Glossary

**Community Choice Aggregation (CCA):** CCA programs work with your local utility companies to give cities and counties the ability to combine the electrical loads of residents, businesses and public facilities to purchase and sell electrical energy in a more competitive market.

**Community Development Finance Institutions:** Entities that have access to and experience with affordable financing, government grants and tax credits, and technical assistance through the Community Development Finance Institution Fund and other government and nonprofit partners.

**Community Purchase Agreements:** Agreements that help homeowners and community members pool their purchasing power and navigate the process of issuing a request for proposals, selecting a qualified renewable energy provider, and assessing financing options for renewable energy projects with the aid of a third-party administrator.

**Community Renewable Energy/ Community Energy Project:** Multiple customers can subscribe or otherwise participate in an energy project located in their community. Participants receive a credit on their utility bill for their portion of the clean energy produced. Energy customers share the benefits of one distributed generation project through net metering. Arrangements such as community solar are a common type of community energy project.

**Community Science:** research done by volunteer community members, scientists, and advocates to gather environmental data.

**Cooperative:** A cooperative (co-op) is a community-owned and managed business that is operated by and for the benefit of its members who are also customers of the co-op.

**Distributed Generation:** The power you receive comes from a source that is at or close to your home or building, like solar panels on a house or a small wind turbine located a few miles away. Also known as distributed Energy.

**Distribution Cooperatives:** Provide people with electricity, usually residences and businesses.

**Electric Grid:** An interconnected network for delivering electricity from producers to consumers. It transmits power generated at a variety of facilities and distributes it to end users, often over long distances. It provides electricity to buildings, industrial facilities, schools, and homes.  
http://www.ucsusa.org/clean-energy/how-electricity-grid-works#.WdaqJBN5x0s
Energy Audit: An assessment of how much energy a home consumes. This assessment determines the measures you can take to make your home more energy efficient.

Energy Democracy: When community residents are innovators, planners, and decision-makers on how to use and create renewable, locally-sourced energy. (CSI)

Energy Justice: Initiatives that provide everyone, regardless of race, gender, etc. with safe, affordable, and sustainable energy.

Feasibility Analysis: An evaluation to determine the feasibility of undertaking a renewable energy or energy efficiency project.

Federal and State Tax Credits: A common incentive program where a taxpayer can subtract a certain amount from taxes owed to the government.

Generation and Transmission (G&T) Cooperatives: Cooperatives owned and managed by several distribution cooperatives to sell wholesale power to distribution cooperatives.

Green Banks: State funded financial institutions that support affordable financing for clean energy or environmentally beneficial projects.

Green Economy: An environmentally sustainable economy that is low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive (UNEP).

Investor-Owned Utilities (IOU): A privately-owned electric utility whose stock is publicly traded. It is rate regulated and authorized to achieve an allowed rate of return. https://www.eia.gov/tools/glossary/index.php?id=1

Joint Power Authorities (JPAs): JPAs are made up of two or more public authorities (e.g. local governments, utility, etc.), not necessarily located in the same state, that are permitted by state laws to make energy decisions.

Just Transition: An energy transition from an extractive economy dependent on fossil fuels to an economy that is ecologically sustainable, equitable and just for all its members.

Landowner Pools: Landowner Pools occur when several landowners with adjacent land, pool the land together to maximize the use of the natural resource and to compensate all affected landowners.
Limited Liability Company: Companies that combine the characteristics of a corporation and a partnership. The structure of the company works in a way that members of the company are not held liable for the company's liabilities.

Municipal Bond: A debt or bond issued by local government. They can be used to finance public projects.

Net Metering: When a home or business has installed a renewable energy source like solar panels that are connected to their public utilities’ power grid. These solar panels or wind turbines, etc. may create surplus or extra energy that is above and beyond what the home or business uses. When this happens, the amount of energy that is extra is transferred back to the power grid and is credited to the customer’s bill, which creates a “net” or a profit for the people who own the solar panels.

On Bill recovery/ On Bill Financing:
A common tool for energy efficiency programs, which allows customers to use their electric bills as a means of repaying an energy-related loan.

Pro-cott: Pro-cotts are the opposite of boycotts. They are rallies or other types of direct action campaigns that celebrate the positive practices of businesses, organizations, or government agencies.

Property Assessed Clean Energy: Programs that allows property owners to finance energy efficiency, renewable, and qualifying retrofits through municipal bonds.

Public Utilities: Organizations that provide a service like gas, electric, water, sewage, telephone, transportation, etc. that is used by everyone.

Public Utilities Commissions/Public Service Commissions (PUCs/PSCs): Also known as utility regulatory commissions (URCs), PUCs/PSCs are governing bodies that regulate public utilities like energy, telephones, water, and more.

Purchasing Cooperative: A cooperative arrangement among individuals or groups that works to aggregate demand to receive lower prices from energy suppliers.

Renewable Energy Sources: Sustainable sources which are used to generate electricity. They can include sources like geothermal, wind and solar energy.

Rebates: State and local programs that reduce up-front project costs, which helps create stronger renewable markets and drive down prices.

Recidivism: The re-incarceration of an individual, following release from prison or jail.
Retrofitting: The processes of assessing a building to determine where it is losing energy and where it can improve in terms of energy efficiency. This process is carried out by energy companies or local contractors who provide customers with a report of their findings.

Roundtable Discussions: An event in which local energy justice advocates and allies gather together in order to strategize on a given issue and find solutions. This event is different from a Town Hall Meeting in that it is not a public event.

Community Solar Garden: Community Solar Gardens are centrally-located solar photovoltaic (PV) systems that provide electricity to participants/owners.

Solar/Renewable Tax Credits: Monetary values of renewable energy production established in conjunction with state Renewable Portfolio Standards. These credits are purchased by electric utilities to meet the required standards and can be used to subsidize low-income participation.

Town Hall Meeting: Meetings in which the community is invited into a space to ask questions, express opinions, and give feedback to a politician, an organization, an initiative, etc. Traditional Town Hall meetings are done in person and set up with a panel of organizers who listen and ask questions to a room of community individuals.

Twitter Town Halls: A way to engage people who would otherwise not be able to attend an in-person town hall, who are engaged in online activism, and/or who can give your Environmental and Climate Justice Committee a good sense of how to engage the millennial generation in your work.

Utility Regulators: A governing body that regulates the rates and services of a public utility.

Weatherization: Weatherization protects a building from outside elements like sunlight, precipitation, and wind. Weatherization also includes restoring a building to make it more energy efficient and reduce energy use.

Wholesale electricity: The wholesale market refers to the buying and selling of power between the generators and resellers. Resellers include electricity utility companies, competitive power providers and electricity marketers. For most regions within the United States, the operation of and transactions in the wholesale market are regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. [https://learn.pjm.com/electricity-basics/market-for-electricity.aspx](https://learn.pjm.com/electricity-basics/market-for-electricity.aspx)

Wind Farms: A group of wind turbines that are used to create electricity.

Worker Owned Cooperatives: Cooperatives that are owned and democratically governed by employees who become co-op members.
Just Energy Policies and Practices Action Toolkit
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
Environmental and Climate Justice Program
www.naacp.org/issues/environmental-justice
ecjp@naacpnet.org