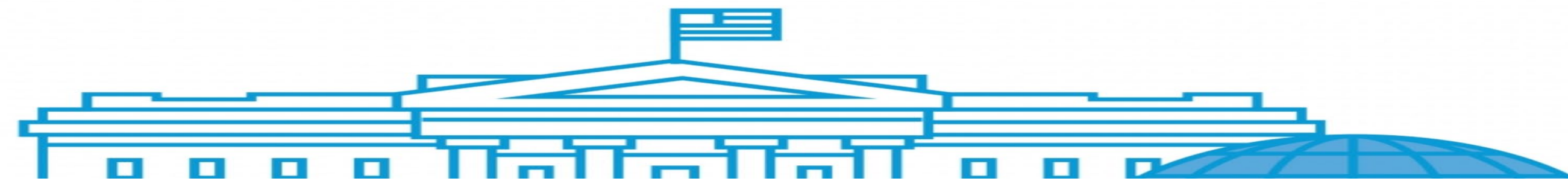
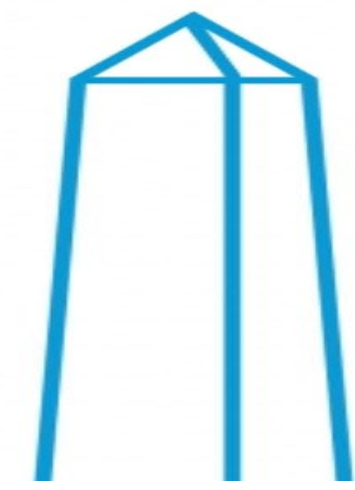


Improving Low Income Households' Access to Energy in Washington, DC

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Community-Defined Problem - In Washington DC's Ward 7 and 8 many households face a heavy energy burden and do not have access to the latest technologies that could reduce their energy bills. They also have little ability to affect the energy system.

Intellectual Merit - This project will advance our understanding of flexible boundary microgrids and their application in low-income communities in Washington, DC. Specifically, we will develop models for dynamic modular sensor-driven microgrids and determine the use-cases in which they can respond efficiently to community needs.

Project Activities to date - So far, this project has held four focus group sessions with members of the community to examine community engagement, policy, finance, and technology issues. Drawing on the insights received during these sessions, we are in the process of developing a metric to measure the level of energy justice in energy projects. This metric will allow us to demonstrate to members of the community concrete benefits from energy technology and help the engineers best understand how their innovations can address community needs.

Broader Impact (Immediate) – The project seeks to increase levels of energy justice in the community, a value defined by community members as being the most important to them in the energy area.

Broader Impact (Sustainability) – The project will give community members a better understanding of how new energy technologies can help them meet the goals that are most important to them – increasing levels of equity and justice.

Next Steps – We are planning our first advisory group meeting for April. These on-going monthly sessions will help us co-design a project that meets community needs and takes advantage of the latest microgrid technologies.