



City-Sponsored Energy Efficiency Programs: AC Exchanges and Rebates

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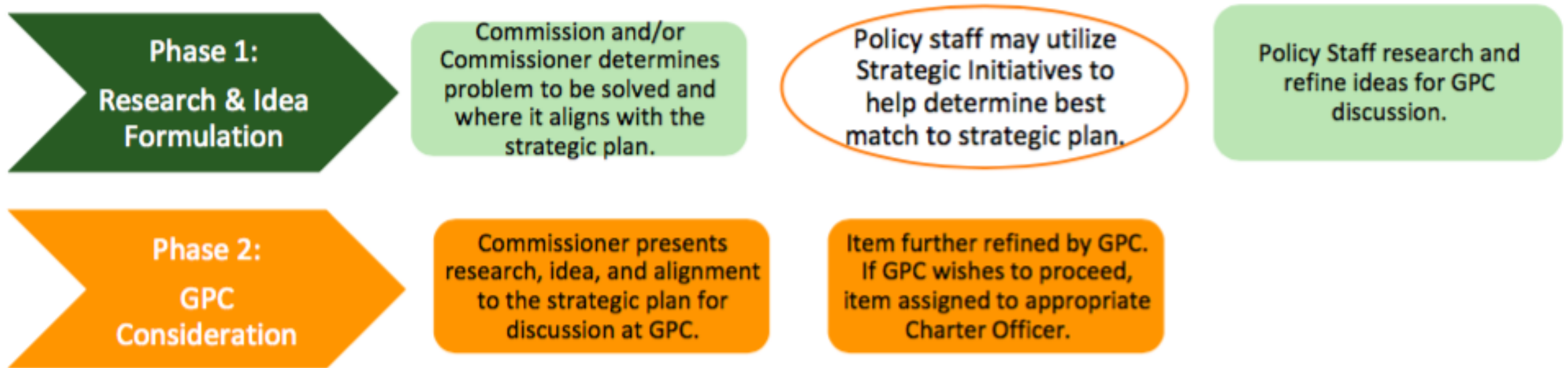
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Policy Research Process



Background Information

Air Conditioning Upgrades

- Can save up to 20-40% on energy consumption
- More efficient units can have longer lifespans and can reduce operating costs

Federal Programs

- Low- Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

Rebate Programs

- Offer money back to neighbors who meet efficiency standards

Current GRU Programs

- **Low-Income Energy Efficiency Program Plus (LEEPplus)**
 - Energy efficient home improvements for low-income customers.
 - Recent expansion as of May 2022, \$1.9 million from ARPA funds.
- **Natural gas equipment incentive** to improve efficiency
 - Residential water heaters: \$300-\$500 per unit
 - Residential furnaces: \$200-\$500 per unit
- \$250k allocated towards **utility debt forgiveness** from ARPA funds.

Former GRU Programs

High Efficiency Room Air Conditioner Rebate

- Encouraged replacement of inefficient room AC units with more efficient models to use less energy and lower electric bills.
- Rebate offered is \$150 for residential/small commercial units
- Eligibility
 - GRU electric customer/within location
 - EER of 10.7 or greater and ENERGY STAR® qualified
 - Old unit must be removed
 - Complete rebate form within 30 days
- Limit 1 per customer
- **Dissolved** after 2010

Annual Exchange

- GRU bill + old window unit for exchange

Air Conditioner Rebate Programs

City	Requirements for AC Unit	AC Rebate Amount	Other Appliances
Ocala: <i>Ocala Electric Utility (OEU)</i> Limit 2 per customer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEER 15 or higher Model # certified on Energy Star website State of Florida Certified HARV or mechanical contractor installed Copy of AHRI Certified Performance provided by contractor 	\$250 per unit	Washing machines: \$100 per unit Dishwashers: \$75 per unit Thermostats: \$25 per unit Solar water heater: \$450 Water heater: \$350 per unit Refrigerators/Freezers: \$75 per unit
Tampa: <i>Tampa Electric Company (TECO)</i> Incentive to upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEER 15 or higher Paid receipt/invoice AHRI reference sheet 	\$135 per unit	Windows: \$2.20 per square foot HVAC: \$115
Tallahassee: <i>City of Tallahassee Utilities (CTU)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEER 15 to 17 or higher Completed rebate form Contractor receipt AHRI certificate and final inspection 	Minimum \$100, maximum \$350 per unit depending on SEER number	Washing machines: \$100 per unit Lighting: \$450 Thermostats: \$100 Solar water heater: \$450

Air Conditioner Exchange Programs

Toronto, Canada

- Toronto Community Housing Corporation (THC)
 - Exchanged 7,000 window A/C units for floor mounted models (no cost to residents) in 2020.
 - Banned new window A/C unit installations across 60,000 rental units.

Boone County, Missouri

- Voluntary Action Center (VAC)
 - Works with Columbia Water and Light Department and Boone Electric Cooperative to assist in exchanging older, less efficient, or broken window AC units for energy efficient ones.
 - Program runs from May-September of each year. Participants can contact VAC for eligibility but must provide most recent utility bill from the City of Columbia or Boone Electric to participate.

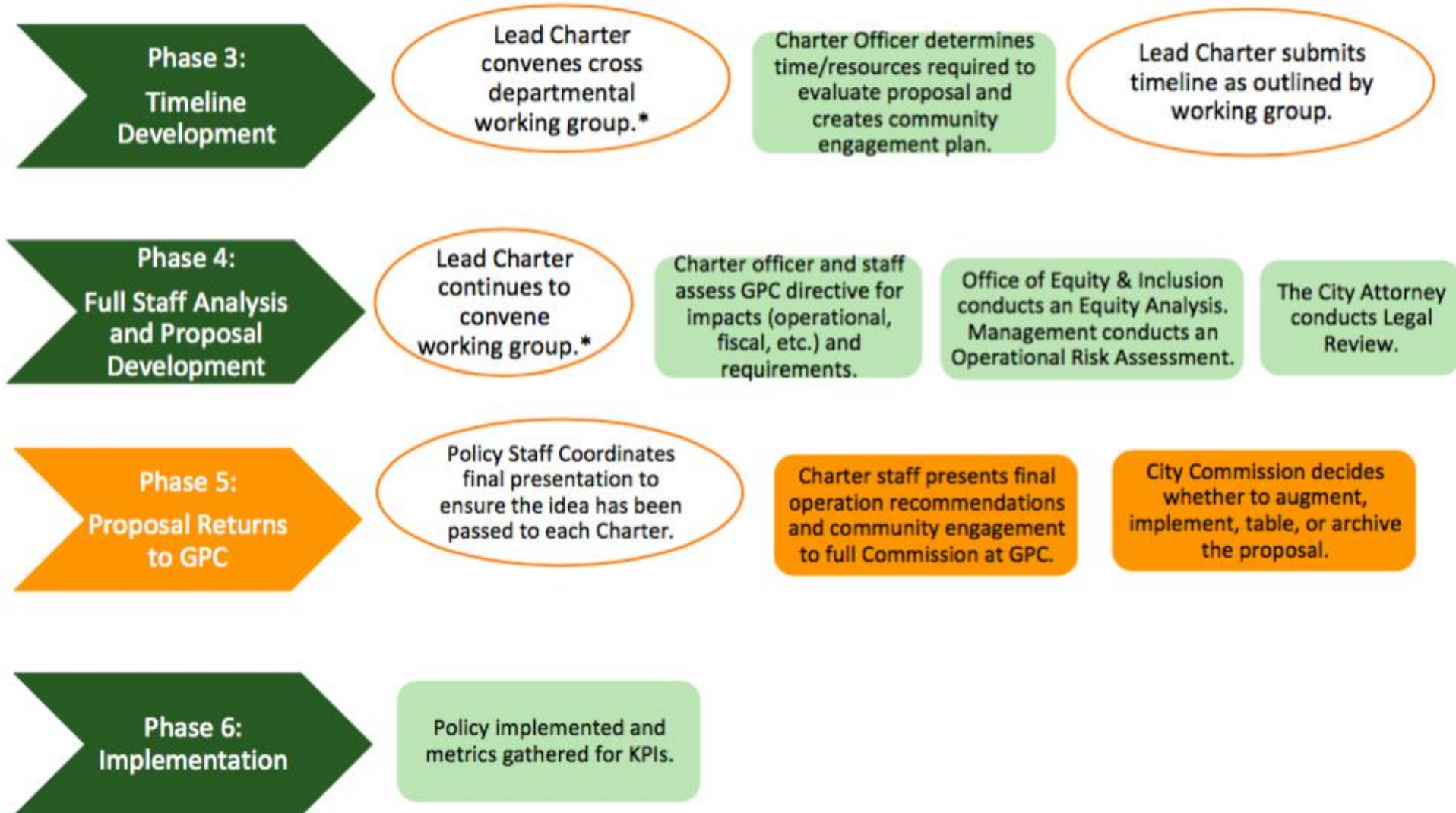
Potential Disadvantages to Energy Efficiency Programs

- Possible challenges in ensuring program participation and identifying which communities could benefit most from this programming.
 - Information regarding the percentage of customers with inefficient AC units may be required to gauge the utility of such programming.
- Rebates still require customers to pay up front, as discounts are traditionally given after proof of purchase.
- Exchange programs would be more costly than a rebate program due to resources required.

Potential Advantages to Energy Efficiency Programs

- Programs could assist neighbors who have higher utility bills due to inefficient air conditioner units.
- Exchange programs could help increase awareness of additional assistance programs available to residents.
- Programs could help by furthering energy conscientiousness in the community by improving general energy education.

Policy Research Process



Discussion?