NRDC Schneider Fellow
Urban Solutions Program

Office: New York, NY
Project Manager: Christina Angelides

City Energy (CEP) and Energy Efficiency for All (EE4A) Projects have collaborated in participated cities, including Chicago, Kansas City, MO, Los Angeles, and Philadelphia, to design and implement programs that promote equitable energy efficiency solutions targeted to low-income multifamily units. The projects see additional opportunity to expand upon these programs and develop additional strategies that can help cities to build equitable, resilient, and just communities.

The CEP and EE4A teams seek a summer Schneider Fellow to support advocacy, analytic, and communications activities to engage building owners, tenants, and city decision makers in the low-income multifamily and low-grade commercial (e.g. B and C grade buildings) building sectors in city-level and utility energy efficiency programs and incentivize them to make improvements. CEP and EE4A’s previous work together has identified the need to better understand the low-income multifamily and commercial building markets in participating cities and develop advocacy and communications strategies that specifically target building owners and tenants in these underserved sectors.

The Schneider Fellow will be an integral part of both the CEP and EE4A teams and will pursue the following scope of work over the course of the summer to fill these gaps:

1. **Supporting outreach and engagement strategies targeted to building owners, tenants, and city decision makers related to affordable multifamily housing and commercial buildings:** In two to three cities, the Fellow will assist our project staff in designing and implementing activities that can help educate building owners, tenants, city policymakers, and other stakeholders about energy efficiency opportunities in these sectors and incentivize them to take action. The Fellow will also work to help identify and support work with local partners and stakeholders that are influential on these issues within these communities.

2. **Analyzing and synthesizing data relevant to the affordable multifamily and commercial building sectors:** In 1-2 cities, the Fellow will gather and analyze data to better understand efficiency opportunities in the affordable multifamily and commercial building (particularly lower-grade buildings) sectors. This work would include leveraging and potentially replicating some market characterizations studies of the multifamily sectors that have been conducted in Chicago and Los Angeles by the EE4A initiative. The Fellow will also analyze and synthesize data to evaluate the effectiveness of our CEP-EE4A challenge programs, new CEP and EE4A pilot projects targeted at the...
multifamily and commercial sectors, and other policies and programs being piloted by other organizations that could inform best practices.

3. Developing communications materials and other resources to support engagement with building owners, tenants, and city decision makers and stakeholders: The Fellow will also assist in the research, writing, and design of communications materials and other resources, such as fact sheets and energy scorecards, to educate building owners, tenants, and other city decision makers and stakeholders about energy improvement opportunities in their buildings and support additional action. A number of cities, such as Chicago, Los Angeles, and Philadelphia, are already experimenting with different types of resources, such as data visualization mapping platforms and energy scorecards, which will inform the Fellow’s work in this area. The Fellow will also be involved in the development of technical resources to assist participating cities in the adoption and implementation of innovative energy efficiency policies and programs that specifically seek to address equity and access issues related to the multifamily and commercial building sectors.

Participation in these projects offers the chance to work with cities to ensure their energy efficiency policies and programs can benefit those communities most in need of these improvements and engage with a variety of key partners and stakeholders at the forefront of crafting equitable solutions to reduce energy use in affordable, multifamily housing and commercial properties. The fellowship will also afford the opportunity to build skillsets and expertise in city-level advocacy, community engagement, research and analysis, and communications.

Qualified applicants should exhibit the following skills, expertise and interests:

- Superior research, data synthesis, and analysis skills;
- Strong interpersonal and oral and written communication skills;
- Demonstrated interest in urban sustainability, environmental, energy, and/or equity issues is a plus;
- Additional consideration will be given to candidates who show demonstrable experience in communicating scientific and/or technical information (oral and/or written) to non-technical audiences and/or have experience and knowledge of building energy efficiency policies and programs.