

Implementing Energy Justice Through Community Campaigns

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ABSTRACT

New York's Climate Act mandates 35% of total statewide spending on clean and energy efficiency programs for Disadvantaged Communities (DACs). In the past four years, over 16 million lbs of CO₂e emissions were avoided through upgrades to homes and buildings through the HeatSmart CNY campaign. Fifty percent of the households were low-to-moderate income. How was this achieved, how does it align with DACs, and what are the lessons learned that can guide policy and practice moving forward? Which incentives were most effective, and what is available for future projects? Best practices, barriers to implementation, project timing and policy changes that can lead to the most equitable outcomes will be discussed.

BIOGRAPHY

Lindsay Speer is the Director of Community Programs for Alliance for a Green Economy (AGREE). She has managed the HeatSmart CNY campaign for AGREE in conjunction with the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board since 2018, drawing on her background in community organizing, graphic design, and energy policy to lead the HeatSmart CNY campaign to be #1 in New York State for carbon emission reductions. This work in turn informs AGREE's efforts to develop policies and programs for a just energy transition to a renewable energy economy. Lindsay's deep commitment to environmental justice and the local community comes from her many years of working with the Onondaga Nation and local EJ organizations on environmental issues throughout the region, as well as personal experience living and working in a Disadvantaged Community. She is a recipient of Greening USA's Sustaining Our Communities Award (2019).