

## Leveraging Utility Franchise Agreement for Community Power- Timothy

- What problems does the energy system create in your community?
  - o False expectation of people who want to get into solar industry that there's a clear path to making a career out of it (dreams and ideals doesn't match w reality)
  - o People get solar and they think they'll be okay if the grid goes down, but that isn't true
  - o Our energy is too cheap which causes us to use more and we need to raise the cost of energy to include externalities
  - o A lot of people can't afford energy, though
  - o How do we make sure we have energy justice while also increase prices to match the true cost of energy?
  - o We have habits of using energy that are not healthy, so there are behaviors that need to be unlearned
  - o During a trip to Ethiopia, water was more scarce and electricity went in and out, so became more aware of resource use
  - o Maybe energy doesn't need to be on all the time and that would help us be more aware
  - o We treat energy as a commodity rather than a service, selling Kw hours rather than thinking about efficient use and function performed, which leads to inappropriate pricing
  - o Current energy system if priced appropriately would be too expensive for any of us because we're ruining the plant producing it
  - o Want to flag this conversation for talking about diff ways to raise community capital later
- How would you like the energy system in your community to work?
  - o Where people in their own communities (defining community as broadly as you want, could be biz association or neighbors on a block, church, etc.) have discussions in their community about what they want in terms of energy services; if they want to use energy more efficiently, for example, then they can do research about what is causing high energy use then go to public leaders with a plan to remedy that problem like replacing energy sucking fridges
  - o Want people to be able to make investment in community controlled energy in which money and benefit stays within the community
  - o Need low income people to have an alternative to the utilities such as going off the grid
  - o Better planning process where we can agree on community goals
  - o Price on the cost of carbon emitted to make coal and gas less consumed so that prices can still be a system
  - o Membership model so people will have ownership and also incentive to be more conscious about resource use
  - o Need funding for remediation of damage already done by existing energy system

We are paying through our utility bills for the utilities' lobbyists to advocate for the companies' own interests and against our own potential collective interests like forming a municipal utility or doing community controlled energy.

Efforts have only been successful at the margins in the past because it's the same set of decision makers who decide what gets deployed. Once pressure was put on the utilities for their jobs, service area, profit, only then will they listen.

This kind of effort takes a lot of energy to sustain. How do the organizers do it?