Effective Practices for Implementing Local Climate and Energy Programs:

Identifying and Working with Experts

Lessons Learned *by* **Communities** *for* **Communities**

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WHAT IS IT?

Expert individuals and organizations can help programs tap into knowledge and experience in program design and implementation, as well as helping them to evaluate program success.

WHY DO IT?

- Experts can help programs evaluate resources, assets, opportunities, and effectiveness.
- Experts can provide technical information and help produce documents, guides, case studies, and other resources.
- Experts can help programs save money and time, build experience, and avoid reinventing the wheel.
- Experts can help programs build credibility.

WHAT WORKS?

- Utilize local universities, colleges, and community colleges.
- Tap into government technical assistance programs.
- Get multiple opinions if an idea is new or controversial.

WHAT SHOULD YOU WATCH OUT FOR?

- Experts can be enthusiastic, but be mindful of availability and get agreement on timelines and priorities.
- Avoid jargon. Ensure that any experts you enlist are able to fluently communicate their knowledge with a range of community members without using jargon and acronyms.

WHAT RESOURCES HAVE PROJECTS FOUND TO BE USEFUL?

- SCORE (formerly known as the Service Corps of Retired Executives)—Volunteers with business skills: www.score.org

> *"Experts and academics can help to evaluate program effectiveness or messaging."*
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> *Kate, Sustainable Transportation for a Sustainable Future, Salt Lake City, Utah*

> *"Experts can help you save time that might have been spent doing research."*
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> *Climate Showcase Communities project lead*