

## WHY DID CUSP CREATE THIS MAPPING TOOL AND WHY IT MAY BE USEFUL TO LOCAL, PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT, UTILITIES AND OTHER COMMUNITY ENERGY AND POVERTY REDUCTION PARTNERS?

**One in five, or 2.8 million Canadian households, are living in “energy poverty,”** broadly meaning they struggle with meeting their home energy needs. Households in energy poverty face daily financial challenges and their homes often need basic upgrades and weatherization, making many existing clean energy programs out of reach. This inability to take advantage of clean energy programs means that not only do these households struggle with meeting their current energy needs, but they are also left out of the transition to a clean energy future.

First generation clean energy programs targeted early adopters and saw uptake from higher income households. Programs at this time were not designed for widespread uptake, and the market maturity and cost of these technologies were prohibitive to the majority of Canadian households, particularly, low and moderate income (LMI) households who face disproportionate home energy cost burdens.

“Next gen” clean energy programs seeking to achieve deep emissions reductions must plan and resource these programs for broad adoption, thus must be designed to address the barriers many households have in gaining access to these technologies. Without addressing these constraints and increasing broad participation in these programs, it is unlikely Canada’s cities will achieve needed GHG emissions reductions and achieve a just, clean energy transition.

The Energy Poverty and Equity Explorer tool and other growing resources on CUSP’s [energypoverty.ca](http://energypoverty.ca) website will help cities and their partners be intentional in their design of equitable clean energy programs. **This mapping tool and other resources have been created to support a shift in program design and delivery to an approach that better responds to the needs of low and moderate income (LMI) households and others who have been historically underrepresented in ‘first generation’ clean energy programs.**

Using the Energy Poverty and Equity Explorer tool, will help with this shift in practice by shedding light on:

1. How and what community data is analyzed and applied to climate action planning, policies and programming.
2. How and who is engaged in the community for co-design and implementation of clean energy programs.
3. How programs are designed, structured, resourced, and evaluated with a priority to achieve social and economic outcomes while pursuing deep emissions reductions.

### ABOUT CANADIAN URBAN SUSTAINABILITY PRACTITIONERS (CUSP) NETWORK

Launched in the spring of 2015, the CUSP network connects sustainability practitioners from Canada’s large and leading municipalities and provides added capacity to support their collective efforts and expand their reach and impact. Combined, CUSP’s seventeen member cities represent a population of 18 million, or one half of the country’s population and generate \$1 Trillion, or 55% of the country’s GDP.

[www.cuspnetwork.ca](http://www.cuspnetwork.ca)