

PRESENTATION

Mitigation Strategies Working Group
Governor's Council on Climate Change

US DOE: Communities Local Energy Action Program (LEAP) - Bridgeport

Greater Bridgeport Community Enterprises

- Adrienne Farrar Houël

November 7th 2022



NEW OPPORTUNITIES

A YEAR IN THE MAKING

- Biden Administration's focus on Climate Change
- US Department of Energy: Community Local Energy Action Program. Pilot for Technical Assistance
- State of CT: Governor's Committee on Climate Change, CGS 22a-20a EJ community definitions & Public Act 21-43 CBAs required for projects 5MW and over), PURA, DEEP, CT Green Bank
- US DOE/State of CT: NE Hydrogen Hub

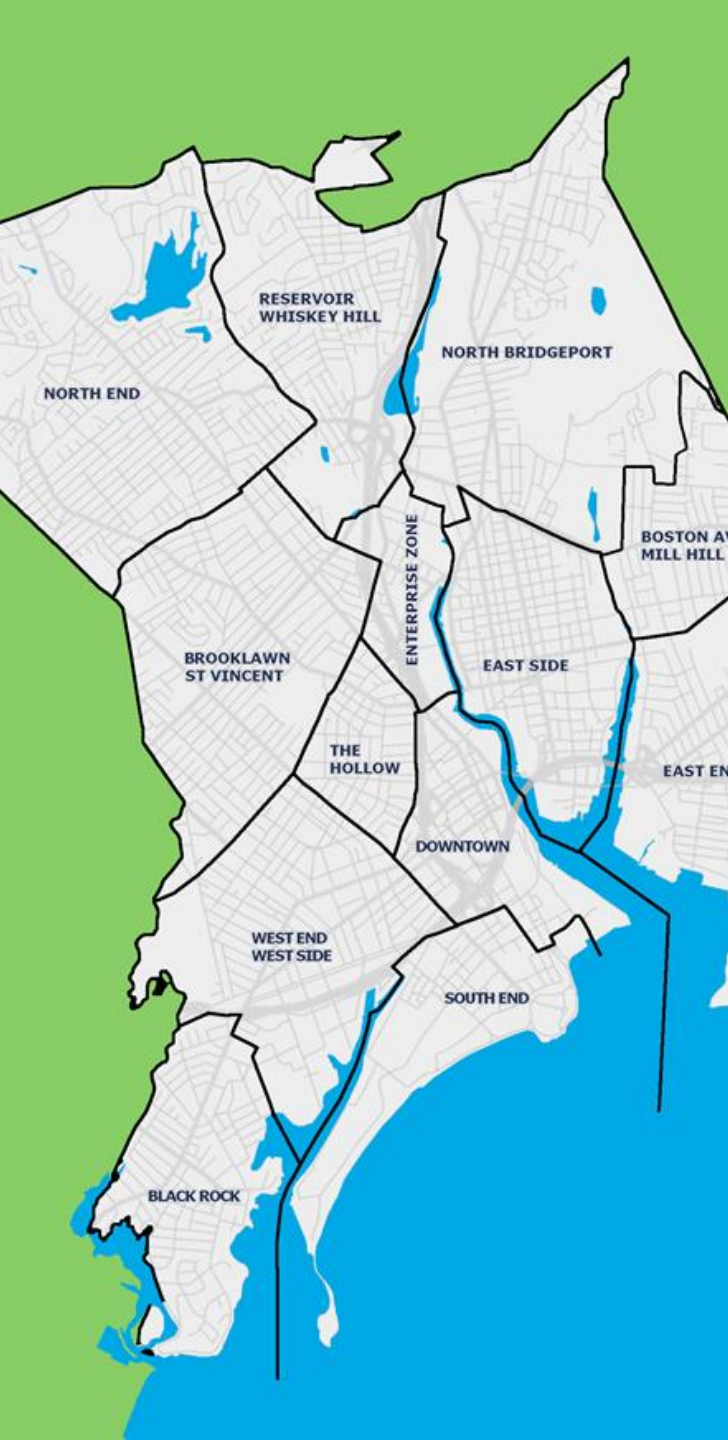


PHOENIX RISING: LITTLE LIBERIA

A Study in Contrast & Contradiction



In the shadows of Harbor Station #3, a coal-fired power plant stands above a landmark on the National Register of Historic Places significant for its role as a stop in the Underground Railroad. In the forefront of the stacks are the last surviving homes of Mary and Eliza Freeman, located in a neighborhood in the South End of Bridgeport once known as “Little Liberia,” first settled by free African Americans and the Paugusset tribe.



ENERGY CONSERVATION & JUSTICE 40 INITIATIVE

- Biden Executive Orders: Jan/July 21
- Whole-of-Government Requirement
- 40% of benefit of all federal investments go to disadvantaged communities
- Executive Order 13985, Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Under-served Communities Through the Federal Government;
- Executive Order 14008, Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad



THE ENERGY BURDEN IN BRIDGEPORT

- 30% of Bridgeport residents face energy burdens above what is considered affordable
 - Four Fuel Banks/Intake Sites
 - OPF serves roughly 700 households annually
- Energy Independence
 - 72% requested help for electric in FY21
 - Fewer than 1,000 total applicants requested fuel assistance – when energy is affordable, fewer HHs seek outside help
- 20% of energy bill, comes from heating water
 - Water utility burden, like energy have a relationship to income
 - 20% population have high water burden

ENERGY BURDENED COMMUNITIES



JUST THE FACTS: WE QUALIFIED

- **Low Income:** Designated a Distressed Community by DECD. Nearly 75% of the population is low income by federal definition of 200% of poverty level \$51,500 for a family of 4
- **Poverty rate** at 21%, while state rate is 10%
- **English Language Proficiency:** 16% residents with limited proficiency
- **Energy Burden:** nearly 50% of households have energy burden of 6% or greater; overall burden for city = 6.2%
- **Environmental Justice:** Designated an EJ Community by DEEP; 8 Affecting Facilities; Asthma rated = 11% for both adults and children
- **City History** of Energy Projects & Past Plans

BENEFITS: ENERGY CONSERVATION & CLEAN ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

US DOE Alignment:

- **Facilitate sustained community-wide economic empowerment: attract impact investment in energy**
- **Improve local environmental conditions & specifically lower local air pollution to improve community health outcomes**
- **Lower utility costs thereby reducing energy burdens**
- **Improve access to reliable energy**
- **Create & sustain high quality jobs**



VEHICLE: Bridgeport Regional Energy Partnership BREP

- **ALL Community Approach: linchpin for LEAP award**
- The mission:
 - lessen the energy burden of Bridgeport families
 - increase opportunities to create local jobs in the new energy-efficient-focused economy
 - promote government and private investment in safe, environmentally responsible projects that reduce energy consumption through conservation
 - create a clean energy economy that minimizes carbon emissions and maximizes renewable energy generation, that lowers the health risks and environmental impacts on our residents.

BREP COMMITTEES FOCUS ON OBJECTIVES & FUTURE PROJECTS

- Energy Efficiencies to reduce energy burdens
- Clean Energy Planning & Development including Resiliency & Transportation
- Enhanced Manufacturing, Energy Focused Workforce & Supply Chain Development



LEAP & BREP LEADERSHIP

- Continuity: Partnership from Creation of BREP to Proposal Submission to Plan
- GBCE, BRBC, City of Bridgeport, Operation Fuel & CT Green Bank
- CoChairs for Committees
- Fleshing out SOW: Execution of Tasks
- Objective: Add people & organizations to the partnership; dialogue



LEAP SCOPE OF WORK: TASKS

1. Stakeholder Mapping & Community Outreach
2. Model Community Environmental Benefits Agreement
3. Template Materials for Outreach
4. Review of Existing Policies & Incentives: federal, state, local (CT framework: Public Act 21-43 CEBAAs/CGS 22a-20a EJ communities definitions)
5. Near-Term community-driven Project/ EJ issue
6. Community Capacity Cataloging & Gaps Assessment
7. Project Screening Criteria
8. Bpt. Energy Profile: energy needs, consumption patterns
9. Renewable Energy Tech Workshops: what's available

DELIVERABLES TIME TABLE

- SOW Completed: December 2022
- Bpt Energy Profile: January 2023
- Community Outreach Initiated: March/April 2023
- Tech Workshops: March – May 2023
- Template Materials: February/June 2023
- Project Screening Criteria: March 2023
- Review of Policies/Incentives: January/June 2023
- Capacity Catalogue & Gaps: June 2023
- Community Project: June 2022/December 2023

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR: See Me

Duties/Responsibilities

- Meet with community members and groups to solicit input and feedback on projects, encourage public participation, and identify and foster grassroots leadership
- Assist in developing strategic communications materials/tools to advertise and advance the goals of the Bridgeport Regional Energy Partnership
- Plan and facilitate meetings of community leaders and activists
- Use effectively social media as community communications tool

Required Skills/Abilities

- Strong interpersonal and relational skills with a desire to do people-centered work
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills for a wide variety of audiences
- Extremely proficient with Microsoft Office Suite and G Suite; experience using a Customer/Client Relationship Management (CRM) software is preferred
- Excellent organizational skills, strong initiative, and attention to detail
- Enjoys working in a small team with an 'all hands-on deck' attitude
- Ability to work evenings and weekends during community meetings or events
- A commitment to addressing the historical and current impacts of racism, sexism
- Preference will be given to bilingual applicants who are fluent in English and Spanish

THANK YOU!

- For your interest, time and thoughts and future questions:

Adrienne Farrar Houël, President & CEO
Greater Bridgeport Community Enterprises, Inc.
houel@greenteambpt.com; (203) 209-6915

