



Climate Justice Workshop



Agenda

Welcome & introductions

Climate change discussion

- What is climate change?
- What are some outcomes of climate change?
- How does this impact tenants and low income people?

What's the solution?

- ACORN's *Beat the Heat* Campaign - background and demands
- ACORN's *Energy Equity* Campaign - background and demands

Discussion of challenges on these campaigns

What has ACORN done?

- ACORN's Climate Justice research and victories

Campaign planning exercise

- Split into groups of 5, report back after 15 minutes

Questions/open discussion



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Campaign Demands

Beat the Heat

- Cities must develop and implement a maximum heat bylaw for rental housing.
Improvements to the city's tree canopy especially in low- and moderate-income tenant communities.
- Track heat-related deaths and illnesses.
- Provide free energy efficient air conditioners (Heat/ Cooling pumps) for low income community members, prioritizing tenants who pay their own utilities

Energy Equity

- Minimum efficiency standards that would **require** landlords to retrofit their buildings until they reach a minimum standard set by the government.
 - Right now there are lots of financial incentives (loans, financing, tax breaks etc) to encourage landlords to do these upgrades but they're just not doing them.
 - Enough carrots, now it's time for the stick!
- When governments are giving landlords money to do energy retrofits, the legal agreements **MUST** include affordability and anti-eviction conditions
 - Without tenant protections there is a real risk of landlords passing down the cost of these upgrades onto tenants through rent increases or renovictions
- Programs to help tenants pay their energy bills.
 - In Ontario, ACORN was able to pressure the government to introduce a program called OESP that acts as a \$45/month credit on low income residents' hydro bills. We need this in EVERY province!