



BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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Bay Area Air District presents 2022 Spare the Air Leadership Award to MCE *Clean energy rebate program for low-income multifamily housing selected*

SAN FRANCISCO - The Bay Area Air Quality Management District has awarded the 2022 Spare the Air Leadership Award to MCE for their [Low-Income Families and Tenants or LIFT program](#), which has already given over \$1 million in rebates to 680 homes, saving over 7,800 kilowatt-hours of energy per year.

“MCE continues to be a leader statewide in bringing clean energy programs to historically marginalized communities,” said Marin County Supervisor and Board Member for the Air District and MCE, Katie Rice. “Marin Clean Energy was the first CCA in California and they continue their leadership through great programs like the Low-Income Families and Tenants program - solving challenges by working together on creative solutions.”

MCE’s LIFT Program targets owners of low-income multifamily properties and underserved residents. This is a group often overlooked by grant retrofit programs, especially for newer technologies. MCE worked with both tenants and property owners to help navigate the process of installing appropriate appliances to lower emissions, reduce utility costs and improve indoor air quality as well as health and safety outcomes. Rebates from MCE finance the installation of energy efficient air filtration systems, as well as space and water heating appliances. The program is directed to low-income property owners and tenants in MCE’s service area which includes Contra Costa, Marin, Napa and Solano counties.

“The LIFT Program showcases our commitment to an equitable clean energy future with benefits that break through economic, cultural and linguistic barriers,” said Dawn Wesiz, MCE CEO. “By implementing tangible and replicable programs like this, we can ensure that everyone has access to programs that lower bills, increase the comfort and safety of our homes, and decrease greenhouse gas emissions.”

Residents of low-income multifamily housing face multiple barriers to participation in energy efficiency programs due to challenges working with property owners, concerns about sharing personal information, the potential for immigration enforcement and financial constraints. Decarbonization of buildings and energy systems is one of the most challenging and necessary carbon reduction strategies necessary to reduce greenhouse gases.

MCE's LIFT program addresses these concerns by directly assisting tenants and property owners with application and site evaluation. The LIFT program provides access to those who have not traditionally benefited from the savings and indoor air quality improvements clean energy retrofits provide.

The Spare the Air Leadership award recognizes MCE for identifying and designing a program that targeted energy usage reductions, improved indoor air quality and is a replicable blueprint for other grant programs throughout the Bay Area.

MCE is a not-for-profit, public agency that provides electricity service and innovative programs to more than one million residents and businesses in 37 member communities across four Bay Area counties: Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, and Solano. For more information about MCE, visit mceCleanEnergy.org, or Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and Instagram.

The [Bay Area Air Quality Management District](#) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area. Connect with the Air District via [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

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