

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT





# ABOUT THE EMPOWERMENT GRANT POWERED BY THE ENERGY EQUITY FUND

Due to the success of the Empowerment Grant funded by the Exelon and Delmarva Power merger in 2020, Energize Delaware made the program permanent to support investment and strategies for new and original energy equity projects in underserved communities. In partnership with the Delaware Community Foundation, the **Energy Equity Fund** was created. Donations support Energize Delaware’s Empowerment Grant Program, a part of the Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

The Empowerment Grant’s vision is to implement impactful and innovative energy equity projects in disadvantaged communities that include direct investment, community outreach, education, and engagement. Low- and moderate- income communities have been historically underserved.



The Energy Equity Fund will support a broader and more encompassing Empowerment Grant to address the following:

- Provide energy savings for low-to-moderate-income families
- Align energy efficiency with healthy and safe homes
- Improve energy efficiency for small businesses, community- based organizations, and local non-profits
- Create access to clean, renewable energy for low- moderate income communities
- Develop, expand, and sustain clean, energy efficiency and renewable jobs, especially for underserved communities

Number of Grants Awarded in 2022	5
Total Grants Awarded in 2022	\$1,879,739
Annual Energy Savings	\$47,241.87
Annual Energy Savings (MMBtu)	6,761.32
Annual GHG Emission Avoided (Metric Tons)	506.74
FY22 Progam Budget	\$3,215,000



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## First Energy Equity Fund Grant

The Empowerment Grant awarded grants to faith community organizations, fire houses and non-profits to help them become energy efficient and green in their service to the local community. Elsmere Fire Company completely revamped their facility with energy efficient lighting, appliances, and other upgrades.

## Energy, Resilient, and Healthy Homes

The Empowerment Grant made a major investment in Energy Resilient and Healthy Homes. We awarded \$2 million to Habitat for Humanity of New Castle County, Sussex County Habitat for Humanity and Milford Housing to work with Beebe Healthcare and Tidal Healthcare on a three-year grant to address crucial energy, health, and safety issues in homes across the state. Each program received \$650,000 to provide deep dive interventions involving energy efficiency, health and safety in low- and moderate-income homes.

## Sustaining the Empowerment Grant

The Energize Delaware board allocated funding to sustain the Empowerment grant for years to come. The new funding includes a three-year \$6 Million investment from Energize Delaware, \$2.5 Million from the State of Delaware's disbursement of the Federal American Rescue Plan Act, and several contributions from foundations and corporate partners.

Finally, we laid the groundwork for future grant opportunities hosting forums to talk about clean and renewable jobs and workforce development. In addition, we talked with small business stakeholders about ways to bring energy efficiency and sustainability practices to small business, especially for minority owned businesses.



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Through community outreach, activism, and collaboration, we are empowering conversations around energy access, equity, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. We are identifying best practices that provide cross-sector solutions and benefits involving affordable housing, health, small business development and workforce development.

In the Fall of 2022, the Empowerment Grant sponsored listening forums around how to build, promote and sustain clean and renewable jobs in Delaware. A separate listening forum brought stakeholders together around building smart, green and sustainable small businesses especially in disadvantaged communities and for minority-owned business.

These listening forums are the building blocks for future grants that will focus on workforce development and building green sustainable business in Delaware.

Moreover, in partnership with the Climate and Energy Office at the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control established the Energy Access and Equity Collaborative to advise and consult policy makers on energy policy, programs, and services for low- and-moderate incomes communities.



# GRANTS AWARDED

Powered by the Energy Equity Fund

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY AND MILFORD HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Energy, Resilient, and Healthy Homes

Grant Award: \$650,000 to each organization

Location: Statewide

Total: \$2 Million

In September, the Empowerment Grant awarded grants to New Castle County Habitat for Humanity, Habitat for Humanity of Sussex County and Milford Housing Development Corporation each \$650,000 over three years to support an Energy Resilient and Healthy Homes initiative. Funding will support easing energy burden, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address, health, and safety issues in low- and moderate-income homes across the state.

### ELSMERE FIRE VOLUNTEER COMPANY #1

Clean Air and Lighting Energy Upgrade

Grant Award: \$74,704

Location: New Castle County



The first Empower Efficiency Grant awarded \$74,704 to Elsmere Volunteer Fire Company to install LED lighting units, replace a refrigerator and freezer with energy efficient appliances, and remove two oil fed furnaces after recently fuel switching to gas.

“The Empowerment Grant Program has allowed the Elsmere Fire Company to be a better steward for our community by reducing our carbon footprint and converting completely away from oil fed equipment. The fire house and the community we serve are now healthier due to this grant!”

-William Wismer, Treasurer

#### Energy Data for Elsmere Fire Volunteer Company

Est. Reduction in Electric Energy Consumption	79,677 kWh
Est. Reduction in Natural Gas Consumption	244.8 MMBtu
Est. Total Cost Savings	\$10,157

# ROOFS FROM THE HEART



In addition to a larger and more expansive mission, the Empowerment Grant joined forces with G. Fedale Roofing to support Roofs from The Heart. The program is a community nomination campaign designed to help replace poor roofing conditions and improve energy efficiency for families in need.

The Roof and Resilient Homes Grant is focused on providing repairs and new roof installations for single-family dwellings owned by individuals in the state of Delaware. In addition to repair or replacement of the roof, energy efficiency services funded by Energize Delaware will be provided based on a comprehensive energy audit of the home.

Visit [RoofsFromTheHeart.org](http://RoofsFromTheHeart.org) for more information.

## ROOF AND RESILIENT HOMES GRANT

### Robbins Family in Dagsboro

**Grant Award:** \$20,795  
**Location:** Sussex County

The Robbins family has lived in their home since 1945. After Donna's mother's passing in 2017, Donna wanted to keep the house for her and her 4 grandchildren, which had roof leaks and insulation issues.

The Robbins family is the first Roof and Resilient Homes grant award winner. The home received a new roof, insulation, and HVAC system upgrades for \$20,795.

“This home has been in my family since 1945. I am so happy to be selected to get this new roof. My mom always made sure us 5 kids had a place to live and it was safe. That's what I want to do for my grandkids. Thank you to everyone involved!”

**-Donna Robbins, Program Recipient**



# GRANTS AWARDED

Funded by the Delmarva Power and Exelon Merger

## NEW CASTLE COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

### Refrigerator Replacement Program

Grant Award: \$800,000  
Location: Statewide

Habitat for Humanity's Refrigerator Replacement program replaced 423 old, inefficient refrigerators with ENERGY STAR rated refrigerators to Delmarva Power residents of New Castle, Sussex, and Kent Counties. In addition to replacing the old, inefficient refrigerators, HFH also removed and recycled the existing refrigerators as part of the program.



"I can't begin to tell you how much I enjoy my new refrigerator. It's so easy to keep clean and arrange different items in. The outside is sleek and well-designed. The stainless-steel finish on the outside makes this refrigerator superior to the last one I had. Thank you."

- Delores J. Jubb, Program Recipient

## NEW ECOLOGY, INC.

### Climate Smart Homes

Grant Award: \$795,150  
Location: New Castle County

New Ecology and their partners Cinnaire, Central Baptist Develop Corporation, and Habitat for Humanity are transforming 4 homes to energy efficiency, high-performance homes by the latter half of 2023. 32 additional high-performance, all-electric, healthy homes will be available to low-and-moderate Delmarva Power customers once construction starts.

"The Empowerment Grant gives us the financial and technical means to deliver highly energy efficient, healthy homes for first-time homebuyers while supporting contractors to learn new ways to build. We look forward to seeing many more Climate Smart Homes throughout Delaware."

-Azeez Weeks, Development Manager with Cinnaire Solutions



# GRANTS AWARDED

Funded by the Delmarva Power and Exelon Merger



## SUSSEX COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY Insulated Skirting for Manufactured Homes

Grant Award: \$759,535

Location: Kent and Sussex County

Sussex County Habitat for Humanity's Insulated Skirting for Manufactured Homes Program installed 78 insulated skirts to Delmarva Power customers throughout Kent and Sussex Counties.

The new foundation enclosure provides a substantial barrier to nature by blocking air from circulating underneath the home and energy savings up to 25%.

"I can already feel the difference. Before, with all the openings and holes in the skirting, I could feel drafts up from the floor. I do not feel that and the floors are warmer. I love it!"

- Mr. Michael A., Program Recipient

## ARCA RECYCLING, INC.

### Appliance Replacement Program

Grant Award: \$500,000

Location: Kent and Sussex Counties

ARCA Recycling, Inc. will provide ENERGY STAR appliances to income-qualified customers at no charge. Used appliances will be responsibly recycled avoiding landfill disposal and protecting the environment against the release of hazardous materials. The program includes appointment scheduling, appliance delivery, and collection of used appliances, and transportation to ARCA's recycling center. Community partners will perform home assessments and refer eligible customers to ARCA's call center.



"We really appreciate the management company. They have supplied us with a better energy efficiency refrigerator. This will help cut down our utility concerns and I can't say how much this will help us control the bills. Thank you!"

-The Pace Family,  
Program Recipient



# GRANTS AWARDED

Funded by the Delmarva Power and Exelon Merger

## APPLIED ENERGY GROUP LMI HVAC Rebate for Rental Units

Grant Award: \$192,920

Location: Kent and Sussex Counties

Applied Energy Group provided 232 apartment units in Kent and Sussex Counties with energy efficiency measures including LED lightening, low-flow structures, and more.

AEG provided rebates for new high-efficiency heat pumps that resulted in an annual energy savings of 221,689 kWh.



## WILMINGTON SENIOR CENTER

### Lafayette Court Energy Efficiency and Savings Systems

Grant Award: \$150,000

Location: New Castle County

Wilmington Senior Center has installed energy efficiency and energy saving systems to two identical buildings to reduce operating and utility costs, as well as residential utility bills.

The Senior Center replaced space heater boiler and controls, attic air sealing and insulation, apartment air sealing, ERV's with insulated ductwork in attics, low flow toilets, apartment heat pumps, apartment lighting, exterior lighting, and interior common area lighting.



# GRANTS AWARDED

Funded by the Delmarva Power and Exelon Merger

## DELAWARE INTERFAITH POWER AND LIGHT

### Interior Storm Windows (Windows of Hope)

Grant Award: \$98,462

Location: New Castle County

Delaware Interfaith Power and Light created and installed 469 custom Interior Storm Windows in West Center City Wilmington for Delmarva Power Customers. The Helping Hands education center of Temple United helped recruit local fabricators and provided the shop space.

## KINGSWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER

### DIY Home Weatherization Workshops

Grant Award: \$34,740

Location: New Castle County

Kingswood Community Center will partner with the Energy Coordinating Agency to provide home weatherization education and outreach to low-income residents of the Riverside neighborhood in Wilmington. Workshops will provide families the tools and knowledge needed to make minor weatherization repairs to their homes to help decrease their energy bills.



“Something I did not know was how to save on electricity when you were not at home, and that was to unplug all electrical appliances such as phone chargers, radios, microwaves, lamps and more. In addition, the presenter explained how to save water when taking a shower by inserting a nozzle into the shower head, and this controls the amount of water that is used.

This presentation should be presented to everyone to educate them on how to save energy in their residential environment.”

-Happy Program Participant

# LOOKING AHEAD

## Workforce Development Grants

Energy efficiency and sustainable energy is a tool of impact that affects every facet of our lives. The Empowerment Grant will announce grants that focus on clean, energy efficient and renewable job development including training, technical assistance, convenings and funding for the creation of these jobs.

## Small Business Grants

Small business grant opportunities will be available for businesses located in Delaware's Opportunity Zones and minority-owned business to support energy efficiency, green and sustainable business practices. Moreover, the Empowerment Grant will be monitoring potential Federal Investment in energy efficiency and reduction of greenhouse gas from the Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure Bill.

## Fundraising and Community Outreach

Additional fundraising will focus on foundations, corporations, and private investors who share our mission of bolstering energy efficiency, reduction in green house gases and building long term resilience in all Delaware communities. With community and environmental stakeholders, we will sponsor a forum to discuss energy equity and environmental justice.

## Clean, efficient, affordable, sustainable energy as a tool for impact

The Empowerment Grant powered by the Energy Equity Fund creates partnerships, collaboration, and dialogue to:



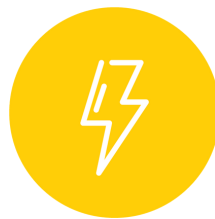
### Ease the Energy Burden

Provide energy savings for low-to-moderate income families



### Create Healthy and Safe Homes

Align energy efficiency with healthy and safe homes in underserved communities



### Help Businesses and Organizations

Improve energy efficiency for small businesses, community-based organizations and local non-profits in communities of need



### Access Clean Renewable Energy

Create access to clean renewable energy for underserved Delawareans in low-to-moderate income communities



### Create Clean Energy Jobs

Create, expand, and sustain clean and renewable jobs for underserved communities



# ENERGY ACCESS AND EQUITY

Partnering with Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control's Climate, Coastal, and Energy Office, Energize Delaware through the Empowerment Grant formed the Energy Access and Equity Collaborative.

The Energy Access and Equity Collaborative provides feedback, guidance, recommendations, and reporting to the Energy Efficiency Advisory Council involving underserved communities and marginalized groups as it relates to energy justice and equity.

The group will help to convene, represent, facilitate, educate and work closely around programs to serve disadvantaged communities and populations.



## ENERGY ACCESS AND EQUITY COLLABORATIVE

Name	Organization
Lt. Governor Bethany Long-Hall	University of Delaware
Andrew Slater	Division of the Public Advocate
Angie Bivens	Franklin Energy
Anthony DePrima	Energize Delaware
Clem Dinsmore	Community Member
Dustyn Thompson	Sierra Club
Harold Stafford	HELP Initiative, Inc.
Jennifer Clemons	Delaware Technical Community College
Kimberly Blanch	Beebe Health
Katherine Rodgers	Tidal Heath
Mike Rawl	Community Member
Sarah Grunewald	Delaware Community Foundation
Shweta Arya	Interfaith Power and Light
Sonya Starr	Housing Alliance Delaware
Tom Noyes	DNREC - Climate and Energy Office
Tyrone Jones	Bloom Energy

Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility (DESEU) — a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization created by the State of Delaware. Through our many Energize Delaware programs, we help residents, businesses, farmers, schools, religious organizations, nonprofits, hospitals and local governments save money. We do it by providing access to renewable energy, high-efficiency heating, cooling, ventilation and insulation technologies at little or no cost.

## STAFF



**Anthony DePrima, Ph.D.**  
SEU Executive Director



**Jim Purcell**  
Director of Development



**Kassandra Rodriguez**  
Program Manager



**Rysheema Dixon**  
Consultant



**Christina Richter**  
Consultant



**Crystal Johnson**  
Consultant



**Braulio Florentino**  
Graduate Intern

## PARTNERS

Delmarva Power  
Delaware Community Foundation  
American Recovery Act-  
State of Delaware Recovery Office  
Highmark Delaware  
Discover Bank

Bloom Energy  
Chesapeake Utilities  
TD Bank  
G. Fedale Roofing  
Roofs from the Heart

## IN MEMORIAM

We lost a dear friend, work colleague, and dynamic public servant in September. Rysheema Dixon provided community engagement support to the Empowerment Grant team since its inception in 2020. Her passion and attention to our mission helped to bring awareness, funds, and other resources to underserved communities across Delaware. We dedicate this annual report and future Empowerment Grant activities to her memory with hope that it advances her legacy, public service, and compassion for years to come.

In loving memory of Rysheema Dixon.





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