

THE FIRST FOUR YEARS: ACCELERATING EQUITABLE BUILDING ELECTRIFICATION IN AMERICA'S LEADING CITIES

2018-2022



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 03** Introduction: Cities as Change Agents
- 04** Summary: Four Years of Progress
- 06** BEI's Theory of Change
- 07** How BEI Works with Cities
- 10** Accomplishments & Case Studies
- 22** What's Next for BEI?
- 23** BEI Team and Funders



INTRODUCTION

Cities are powerful change agents. As bustling laboratories of democracy, ambition, and innovation, they can power change locally and at the state, regional, and federal levels. Cities can lead both policy and market development. Cities play an outsized role in regional markets due to their size and population density. And when cities pilot innovative and equitable policy solutions, these approaches become less risky for policymakers at all government levels.

Cities have a responsibility to serve and protect the health and safety of their residents and are motivated to lead an equitable transition to fossil fuel-free buildings. In nearly every part of the country, there are strong local constituencies of support for climate and equity goals. And because they are closest to the people and the most nimble level of government, cities are best positioned to create ambitious and equitable building electrification policies.

But to be successful, cities need support identifying and developing the right mix of policies and programs to equitably transition their buildings away from fossil fuels. They need foundational research on their building stock and building electrification costs. They need ways to glean best practices and hard-won lessons from other cities. And cities need new ways to access and incorporate local expertise from their community stakeholders to center the priorities of historically marginalized communities. These are the services that the Building Electrification Institute (BEI) provides to accelerate an equitable transition away from fossil fuels.

BEI'S CITIES

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Berkeley, CA | 5. Denver, CO | 9. San Diego, CA |
| 2. Boston, MA | 6. Los Angeles, CA | 10. San Jose, CA |
| 3. Boulder, CO | 7. New York City, NY | 11. Salt Lake City, UT |
| 4. Burlington, VT | 8. Philadelphia, PA | 12. Washington, DC |

BEI'S VISION

BEI envisions a future where buildings are healthy, safe, resilient, and fossil fuel-free. As a result, our air will be cleaner, housing will be more affordable, and our communities will be healthier. The transition will create good local jobs for those who need them most and the benefits will be shared equitably among all.

SUMMARY: FOUR YEARS OF PIONEERING PROGRESS

BEI was founded just over four years ago to provide cities with the support and expertise they need to successfully and equitably scale up the transition to fossil fuel-free buildings. BEI provides cities with critical research, analysis, and ongoing direct support, working hand-in-hand with city staff to accelerate the development and implementation of equitable policies and programs. BEI also collaborates with key partners to influence state and federal policies, translating best practices from pioneering local initiatives that also center the needs of historically marginalized communities.

Our impact in four years has been tremendous. BEI's partner cities launched first-in-the-nation policies that swiftly sparked action in other cities, states, and the federal government. Our cities launched programs that are supercharging the transition and directing unprecedented investments to historically marginalized communities. And our cities are engaging in meaningful community co-creation efforts that fundamentally shift the relationship between government and residents.

BEI is incredibly efficient, punching well above our weight in terms of results. We unlocked twenty times the amount of funding invested in us for our cities' building electrification efforts. We have seen others begin to emulate our partner cities' policies and initiatives, demonstrating our thought leadership and opening up transformational potential, especially as cities, states, and the federal government begin to implement the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act. **And we are just getting started.**



SINCE 2018, BEI HAS:

- 01** Spurred the launch of over 50 new local and regional programs, policies, and strategies, affecting nearly 60 million people across BEI's 12 cities and seven states.
- 02** Initiated new community co-creation models to craft equitable and effective policies and improve government accountability to frontline communities.
- 03** Engaged over 100 local governments to translate best practices and accelerate an equitable transition across the country.
- 04** Provided thought leadership to the field by authoring and sharing more than 30 original reports and resources.
- 05** Unlocked over \$100 million in investments from cities and their partners to drive the equitable transition to fossil fuel-free buildings.

WHAT EQUITY MEANS TO US

- Inclusive planning and decision-making processes that center the voices of historically marginalized communities
- Outcomes that advance the needs and priorities of historically marginalized or negatively impacted communities
- Systems transformed to repair harm, rebalance power, and increase wellbeing now and for future generations



BEI'S THEORY OF CHANGE

A widescale, equitable transition away from fossil fuels will require:



Policy mandates that ensure a managed transition away from fossil fuels in buildings. Voluntary action by building owners is not sufficient to achieve widespread building electrification. Policy requirements are necessary to compel electrification at the pace and scale required, and in ways that protect workers and vulnerable communities.



Major public investments in equitable building electrification at scale.

The time has passed for incremental government spending as a strategy to solve the climate crisis. Enormous increases in public funding are underway and must continue to flow. Climate investments present an opportunity to correct decades of disinvestment in and neglect of communities of color across the U.S., creating new opportunities to improve health, wealth, work, opportunity, and access for those communities.



Government decision-making that is more efficient, transparent, and accountable.

Designing effective and equitable policies requires reimagining typical government decision-making processes to center the needs and voices of historically marginalized communities.

To drive these changes, BEI partners with leading cities to:



Build broad and diverse coalitions of support for equitable building electrification and to push back on gas industry misinformation, inviting in housing, labor, workforce, health, community development, climate, and environmental justice stakeholders as part of a winning coalition.



Drive market evolution to implement equitable building electrification, so that customers want and can afford cleaner options, and there are qualified workers in family-sustaining jobs who can install the technologies.



Launch proof-of-concept programs and policies in diverse regions to demonstrate the successful implementation of innovative approaches that inspire confidence in broader state and federal policy change.

HOW BEI WORKS WITH CITIES

BEI is the first U.S. organization to work with cities at the intersection of building electrification and housing, workforce, health, community development, and resiliency to design more holistic, equitable, and effective policies. Since our founding in 2018, we have brought the benefits of equitable electrification to millions of people in a diverse collection of cities across the country.



COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

Our highly collaborative approach helps our cities realize their full potential as agents of change. We invest in building long-term relationships with our cities. We train city staff, connect them to leading models from around the country, and customize our approach for their local context. Our deep experience and hands-on approach prompts cities to innovate. As a deeply trusted partner, BEI pushes cities to take risks they wouldn't on their own – ultimately serving as models for increasingly ambitious state and federal policy.

COMMITMENT TO EQUITY

Our commitment to equity ensures that the transition lifts all communities and mitigates harms from past racist policies. BEI's commitment is foundational. We do not consider equity and racial justice an "add-on," but a central pillar of our cities' long-term plans and strategies. Leaving communities behind puts our climate goals at risk, so we have invested deeply in learning alongside our cities, which has completely changed how they conceptualize building electrification. We have motivated our cities to co-create policies and shift resources and decision-making to the most vulnerable and impacted residents.

"BEI helped us take a step back and look at the bigger picture when we were bogged down in details. That perspective enabled us to think differently about the impact of our policy in the community."

– Sharon Jaye, Energize Denver Policy Manager, City and County of Denver

"BEI and its staff have been visionaries for centering building electrification work in equity. BEI's Executive Director led a building electrification presentation addressing the history of racism in housing, the racial wealth gap that is compounded by systemic racism in housing policies and markets over generations, and the imperative that we address these as part of the building electrification movement.

It is by intent not coincidence that the cities BEI works with are the cities that adopt community- and equity-centered buildings policies."

– Sierra Martinez, Program Director, Energy Optimization for the Energy Foundation



EXPERIENCE AS CITY STAFF

We understand firsthand the strengths and limitations that cities bring to equitable climate action, because we are former city employees ourselves. We guide city staff to work pragmatically within their existing governmental structures, while also helping them expand their partnerships, resources, and influence. We provide unique insider knowledge and support that traditional advocacy organizations and consultants cannot.

CROSS-SECTOR PARTNERS

We work with new partners across intersections and silos to accelerate equitable building electrification. Cities cannot forge this transition alone. Diverse coalitions of support are essential to winning big changes. We help our cities build those strategic partnerships, enthusiastically embrace the intersections, and advocate for the necessary state and federal policy changes. We know there are no quick fixes or silver bullets, but collectively, we are capable, in ways we can only begin to imagine, of creating a just and healthy future.

BEI is here for the journey.

"BEI understands how cities function, can anticipate needs and challenges, and is always quick to provide help in many different formats. They have excellent connections and are nimble in layering teams of technical experts, which helps build our team's capacity."

– Katie Van Dyke, Chief Resilience Officer and Climate Action Program Manager, City of Berkeley

"BEI has done more to accelerate equitable building electrification in Berkeley than any other organization. Their analysis, support, and strategic intervention was critical in changing Berkeley's prevailing theory of change – away from one that centered on removing barriers and market transformation to a focus that centers equity and resilience for frontline communities."

– Billi Romain, Manager of Office of Energy and Sustainability, City of Berkeley



ACCOMPLISHMENTS: THE FIRST FOUR YEARS

01

BEI spurred the launch of over 50 new local and regional programs, policies, and strategies, affecting nearly 60 million people across BEI's 12 cities and seven states.

Nine BEI partner cities are launching all-electric new construction policies.

This includes Berkeley's first-in-the-nation gas ban, which paved the way for over 70 local and state governments across the country to enact similar policies for new construction. All-electric new construction is cheaper to build, improves indoor air quality, reduces health and safety risks from fossil fuel infrastructure, and minimizes the need for costly future retrofits – all of which advances community equity priorities.



Berkeley became first US city to ban natural gas. Here's what that may mean for the future

The California city on Tuesday voted to ban natural gas hook-ups in new buildings, in a historic move



ALL-ELECTRIC CONSTRUCTION POLICIES

1. Berkeley	Gas Ban for New Construction All-electric Required Code	Enacted, 2019
2. Burlington	All-electric Encouraged Code Carbon Fee for Fossil Fuel Use	Enacted, 2021 Enacted, 2021
3. Denver	All-Electric Required or Encouraged Code	In progress
4. Los Angeles	All-Electric Required Code	Enacted, 2022
5. New York City	Gas Ban on New Construction	Enacted, 2021
6. Salt Lake City	All-Electric Required for Publicly-Funded Redevelopment	Enacted, 2021
7. San Diego	All-Electric Required or Encouraged Code	In progress
8. San José	All-Electric Required Code	Enacted, 2020
9. Washington, DC	All-Electric Required Code	Enacted, 2022

BEI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CASE STUDY

Partnering with Labor to Develop a Reach Code in San Diego

From 2021–2022, BEI mobilized San Diego city staff to deeply engage labor in the development of an all-electric “reach code” policy for new construction. Understanding the regional influence of Sempra – the gas company that owns Southern California Gas and San Diego Gas & Electric – BEI designed a participatory research process and spearheaded a jobs impact analysis that allowed city staff to build strong partnerships with affected labor unions. This process led all impacted unions to either support or remain neutral of the proposed reach code policy, despite initial resistance. Sempra later announced its support for San Diego’s efforts to transition away from gas. The City is expected to pass its reach code in early 2023, becoming one of the rare Southern California cities to do so, and demonstrating a powerful pathway for success grounded in partnership and transparency.

CITIES SAY

“When the City of San Diego began initial stakeholder engagement for an all-electric reach code, it was clear that outside expertise was needed to build a coalition of support. BEI proved to be the perfect partner, helping City staff focus their efforts on labor leaders representing impacted workers and leading the difficult initial conversations. Led by BEI’s team, the City worked hand-in-hand with labor groups to develop a jobs impact report that demystified the workforce impacts of regional building decarbonization and built foundational trust with critical stakeholders.”

– Colin Santulli,
Director of Programs,
San Diego Community Power
and former Program
Manager, City of San Diego



BEI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Seven BEI partner cities are developing innovative policies and performance standards for existing buildings.

To meet climate goals, cities need policies that transition both new and existing buildings away from fossil fuels. Requiring changes to existing buildings is more complex than changes to new construction codes, because retrofits are expensive and can be disruptive to residents and businesses. Retrofit policies can also displace tenants and exacerbate the housing affordability crisis. But thoughtfully designed policies can mitigate these risks, while also improving health and safety outcomes and increasing economic self-sufficiency for the people who need it most.

To date, BEI has mobilized seven cities to create policies for existing buildings, including performance standards for large buildings and new emerging options for smaller buildings.

EXISTING BUILDING POLICIES

1. Boston	Building Performance Standard for All Buildings >20,000 sq. ft.	Enacted, 2021
2. Boulder	Rental Efficiency Requirements for All Rental Properties	Enacted, 2018
3. Burlington	Efficiency Requirements for All Rental Properties with Heating Loads >50K BTU/yr Electric Encouraged at System Replacement for All Large Commercial Buildings	Enacted, 2020 In Progress
4. Denver	Building Performance Standard for All Buildings >25,000 sq. ft. Electric Required at System Replacement for All Commercial & Multifamily Buildings Prescriptive Requirements for Small Buildings 5,000–25,000 sq. ft.	Enacted, 2021 Enacted, 2021 Enacted, 2021
5. Los Angeles	Building Performance Standard TBD	In Progress
6. New York	Building Performance Standard for All Buildings >25,000 sq. ft.	Enacted, 2019
7. Washington, DC	Building Performance Standard for All Buildings >25,000 sq. ft.	Enacted, 2018

BEI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CASE STUDY

Boosting Boston's Building Standards with Technical and Community Support

After nearly two years of intensive stakeholder engagement, Boston enacted the Building Emissions Reduction and Disclosure Ordinance (known as "BERDO 2.0") in 2021, requiring existing buildings over 20,000 square feet to decrease greenhouse gas emissions and achieve net zero emissions by 2050. BEI staff supported Boston in engaging both technical and community stakeholders and determining how to insert community priorities within the law. BEI also bolstered Boston's critical planning to help under-resourced buildings comply with the new law through a proposed Retrofit Resource Hub and Equitable Emissions Investment Fund. As a result of deep stakeholder engagement, Boston's City Council unanimously passed the BERDO 2.0 policy in the midst of a mayoral leadership change – demonstrating the power of building strong coalitions of community and real estate support for ambitious policies.

CITIES SAY

"BEI's granular analysis of economic and fossil fuel reduction impacts on different building typologies was critical to the design of Burlington's Primary Renewable Heating Ordinance. Today we are working with BEI on policy analyses on a broad suite of building sectors, including new construction and large existing commercial buildings, to aid in Burlington's continued efforts to become a Net Zero Energy city."

- Darren Springer,
General Manager of
Burlington Electric
Department

BEI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

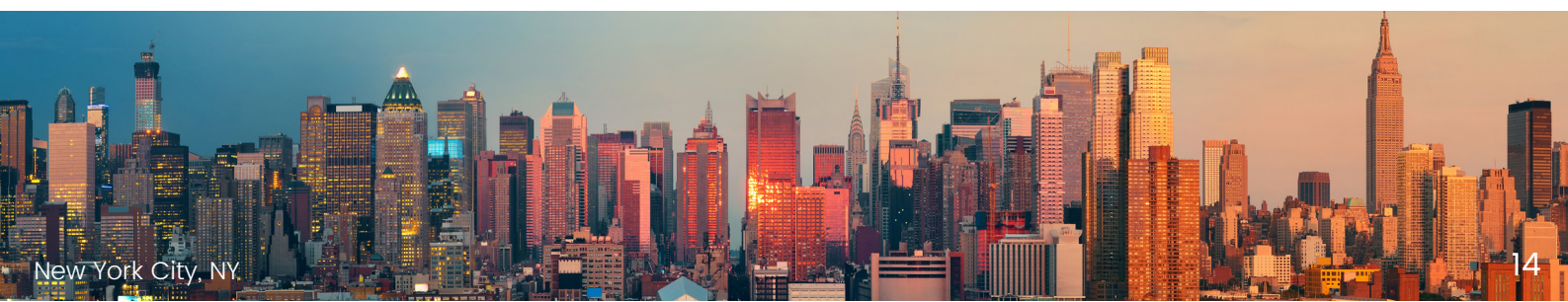
Nine BEI partner cities are launching programs to support under-resourced buildings and protect residents as they electrify.

Policies that require building electrification must be paired with programs to protect the most vulnerable residents from housing cost increases and other equity risks. BEI worked with nine cities to design and implement programs necessary for the transition, including Denver’s \$41 million [building electrification incentive program](#) and New York City’s \$30 million [NYC Accelerator](#).

These pioneering programs ensure under-resourced buildings are not left behind in the transition through one-stop-shop resources that include dedicated technical assistance for upgrades, funding options tailored to the unique needs of affordable housing, and protections to keep tenants in place.

PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT UNDER-RESOURCED BUILDINGS

1. Berkeley	Existing Building Just Transition Pilot Berkeley Climate Equity Fund	In Progress Launched 2021
2. Boston	Retrofit Resource Hub Equitable Emissions Investments Fund	Launched 2022 In Progress
3. Boulder	Boulder Comfort 365	Updated 2019
4. Burlington	Burlington Electric Department's Cold Climate Heat Pump Incentives	Launched 2017 & Updated 2021
5. Denver	Building Electrification Incentive Program Healthy Homes Program	Launched 2022 Launched 2022
6. New York City	NYC Accelerator ElectrifyNYC	Launched 2021 Launched 2021
7. Philadelphia	Built to Last Program	Launched 2021
8. San José	San José Retrofit Accelerator	In Progress
9. Washington DC	End of SEU Incentives for Gas Appliances	Launched 2021



BEI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CASE STUDY

Supporting and Protecting Denver's Under-Resourced Buildings

While developing the trailblazing Energize Denver law in 2021, Denver city staff heard loud and clear from stakeholders that under-resourced buildings could not comply with the law without dedicated support and strong protections for vulnerable residents. With BEI's expert guidance, Denver designed two programs funded by the Climate Protection Fund to achieve these goals: a \$41 million Building Electrification Incentive Program, which covers compliance costs for many under-resourced buildings, and a \$10 million Healthy Homes Program, which documents best practices for electrifying affordable housing. BEI served on the contractor selection committees, showed City staff how to structure the programs to be iterative and responsive to community priorities, and helped craft strong affordable housing and tenant protections. BEI's leading-edge approach demonstrates that cities can pursue ambitious building standards while also protecting vulnerable residents.

CITIES SAY

"Gentrification and displacement is a significant, top-of-mind issue in some of Denver's under-resourced communities –which happen to be some of the most culturally rich neighborhoods in the city. It is an issue that keeps me up at night from an environmental justice, Just Transition, and equity perspective. I am thus thankful and appreciate that BEI and Denver leadership are paying attention to the issue and strategizing how best to take displacement into account in the individual and collective work we do."

– Jorge Figueroa,
Community Partnerships
Administrator, Office of
Climate Action,
Sustainability, and
Resiliency, City and
County of Denver

BEI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

BEI is paving pathways to influence high-priority policies at the state, regional, and federal levels. We make sure higher levels of government are aware of the cutting-edge practices forged by leading cities.

EXAMPLES

- BEI contributed our unique expertise to California’s Title 24 building and energy code updates that now encourage all-electric new construction and ease implementation burdens for cities that pass all-electric codes.
- BEI successfully advocated for adding labor standards to certain California incentive programs and requiring all-electric construction for many of the state’s affordable housing developments.
- BEI spearheaded a stakeholder working group that will culminate in Colorado’s largest utility (Xcel Energy) proposing a tariffed on-bill program to finance energy upgrades in low- and moderate-income buildings.
- BEI partnered with Utah Clean Energy to develop an “electric ready” code for new construction, which evolved into an “electric vehicle ready” code that the Utah legislature will vote on in 2023.
- Crucially, BEI is now also pushing federal agencies to thoughtfully craft the program rules for the Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds to scale up building electrification projects around the country and ensure the funding reaches those most in need.



BEI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

02

BEI initiated new community co-creation approaches to craft equitable and effective policies and improve government accountability to frontline communities.

BEI is improving local governments' stakeholder and community engagement efforts as the foundation for creating more effective and equitable policies. The perspectives of frontline communities – including low-income communities and communities of color – are essential to designing programs and policies that serve their needs and ensure no communities are left behind or harmed.

CASE STUDY

Community Partners Strengthen Electrify San José Framework

Between 2021–2022, BEI facilitated a community co-creation process for San José that led to the groundbreaking [Electrify San José Framework](#) – now one of the most ambitious building electrification strategies in the country. BEI engaged in extensive prep work with City staff to get them ready to be responsible community collaborators. BEI and the City then resourced two “community co-creation consultants” from San José’s Vietnamese and Latinx communities to work with City staff to identify intersections between community priorities and building electrification. BEI then co-designed with the City and the community groups a process for broad stakeholder feedback from workforce and labor partners, affordable housing developers and advocates, and the building industry. The final ambitious Framework was unanimously approved by the City Council in 2022, demonstrating that equitable engagement produces strong political results.

CITIES SAY

“BEI guided City staff through the design and delivery of a new community co-creation process that helped to uncover important community priorities, such as indoor air quality and displacement concerns, which will guide how the City develops and implements future building electrification policies and programs.”

– Julie Benabente,
Deputy Director,
Climate Smart
Division, City of
San José

BEI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CASE STUDY

Forging an Equitable Transition for Philly's Gas Utility Workers

The City of Philadelphia is leading the charge to determine how to equitably transition gas utilities away from fossil fuels, beginning with its municipally-owned gas utility, Philadelphia Gas Works (PGW), which employs more than 1,600 local workers. BEI advised the City on the [PGW Business Diversification Study](#), which identifies potential pathways for transitioning PGW away from gas. BEI then conducted follow-up research to analyze the cost and job impacts of each potential decarbonization pathway. BEI built a critical partnership between the City, the Economy League of Greater Philadelphia, and Gas Workers Local 686 to initiate a long-term effort to create a just transition plan for gas workers. By working closely with these partners, Philadelphia will begin to illuminate a path for gas utilities and workers that others around the country can follow.

CITIES SAY

"BEI plays a valued role in supporting Philadelphia's work to advance equitable climate action. BEI provides much needed project guidance and coordination, strategic thought leadership, expert research and analysis, and development and coordination of impactful partnerships with the Economy League and Local 686. For this project and others, we lean on and greatly value BEI's expertise and support to ensure a just and equitable clean energy transition in Philadelphia."

- Nidhi Krishen, Senior Manager for Climate Mitigation,
Office of Sustainability, City of Philadelphia



BEI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

03

BEI engaged over 100 local governments to translate best practices and accelerate an equitable transition across the country.

BEI ensures that the lessons learned from our pioneering partner cities reach dozens of additional cities, allowing us to scale our impact.

Three months after our launch, BEI hosted the first-ever workshop on equitable building electrification for cities at the 2018 [Urban Sustainability Directors Network \(USDN\)](#) meeting in Denver, with 15 cities and community partners in attendance. Since then, BEI has hosted learning groups and cohorts that have reached over 100 local governments. This includes a monthly Learning Group for USDN's member network to share new research, innovative ideas, case studies, and best practices.

BEI also co-hosted the Building Performance Standards Cohort for the American Cities Climate Challenge, which reached two dozen additional local governments and spurred the launch of the [National Building Performance Standards Coalition](#) and the [Community Climate Shift](#) initiative, both of which BEI continues to support. Presentations and resources from the Learning Group and the Building Performance Standards Cohort are posted on [BEI's Resource Page](#).

CITIES SAY

"BEI's Equitable Building Electrification workshop in Denver was transformational. The invitation to bring a community partner allowed the inclusion of Greenlining and facilitated a strategic partnership with a highly effective community-based partner. It supported the development of Greenlining's Equitable Building Electrification Report in 2019, which informed the Berkeley Existing Building Electrification Strategy."

– Billi Romain, Manager of Office of Energy and Sustainability, City of Berkeley

BEI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

04

BEI provided thought leadership to the broader field by authoring and sharing more than 30 original reports and resources.

BEI has prioritized converting its building electrification research and reports for cities into public-facing resources for the benefit of other cities, states, and partners.

Our research includes building and housing stock analyses, customer economics analyses for building electrification, and policy research on a variety of building electrification approaches and strategies. Our resources also include groundbreaking reports on the intersection of building electrification and housing affordability and equitable approaches to building performance standards. Although a small organization, BEI has produced a prodigious number of practical, field-building resources that are rooted in our direct experience on the ground in cities.

BEI'S PUBLIC-FACING RESOURCES

Access all our public-facing resources and reports on [BEI's Resource Page](#).

- [BEI Resources on Building Electrification](#)
- [BEI Resources for Cities](#)
- [BEI Partner Resources](#)
- [City Playbooks for the Equitable Electrification of Multifamily Buildings](#)
- [BEI - USDN Learning Group on Building Electrification](#)

FUNDERS SAY

“Across BEI’s work, I appreciate the specificity and responsiveness to practitioner needs. BEI goes beyond the high-level overviews and “happy talk” ...to explore likely jobs impacts, for example, or financial implications for residents in specific markets. BEI’s work is never research for its own sake but targeted to the pressing needs of practitioners carrying out the complex work of driving and supporting building electrification in their communities.”

– Jessica Boehland, Senior Program Officer, The Kresge Foundation

BEI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

05

BEI unlocked over \$100 million in investments from cities and their partners to drive an equitable transition to fossil-fuel-free buildings.

We generated nearly 20 times more resources for building electrification than what was granted us. We collaborated closely with policymakers, private entities, and philanthropic donors to channel funds into building electrification efforts – investing especially in historically marginalized communities.

In the last four years, donor-based funds granted BEI a total of \$5 million, which we parlayed into \$105.1 million that cities, states, private companies, philanthropies, and other nonprofits have invested into new decarbonization policies and programs. As more cities join the movement to equitably electrify their buildings, BEI's ability to leverage resources for maximum impact holds enormous promise.

More details on BEI's work with cities can be found in our [BEI Impact Tracker](#).



WHAT'S NEXT FOR BEI?

Since 2018, BEI and its partner cities have made unprecedented progress on an equitable transition away from fossil fuels in buildings, working deeply with frontline communities on these efforts. BEI and its cities have launched over 50 new policies and programs in four years and have unlocked over \$100 million in investments to support the transition – all while navigating a global pandemic, an economic meltdown, a racial justice awakening, a presidential election, inflation, and a hostile conservative takeover of the Supreme Court.

Since its launch, BEI has catalyzed a rapid escalation of climate and equity ambitions of cities and their partners. To counter increasing pushback from the gas industry, we have collaborated strategically with new partners across silos – including housing, workforce, labor, community development, health, and resiliency – and evolved organizationally to better influence state and federal policy. **The pace of change is certain to accelerate.**

With the Inflation Reduction Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law bringing unprecedented opportunity, we will continue to thoughtfully engage stakeholders, co-create with communities, and be honest about the costs and challenges ahead. We must avoid the mistakes of the past and build diverse and durable coalitions that deliver transformational change over the long term. **The road ahead will not always be easy, but with BEI and its cities leading the way, we will drive the transformational changes necessary to create a more livable, equitable, and fossil fuel-free future for all.**



BEI TEAM



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- The Kresge Foundation
- New York Community Trust
- Rockefeller Brothers Fund
- Scherman Foundation
- The Summit Foundation
- Urban Sustainability Directors Network Innovation Fund

BEI also thanks our 12 leading cities for their courage, curiosity, and commitment to building a better future for all.

CONTACT

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CITIES & PARTNERS SAY

"Emerald Cities has worked with BEI over the last four years, and closely on community engagement in San José for an equitable rollout of their decarbonization roadmap. The BEI team has been highly organized, engaged, and holds the values to work for an equitable climate future. We have relied on them to bring technical expertise on electrification to many Bay Area and California community education and engagement efforts."

- Neha Bazaj, Senior Economic Inclusion Manager
for the Bay Area, Emerald Cities Collaborative

"BEI has provided Salt Lake City with a highly-informed and deliberate approach to our building decarbonization efforts that is curated to meet challenges and opportunities specific to our region. In 2021, after leading a rigorous information gathering campaign among local stakeholders, BEI identified economic viability as among the most critical factors influencing perceptions of heat pump technology in Utah. The BEI team quickly went to work leading the development of a Utah-specific economic building electrification study that is among the most credible and compelling resources for Utah electrification efforts."

- Peter Nelson, Sustainable Business Program Manager,
Salt Lake City Sustainability Department

"The building and housing stock analysis that BEI carried out has been invaluable for planning our existing building electrification strategy in San José. The analysis brings together a detailed inventory of buildings in San José and maps of equity-related data such as demographics, energy burden, and pollution burden. These new data are helping us understand the scale and differentiation of electrification work required, prioritize building sectors and neighborhoods for community engagement and support, develop effective grant applications, and carry out cost analyses and other planning."

- Yael Kisel, Analytics Lead, Climate Smart Division,
Environmental Services Department, City of San José