

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



# Effective Practices for Implementing Local Climate and Energy Programs: *Identifying and Working with Experts*

## Lessons Learned *by Communities for Communities*

*The views expressed in this document are those of the Climate Showcase Communities grant recipients. U.S. EPA does not endorse any products or commercial services mentioned.*

### WHAT IS IT?

Expert individuals and organizations can help programs tap into knowledge and experience in program design and implementation, as well as helping them to evaluate program success.

### WHY DO IT?

- Experts can help programs evaluate resources, assets, opportunities, and effectiveness.
- Experts can provide technical information and help produce documents, guides, case studies, and other resources.
- Experts can help programs save money and time, build experience, and avoid reinventing the wheel.
- Experts can help programs build credibility.

### WHAT WORKS?

- Utilize local universities, colleges, and community colleges.
- Tap into government technical assistance programs.
- Get multiple opinions if an idea is new or controversial.

### WHAT SHOULD YOU WATCH OUT FOR?

- Experts can be enthusiastic, but be mindful of availability and get agreement on timelines and priorities.
- Avoid jargon. Ensure that any experts you enlist are able to fluently communicate their knowledge with a range of community members without using jargon and acronyms.

### WHAT RESOURCES HAVE PROJECTS FOUND TO BE USEFUL?

- SCORE (formerly known as the Service Corps of Retired Executives)—Volunteers with business skills: [www.score.org](http://www.score.org)



*“Experts and academics can help to evaluate program effectiveness or messaging.”*

*Kate, Sustainable Transportation for a Sustainable Future, Salt Lake City, Utah*

*“Experts can help you save time that might have been spent doing research.”*

*Climate Showcase Communities project lead*