Mexico, buses come every 5 minutes, but the buses take much longer in the US.
- It would be great if not using a car was more convenient.
- The price of energy is still high.
- More discounts/financial assistance is needed.
- Better and more efficient electrical appliances are needed.
- Programs that provide more energy-efficient appliances such as microwaves and lightbulbs
- Climate change is impacting health and worsening air pollution in the area.
- It is important to build consciousness of taking care of the planet such as through recycling and throwing trash away.
- There is a focus on money but not on equity and a lack of access to renewable energy for all.

What energy issues do you feel are missing?

- Fixing/providing lighting in public spaces and pedestrian walkways

Any thoughts on the energy solutions we learned from the community? Anything surprising, interesting, or important?

- Put solar panels in schools.
- It is surprising that individuals can sell energy from solar panels.
- Some people are beginning to use solar panels on cars.
- More trees are needed within communities (specifically, San Ysidro) to improve air quality and reduce heat exposure.
- Old and sick trees should be removed and replaced with healthy trees.
- Electric buildings would benefit community members, but the costs and type of housing should be considered to ensure housing is still accessible.
- With more electrical upgrades, rents may increase [some people shared that their rent went up by \$500/month after electrical upgrades were completed].
- Many landlords and building owners upgrade homes to increase costs and ultimately push out previous tenants.
- Housing is scarce in San Ysidro.
- SDG&E increases prices while SDCP says they won't. How do we know that SDCP won't increase prices as well?
- People mainly care about the cost of energy more than whether it is clean. The cost is the dealbreaker, just like wanting organic vegetables but buying the cheaper vegetables because it is more accessible.
- It's good that solar panels can be used on apartments.

- There should be a committee for SDCP.
- It's good to come to listening sessions to be more informed.
- There should be solar lights at bus stops and pedestrian walkways.
- Change/remove diesel trucks to cleaner energy.
- More accessible EVs
- Phone/device chargers that use renewable energy
- Transparency over the cost of solar panels

What energy solutions do you feel are missing?

- None

Do you have any other questions about what we learned?

- Regarding solar panels, many people don't know there are monthly fees. How can this information be made accessible?
- How can apartment renters get access to solar panels?
- How does it help renters when building owners install solar panels? Could arrangements be made with each renter that includes benefits?
- Split incentives between renters/building owners should be addressed.
- More updates and clarification on financial benefits to consumers
- How can people focus on EVs and renewable energy when their main focus is on surviving with basic needs?
- Financial programs and access to renewable energy
- How many years has SDCP been operating?