



2026 Community Energy Program Report

LOOKING BACK ON OUR 2025 IMPACT

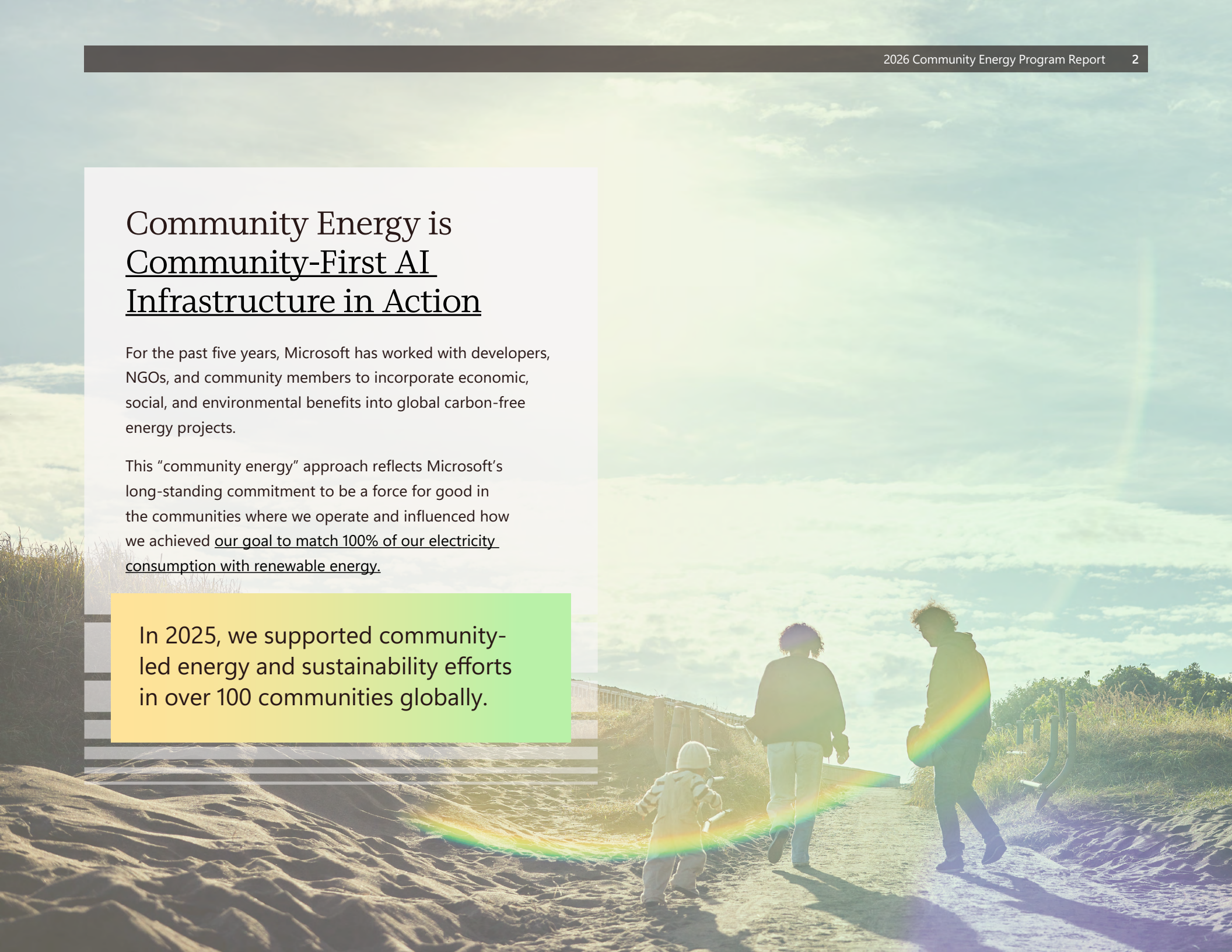


Community Energy is Community-First AI Infrastructure in Action

For the past five years, Microsoft has worked with developers, NGOs, and community members to incorporate economic, social, and environmental benefits into global carbon-free energy projects.

This “community energy” approach reflects Microsoft’s long-standing commitment to be a force for good in the communities where we operate and influenced how we achieved our goal to match 100% of our electricity consumption with renewable energy.

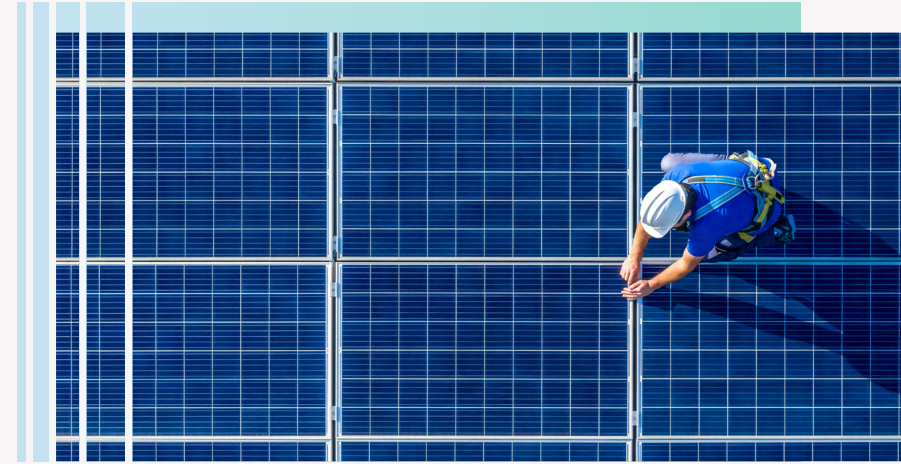
In 2025, we supported community-led energy and sustainability efforts in over 100 communities globally.



Community Energy Theory of Change

Our goal is enabling thriving, resilient communities with affordable energy and well-paying jobs.

We do this by focusing on three categories of community energy interventions:



Sustainable infrastructure

Tangible, physical community infrastructure projects

EXAMPLES

- ↯ Energy efficiency
- ↯ Community solar
- ↯ Battery systems

IMPACT

- ↯ Reduced energy use
- ↯ Lower energy bills
- ↯ Cleaner air & water

Economic inclusion

Investing in people and pathways into the clean energy economy

EXAMPLES

- ↯ Scholarships
- ↯ Workforce training
- ↯ Job placement

IMPACT

- ↯ New career options
- ↯ Higher wages
- ↯ Diverse workforce

Local capacity building

Enabling operational effectiveness in community organizations

EXAMPLES

- ↯ General operating support
- ↯ Technical assistance
- ↯ Skill building

IMPACT

- ↯ Well-resourced organizations
- ↯ Informed, engaged community members
- ↯ Strong on-the-ground partners

Our approach is evidence-based and community-tested.

Our Scalable Approach

We have a replicable model for delivering benefits through our carbon-free energy agreements.

1

Contract for carbon-free energy projects that include community energy interventions, enabling ongoing support for local impact over 10-20 year contract terms

- » We sign contracts with project developers to bring new clean energy capacity onto the grid
- » The contracts include language outlining how community benefits will be delivered alongside new infrastructure

2

Collaborate with local organizations and implementation experts to develop community-specific benefits strategies

- » Developer partners assess the workforce and community solar opportunities local to their projects
- » Non-profit “Community Benefits Managers” (CBMs) in each geography conduct local needs assessments and create grant-making strategies with local advisors

3

Deliver community energy interventions and measure impact

- » Project developers directly participate in on-site workforce training or clean energy subscription offerings
- » CBMs fund and support community projects and initiatives through local grantee organizations



Our 2025 Impact

We have seen promising results in 2025, and our reach is growing.



170+

Community organizations supported in 2025

100+

Communities impacted in 2025

2+GW

Operational carbon-free energy projects* with community benefits

* Enough to power ~1 million homes a year

 Projects online, delivering benefits

 Projects pending, benefits committed

Impact Spotlights

Hundreds of small-scale efforts are adding up to meaningful change, one community at a time.



SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

Energy efficiency:

Lowering energy costs, emissions in Chicago homes

Battery systems:

Turning a Virginia community center into a resilience hub

Community solar:

Prescribing lower energy bills for low-income patients in Boston



ECONOMIC INCLUSION

Scholarships:

Educating the next generation of clean energy professionals

Workforce training:

Preparing Maryland residents for solar jobs



LOCAL CAPACITY BUILDING

Enabling community energy organizations to fulfill their missions

These spotlights represent just some of the community initiatives supported by Microsoft globally.

SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

Energy efficiency: Lowering energy costs, emissions in Chicago homes

Energy inefficient homes force households to spend a larger share of their income on heating and cooling, with a high level of “energy burden” being 6% or more of a household budget going to energy.¹ Higher energy burden is linked to poorer health and deeper poverty. In Chicago, low-income households face nearly four times the burden of higher income households. To help address this, Microsoft and Vistra enabled home efficiency retrofits through a solar power purchase agreement (PPA) in Illinois. In the first year of the program, nonprofit implementation partner Elevate retrofitted 50 homes, making efficiency upgrades and electrifying appliances at no cost to the household that will deliver two decades of lasting energy savings and emissions reductions.

KEY PARTNERS



NEAREST MICROSOFT
DATACENTER METRO

Chicago, IL

50

Homes received energy
efficiency/electrification
retrofits in year one of program

~\$10,000

Expected annual household
savings across all 50 homes

¹Energy Burden in Chicago - ACEEE



SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

Battery systems: Turning a Virginia community center into a resilience hub

Community resilience hubs are trusted, centrally located facilities that support residents before, during, and after crises.² In Petersburg, Virginia, activist Queen Shabazz of United Parents Against Lead and the Virginia Environmental Justice Collaborative saw the need for such a space as flooding and power outages worsened in her community. Microsoft and Sol Systems signed a 500 MW PPA in 2020 that included a community investment fund. A grant from this fund allowed the hub to install solar and battery storage so it can remain open during emergencies. Since the solar and battery installation became operational in 2024, money saved on utility bills has been redirected to year-round critical services, such as food access and workforce programs, including solar PV installation training and certification.

KEY PARTNERS

NEAREST MICROSOFT
DATACENTER METRO

Boydton, VA

~\$2,800

Annual energy savings reinvested
into year-round critical services

500+

Number of people the hub can
support during a disaster (about
25% of local population)

² [Resilience Hubs Guidance - USDN](#)

“

The Petersburg Resiliency Hub is proof of concept that resilient power resources can be developed locally and tailored to serve the unique needs of an individual community.”

MARRIELE MANGO

PROJECT DIRECTOR AT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
PROVIDER CLEAN ENERGY GROUP



SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

Community solar: “Prescribing” lower energy bills for low-income patients in Boston

Boston Medical Center (BMC) takes a holistic approach to care, addressing the socioeconomic challenges its patients face alongside physical health. High energy costs disproportionately affect low income and medically vulnerable households³, making energy burden a critical issue. Microsoft joined a pilot with Solstice, now part of Perch Energy, to support community investment through Renewable Energy Credit (REC) purchases. This collaboration helped BMC expand its Clean Power Prescription program to provide low-income patients with energy bill credits from the hospital’s rooftop solar system.

KEY PARTNERS



59

Households served in 2025

\$600

Annual household energy cost savings



“

With Clean Power Prescription, Boston Medical Center aims to directly alleviate energy-related financial burdens by harnessing cleaner solar energy. This work is made possible by the generosity of corporations and organizations like Solstice and Microsoft. At BMC, we understand that achieving good health requires much more than traditional medicine. For more than two decades, BMC has been a leader in addressing not just medical but also social and environmental factors that impact the health of our patients.”

ANNA GOLDMAN, MD, MPH, MPA,
MEDICAL DIRECTOR OF SUSTAINABILITY



³ [Energy Insecurity and Social Determinants of Health - Handbook of Social Sciences and Global Public Health](#)

ECONOMIC INCLUSION

Scholarships: Educating the next generation of clean energy professionals

Volt Energy Utility is a renewable energy developer with a commitment to diversifying the renewable energy industry. To do that, they have developed a summer fellowship program for undergraduate students that provides paid internships, mentorship, and professional development in the clean energy sector. The fellowships are supported through a PPA between Microsoft and Volt and are administered through Sharing the Power Foundation. Through the program, Fellows gain real-world skills and knowledge, build lasting networks, and develop professional experience to support their next career steps.



KEY PARTNERS

NEAREST MICROSOFT
DATACENTER METRO

Nationwide

87%

Percent of Fellows that achieved a GPA increase upon returning to their academic institutions

100%

Percent of Fellows that secured internships for summer 2026 or full-time career opportunities within six months of graduation

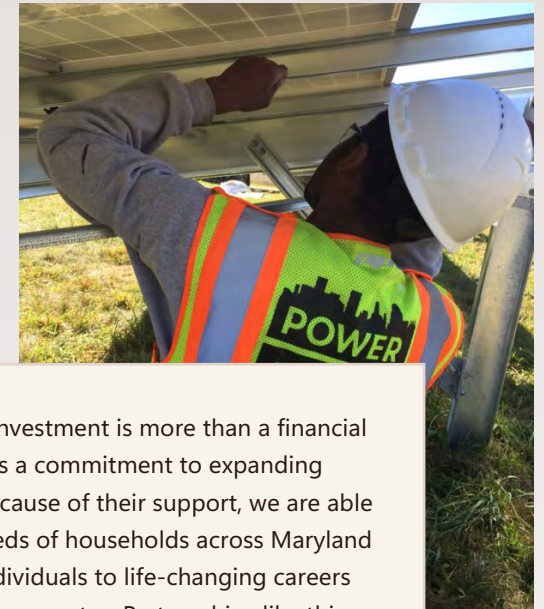
UNIVERSITIES REPRESENTED IN 2025 COHORT:



ECONOMIC INCLUSION

Workforce training: Preparing Maryland residents for solar jobs

As part of a five-year framework agreement with Microsoft, Pivot Energy committed to delivering clean energy industry training and job placement for individuals local to their solar facilities. Pivot is connecting with local workforce partners across the US, including Baltimore-based Power52 Foundation to launch a new workforce training initiative that takes participants from low-income backgrounds through an intensive, real-world curriculum to build tangible skills like solar installation, systems wiring, and safety best practices. The first cohort was trained in 2025, and several more groups of Maryland residents will go through the program over the next few years.



KEY PARTNERS



100%

Graduation rate
from first cohort

350

Total hours of
specialized training
completed by participant

“

Pivot Energy's investment is more than a financial contribution; it's a commitment to expanding opportunity. Because of their support, we are able to reach hundreds of households across Maryland and connect individuals to life-changing careers in the clean energy sector. Partnerships like this help us turn awareness into action and potential into lasting economic mobility.”

CHERIE BROOKS
PRESIDENT & CEO, POWER52

CAPACITY BUILDING

Enabling community energy organizations to fulfill their missions

Small and emergent non-profits are critical connectors to communities, often best-positioned to make hyperlocal on-the-ground community energy projects a reality. Despite this out-sized potential, they are less likely to receive grants and charitable donations compared to larger environmental nonprofits. Nearly 100 of these hyperlocal or emergent national organizations received grant funding and other support through our Community Benefits Managers like Sustain Our Future Foundation and ChangeX to scale their capacity in 2025.

A small sample of the organizations and capacity building initiatives supported in 2025 includes:

BUILDING IMPROVEMENT TOOLKITS (BIT) FOR RESILIENT HBCUS

Southface, SOFF, and WSP are working with students, faculty, and facility teams at 5 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to support strategic campus sustainability planning, assessment, and implementation of campus efficiency and infrastructure updates. Funding enables technical assistance, paid student fellowship experiences, and project implementation.



GARRETT SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The Soil Conservation District uses funding to advance flood mitigation projects in Garrett County, Maryland and expand its collaboration with local 4-H chapters to support students pursuing environmental science degrees.



KERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT (KCCD)

KCCD's California Renewable Energy Laboratory (CREL) is a collaborative hub for education, innovation, and technologies focused on clean energy, resiliency and sustainability for the state's 116 community colleges. CREL used funding to support scholarships for local students committed to sustainability.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Enabling community energy organizations to fulfill their missions (cont.)



VIRGINIA INTERFAITH POWER AND LIGHT

Virginia Interfaith Power and Light brings people together across faith communities to address climate change. Funding helps expand statewide advocacy efforts to advance renewable energy and energy efficiency access.



SOVEREIGN ENERGY

Sovereign Energy works with Southwest US Pueblos and Tribes to advance energy efficiency, access and self-reliance. Funding enables a renewable energy education webinar series for Tribal audiences.



THE FIELD BIOLOGISTS

Funding supports a training program for young people in Sweden to build investigative environmental journalism skills. Students learn techniques in open-source research, data analysis and freedom of information, and analyzing environmental policy structures.



WEST ATLANTA WATERSHED ALLIANCE (WAWA)

WAWA uses grant funding for participatory research, community outreach, and educational programming to advance water stewardship in West Atlanta.

Appendix

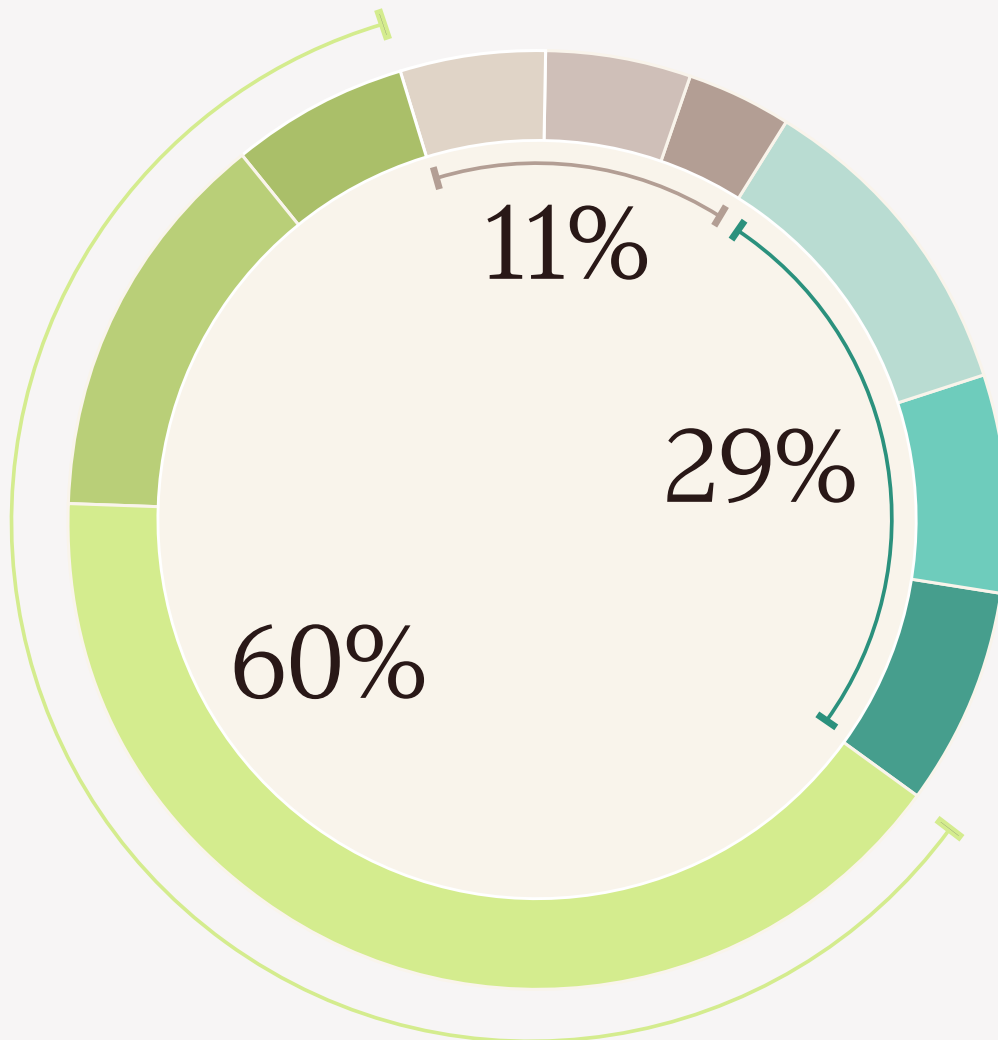


Supporting Research

Lasting community energy benefits are achieved when sustainable infrastructure, economic inclusion, and local capacity are developed together.

	Durable outcomes require coordinated investment across infrastructure, workforce, and local capacity	Sustainable infrastructure reduces energy burden and strengthens community resilience	Workforce and economic inclusion strategies are essential to scale clean energy adoption	Capacity building enables communities to translate funding and technology into sustained implementation`
Key Takeaways	» Clean energy deployment requires local expertise and implementation support, not just capital investment » Workforce shortages are a critical bottleneck to scaling decarbonization projects » Organizational capacity (staff, funding, skills) is the primary barrier to project participation and delivery	» Energy efficiency investments can reduce household energy burden, directly improving affordability » Community solar expands access and is increasingly designed to deliver measurable household bill savings » Solar + storage systems provide backup power during outages and improve resilience of critical community assets	» Clean energy growth is constrained by low awareness, skills gaps, and limited training pipelines » Effective programs combine training, job placement, and wraparound support (e.g., childcare, transportation) » Diverse workforce pipelines improve project delivery capacity and equitable access to jobs	» Capacity constraints—staff, time, funding, and knowledge—are the top barrier to accessing clean energy programs » Technical assistance must be accessible, locally relevant, and tied to community priorities (e.g., cost of living, jobs) » Community-based organizations are critical to driving adoption, trust, and long-term program success
Research	» Community Energy Planning: Best Practices and Lessons Learned in NREL's Work with Communities (Technical Report) OSTI.GOV » Supporting the Development of Efficient, Affordable, and Resilient Energy Systems National Laboratory of the Rockies	» Lifting the High Energy Burden in America's Largest Cities: How Energy Efficiency Can Improve Low-Income and Underserved Communities ACEEE » Community Solar Policy Landscape and Pathways to Meaningful Benefits: A Review of Equitable Access and Household Savings OSTI.GOV	» Energy Workforce Department of Energy » Building a Clean Energy Workforce: Best Practices for State Energy Offices National Laboratory of the Rockies	» Fostering Equity Through Community-Led Clean Energy Strategies ACEEE » How Community-Based Organizations Can Help Build Equitable Solar Programs World Resources Institute

2025 Community Energy Investments By Category



COMMUNITY ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE

- 33% Residential energy efficiency & solar
- 11% Community solar & resilience hubs
- 5% Waste & circularity

ECONOMIC INCLUSION

- 4% Workforce training
- 4% Scholarships & fellowships
- 3% Utility bill relief

CAPACITY BUILDING

- 9% Environmental education
- 6% Technical assistance
- 6% Operating support