



Community Action Partnership
Helping People - Changing Lives
In Riverside County

Did You Know?

- A typical low-income household pays up to 25% of their income for energy costs as opposed to 7% for a higher-income household.
- Low-income families use about 20% less energy than higher-income families, but live in the least energy efficient housing.
- The energy burden for families on welfare is 7 times greater than for families at median income.
- Nationwide, 26% of evictions are due to electric and gas cut-offs and 40% of evictions are due to water cutoffs.

The Energy Task Force is the only one of its kind in the Nation. It successfully advocates on energy-related issues to help low-income residents, especially those most vulnerable such as the elderly, disabled, and families with very young children. The Energy Task Force has:

- Identified inequities in the electric baseline system and secured changes in the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) climate zone rate policies resulting in reduced energy rates for low-income households and redefinition of service regions.
- Established the "Energy Crisis Response" network of public, private, non-profit, and faith-based organizations to provide relief to residents during extreme hot and cold weather. Volunteer Centers have grown from 5 to 50 over the past 10 years and currently provides relief to over 15,000 residents annually.

Energy Task Force

The Energy Task Force, created by Community Action Partnership of Riverside County (CAP Riverside) in 2001, was established to address the State's energy crisis and its impact on low-income individuals in Riverside County. Its purpose is to recommend energy policies to the Community Action Commission (Commission) and the Riverside County Board of Supervisors and recommend energy program priorities for CAP Riverside. The Energy Task Force is a volunteer advocacy committee of the Commission. Membership includes Commissioners, aides to elected officials, representatives from local fire emergency services and emergency medical services agencies, and utility companies. The Energy Task Force:

- Assists the administration of the Energy Crisis Response Plan; a comprehensive response to the impact of disasters such as wildfires and severe weather conditions on low-income individuals.
- Oversees the publication of a quarterly "Energy Primer" - a compilation of energy-related news articles which has become a model for other agencies and is used by local elected officials.
- Promotes the development of low-income people as community leaders and advocates by educating them on how to make public testimonies, access utility companies, and understand public policies and legislation.
- Organizes and participates in various energy forums and symposiums to educate local, state, and national elected officials and policy makers about alternative energy sources such as solar, wind, geothermal, co-generation, and green technology.

The Energy Task Force Responds to Crisis



< Relief from Severe Hot Weather



Emergency cooling unit installed while owner's cooling system is being repaired



< Disaster Preparedness Education