

# Utility Business Practices Panel

*This panel will explore practical considerations of planning and implementing a more equitable grid, discuss best practices, and present novel approaches*

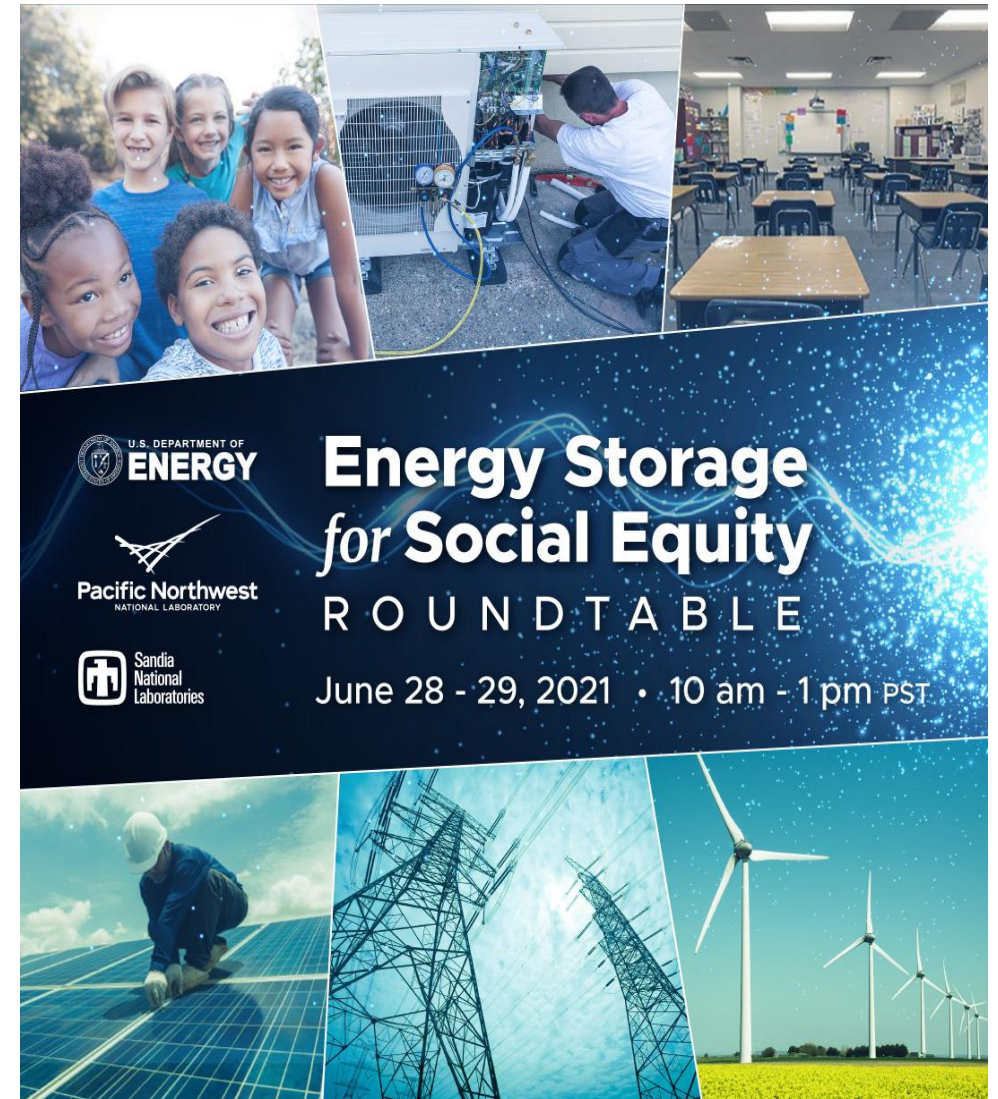
Discussion outcomes:

- Defining equity opportunities within the utility business model and operations
- Practical trends in utility direction

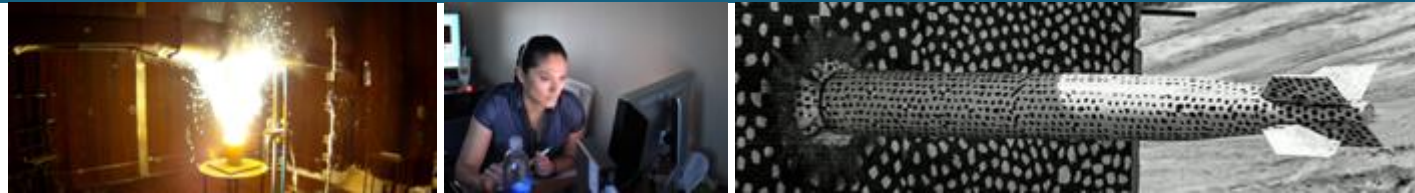
**Moderator:** Bobby Jeffers, Sandia

**Participants:**

- Heather Moline, NWECC
- Tina Jayaweera, NW Power and Conservation Council
- Uzma Siddiqi, Seattle City Light
- Jessica Lin, O-Power



# Utility Business Practices for Equity



*Bobby Jeffers, Moderator*

Sandia National Laboratories



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# Panel Session Overview

1. Welcome (5m)
2. Speaker presentations (35m)
3. Moderated Q&A (20m)

Moderator:



Bobby Jeffers  
Sandia National Laboratories

Panelists:



Heather Moline  
NW Energy Coalition



Tina Jayaweera  
Northwest Power  
and Conservation  
Council

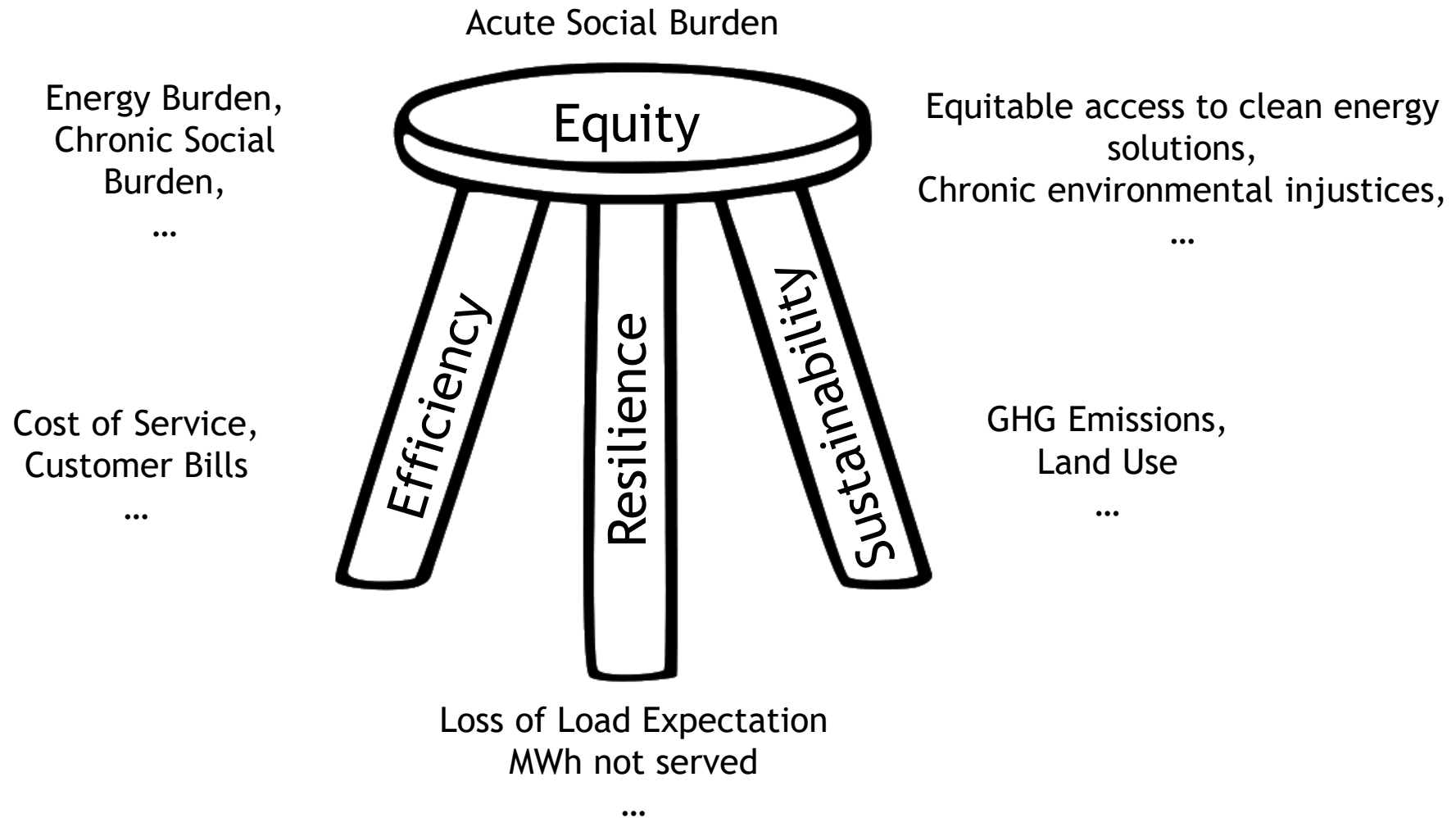


Uzma Siddiqi  
Seattle City Light



Jessica Lin  
Oracle Utilities Opower







# NW Energy Coalition

- Membership-based alliance for clean, reliable, affordable and equitable energy system that sustains our communities and preserves the region's natural resources.
- Justice, equity, diversity, equity & inclusion (JEDI) in the PacNW utility sector
  - Internal/HR JEDI
  - Training and partnership-building between environmental justice organizations and utility/regulatory staff
  - NWPCC System Integration Forum on Equity in the 2021 Power Plan: please take a look at this amazing online content!
  - Rep. Simpson's LSRD Proposal
  - WA and OR state legislation



NW **Energy** Coalition

# Advancing Equity in Utility Business Practices

- Without Legislative Direction
  - Procedural equity in utility and regulatory processes
  - Extreme events of 2020-2021
  - Greater participation from diverse voices
  - Hiring and retaining staff with needed skill sets and lived experience
  - Barrier: what is the “public interest”? Affordability vs. equity?
- With Legislative Direction
  - WA state Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA)
  - OR state HB 2475/Energy Affordability Act



# Northwest Power and Conservation Council – Energy Equity

Tina Jayaweera

Energy Storage for Social Equity Roundtable

# The Northwest Power and Conservation Council

The 1980 Northwest Power Act authorized Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington to develop a regional power plan and fish and wildlife program to balance the Northwest's environment and energy needs.

Three main tenets:

- Adequate, efficient, economical, reliable **power** system
- Protect, mitigate, & enhance **fish and wildlife**
- Open **public** process





# Council's Role Regarding Energy Equity

- Council as a “convenor”
  - Regional organization that works with broad range of stakeholders
- Council as “independent authority”
  - Power plan is used by many regional entities as independent reference on energy system priorities
- ❖ Council held a “System Integration Forum” in February to explore how to consider DEI in power planning
- ❖ 2021 Power Plan (draft anticipated Aug 2021) likely to include language about identifying and resolving equity data gaps through regional workshops

# Energy Storage for Social Equity

Utility Business Practices

Uzma Siddiqi, Sr. Manager Grid Modernization



**Seattle City Light**

WE POWER SEATTLE

# Seattle City Light, Municipal Electric Utility

- + City has aggressive decarbonization goals, including transportation electrification
  - Seattle Climate Action Plan
  - SCL Transportation Electrification Strategic Investment Plan
  - Seattle's Green New Deal
  - Not just cars, but buses, trains, port equipment, and ferries
- + Seattle has been working to eliminate racial disparities and achieve racial equality for over a decade
  - Seattle's Equity Task Force
  - Seattle City Light Race and Social Justice Program
  - Racial Equity Toolkit





# Adapting SCL Engineering and Business Practices

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## Duwamish Valley, Environmental Justice Communities

### + Best Practices, NWS

- Ferry Electrification □ Decarbonization □ +Air Quality :: Utility-scale Battery to reduce impact on the Grid

### + Equitable Grid

- Test Bed for offering new technologies that improve both grid reliability and operations by reducing outage durations. Dispatchers have better situational awareness and automated switching control

### + Novel Approaches

- Submitted proposal for WA CEF grant to install a DC microgrid powered by second use electric bus batteries and solar phone charging near EJC bus stops



ORACLE

# Defining and addressing energy equity

Presentation to PNNL

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Jessica Lin

Oracle Utilities Opower

June, 2021

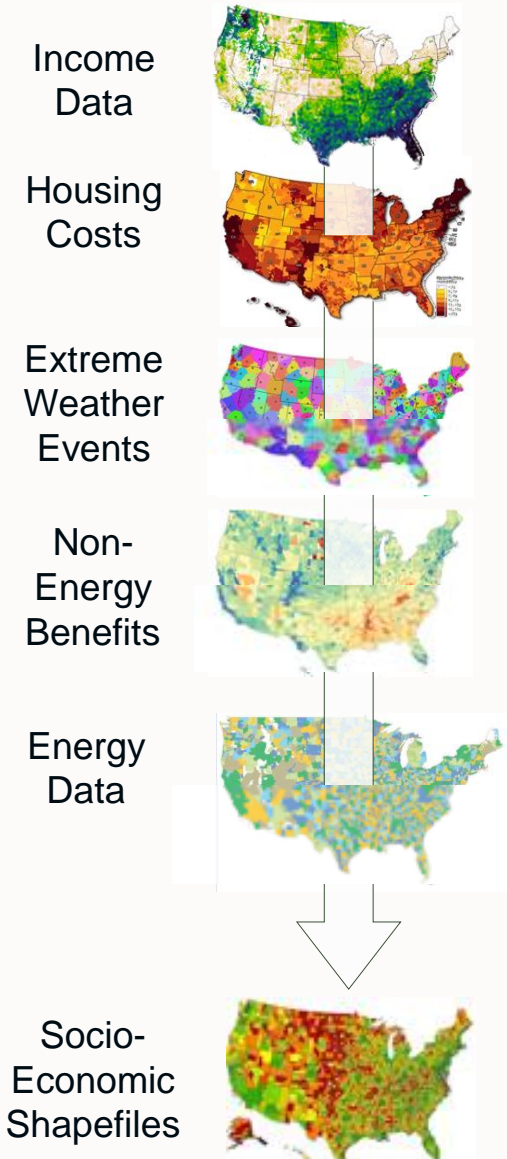




# Exploring New Metrics

Statistical analysis  
(Pearson's r and  
ANOVA tests) found  
that top metrics  
include:

- Education level
- Mortality
- Renter tenure
- Vintage of home



|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Census      | American Community Survey (ACS)  |
| UNEP        | Global Risk Data Platform  |
| EPA         | Co-Benefits Risk Assessment  |
| NREL        | ResStock, Solar Energy Evolution and Diffusion Studies (Solar for All) |
| EIA         | Heating Rates  |
| Cities Leap | County Level Energy Burden   |
| NCES        | Education Demographic Geographic Estimates (EDGE) locale boundaries    |
| Ventyx      | Utility Service Territory Shape Files                                  |

# Opower will design & build a new limited income solution in 2021

Here's why:



Clear problems, getting industry scrutiny, that Opower can solve



Limited income efficiency is a large, growing practice we can service right now



Decarbonizing with speed & equity means accelerating structural program adoption & improving affordability

# Thank you

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Q1: How are you working towards developing and using metrics within planning that measure the impact of our energy system in some of these other equity dimensions?

Q2: How could grid investment planning processes themselves be more equitable? For instance, are you working toward best practices to ensure your engagement is truly meaningful?

Q3: How – quantifiably – can we include equity within grid resilience planning?

Thank you!



# Questions?

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