



Planning for Neighborhood Block Electrification: Albany's Approach to Implementation

Michelle Plouse
BayREN Regional Forum
March 21st, 2023

Background

Pilot project: Decommission a section of gas pipeline (about 1 block) and electrify all connected buildings

- Council initiated
- Early discussions began in mid-2021
- Still in planning stages

Partners



STOPWASTE

Goals

Equitable

- Help low-income residents electrify
- Shifting infrastructure costs
- Air quality and safety

Efficient

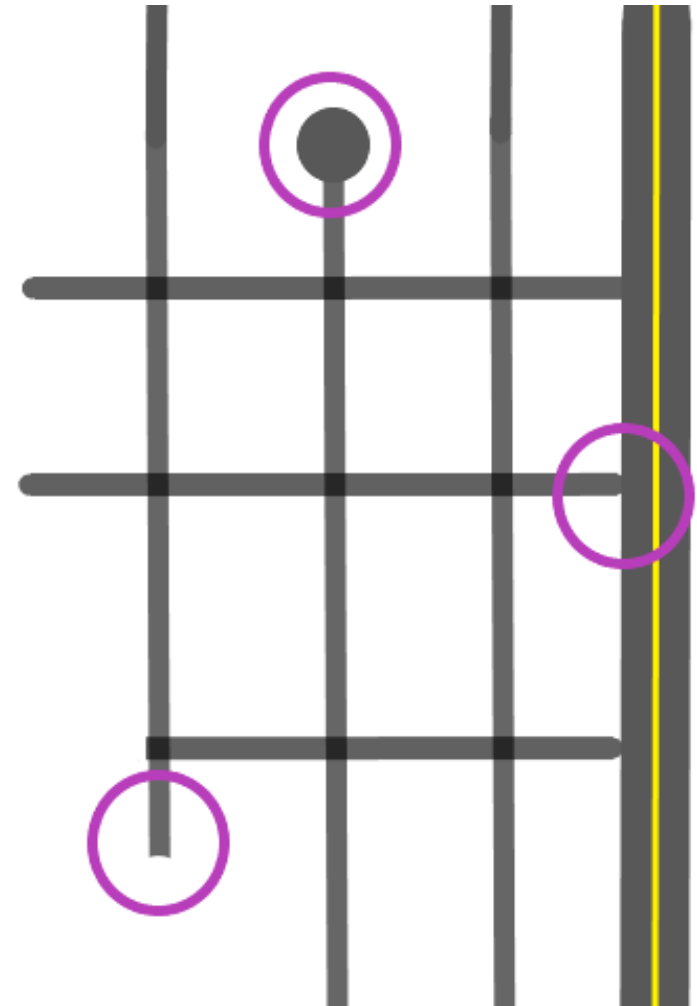
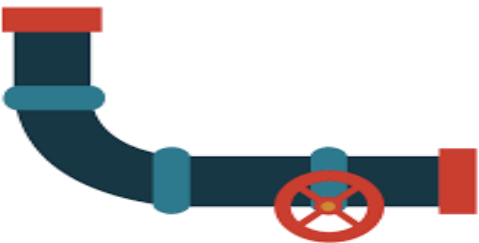
- Prevent stranded assets
- Economies of scale

Deliverable

- Manageable costs and time
- 100% agreement from owners
- Learning opportunity

Data Analysis- Infrastructure

- PG&E Collaboration Tool
- Information
 - Location
 - Section Length
 - Age
 - Material (Aldyl-A)
- Narrowed to about a dozen sites



Data Analysis- Buildings

Assessor data and City permit data

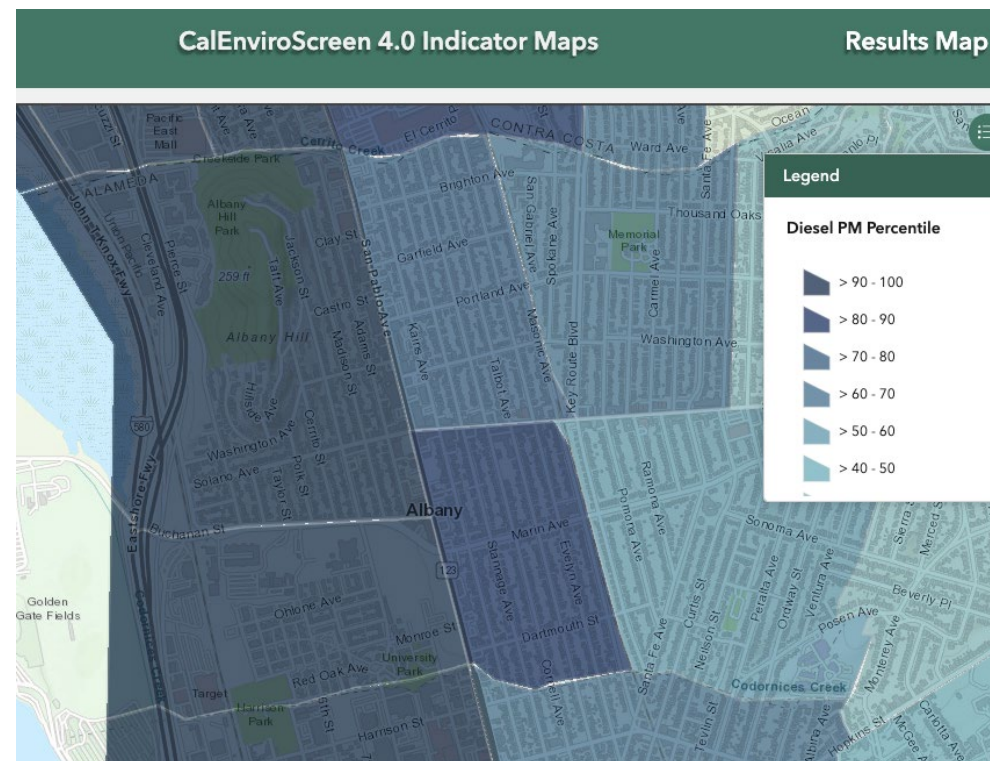
- Number of buildings, units, and owners
- Building types (SF, MF, commercial, etc)
- Rental vs. Owner-occupied
- Age and size
- Work/renovations



Data Analysis- Residents

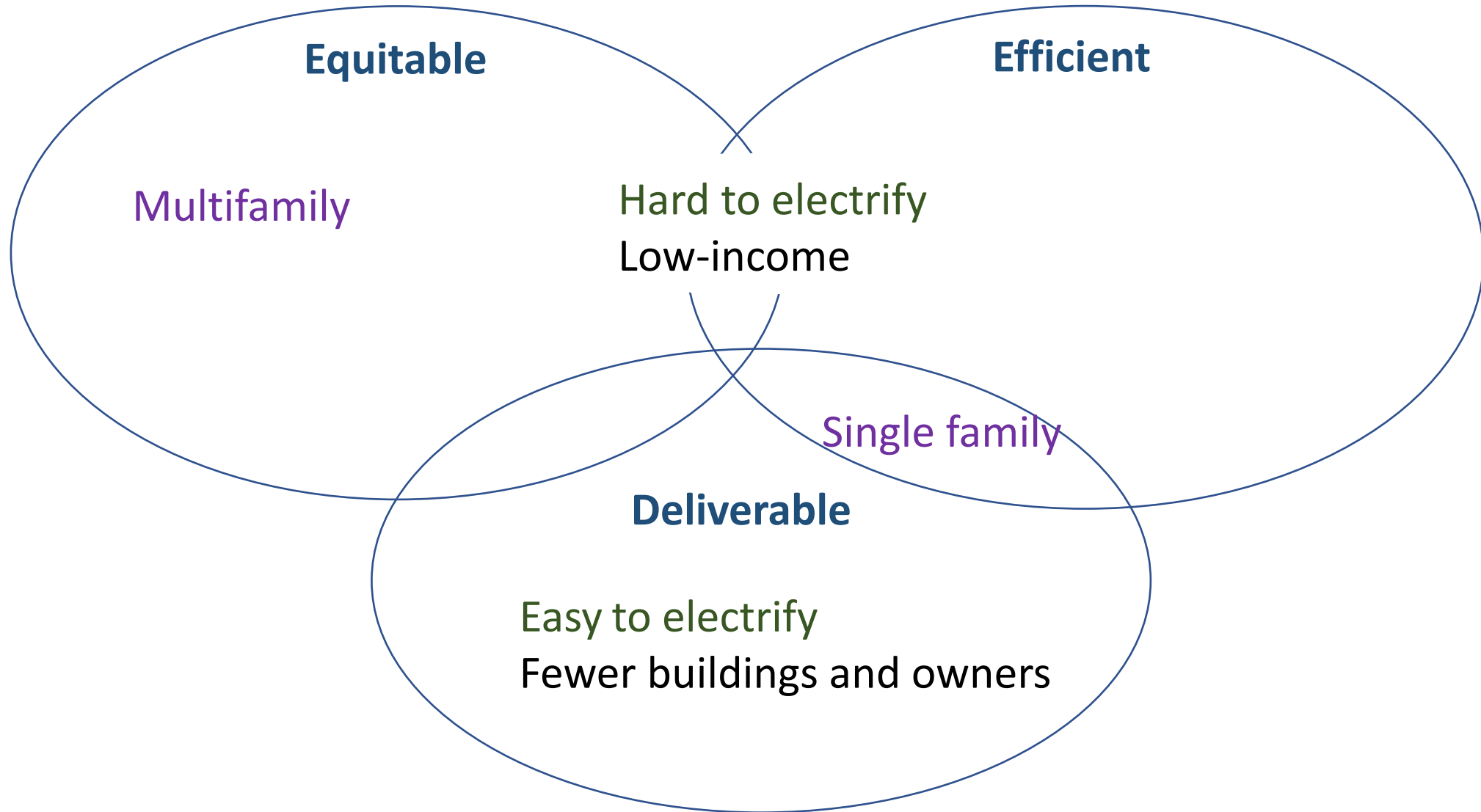
Census data: income, race, age

Redlining maps: racial equity



CalEnviro screen:
air quality, housing burden, health
and pollution factors

Prioritization



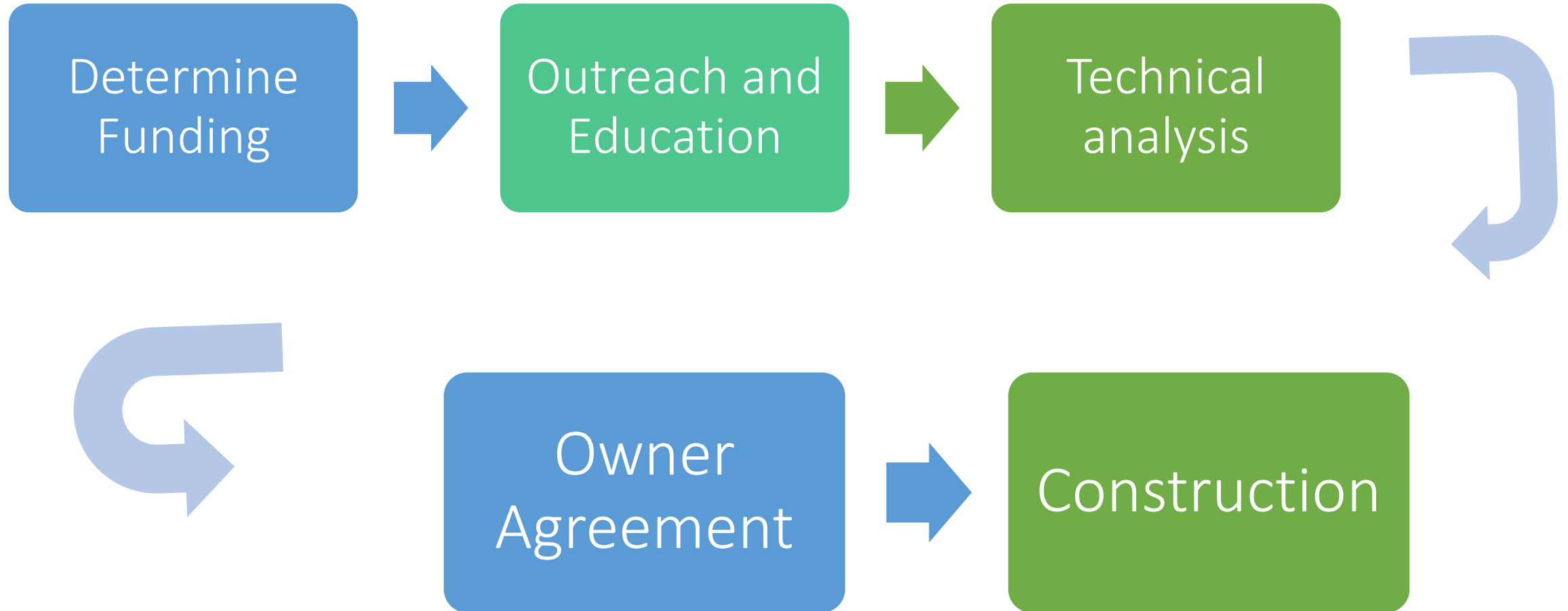
Prioritization

Challenges

- Single family vs. Multifamily
- Rentals vs Owner-occupied
- Common traits of low-income areas
- Hard vs easy to electrify



Next Steps



Lessons so far



- Utility Perspective
 - Understanding utility priorities/capabilities is essential
 - Pipe priority and project timelines
 - Funding, process, and data requirements



- Site selection
 - Priorities can be contradictory
 - Outreach and buy-in hard to predict
 - Small scale is easier to manage



- Costs
 - Difficult to estimate in advance
 - Funding and cost sharing are complex, situation dependent

Thank You!

Michelle Plouse

mplouse@albanyca.org

(510) 528-5754

