

Energizing Equity Jackson

Joint event hosted by Residents in Action (RiA) and Consumers Energy
Thursday, June 26, 2026 from 4-7pm

Agenda

CMS Energy presents Energizing Equity Jackson		
Thursday June 26, 2025		
Time	Activity	Notes
2:00 PM	Set-up begins: - CMS Energy education trailer - Other CMS information - Community organizations	<u>CMS information/groups</u> : sustainability, EWR, customer programs, renewables/IRP content, reliability roadmap, Corporate Giving/Philanthropy <u>Community groups</u> : Residents in Action, Drive Jackson, MDHHS, United Way, etc.
4:00 PM	Open House begins Explore tables, network, engage	<u>Logistics</u> : Food, waters served
5:30 PM	Welcome, Intro, Why and Objective Review Event Agenda and Flow : 20-30 community members attend the breakout rooms	RIA facilitation; CMS Energy reps participate - (2) Interactive Discussions - Discussion of Next Steps
5:40 PM	Presentation/Facilitated Discussion #1 Clean and renewable energy, community prosperity and sustainability – Integrated Resource Plan feedback - What does this mean to you? What are unique barriers? Recommendations – How might we....?	RIA facilitation, CMS Energy rep sets context, foundational education <i>Deliverable</i> – Problem Statements, priorities
6:20 PM	10-MIN BREAK	
6:30 PM	Presentation/Facilitated Discussion #2 Affordability, Reliability (electric rate case input) - What does this mean to you? What are unique barriers? Recommendations....How might we....?	RIA facilitation, CMS Energy rep presentation for context/education <i>Deliverable</i> – Problem Statement, priorities
7:10 PM	Event Concludes Next Steps	CMS Energy thank you, shares next steps
7:30 PM	Finish clean-up/take down	Table breakdown; start at 7PM

Flyer, External Promotions

Expanded Event Promotion Plan			
Channel	Owner	Content	Date
Black Food Sovereignty	Residents in Action	Share flyer, word of mouth network	6/9-6/26
Diverse Minds Consulting, LLC	Residents in Action	Share flyer, word of mouth network	6/9-6/26
Family Lifestyle Solutions, LLC	Residents in Action	Share flyer, word of mouth network	6/9-6/26
Mondays with My	Residents in Action	Share flyer, word of mouth network	6/9-6/26
Partial to Girls	Residents in Action	Share flyer, word of mouth network	6/9-6/26
Residents in Action, Inc.	Residents in Action	Share flyer, word of mouth network	6/9-6/26
Transcending Minds Consulting, LLC	Residents in Action	Share flyer, word of mouth network	6/9-6/26
Young People of Purpose	Residents in Action	Share flyer, word of mouth network	6/9-6/26
MLK Corridor Improvement Authority	Mindy Bradish Orta	Website, Facebook, email blast	6/9-6/26
King Center	Mindy Bradish Orta	Share flyer, word of mouth network	6/9-6/26
Residents in Action, Inc.	Residents in Action	Share flyer, word of mouth network	6/19/2025
Consumers Energy Table - Jackson Juneteenth	Consumers Energy	Share flyer, in-person promo	6/22/2025
Consumers Energy - YMCA Ribbon Cutting	Consumers Energy	Share flyer, in-person promo	6/26/2025
Consumers Energy Table - MDHHS	Consumers Energy and RIA	Share flyer, in-person promo	6/17/2025

Outcomes:

- Over 100 attendees
- 46 event experience surveys completed (~50%) with a 9.5 out of 10 satisfaction rating
 - Top comment for score was access to information and resources (73% of comments)
- [Energizing Equity Jackson recap](https://vimeo.com/1108499872/c8e5db88bb?fl=ls&fe=ec)
(<https://vimeo.com/1108499872/c8e5db88bb?fl=ls&fe=ec>)

You're Invited to a **FREE** Community Event
Energizing Equity Jackson
 Resources to Help Communities Thrive

- Food
- Giveaways
- Information
- Networking



June 26, 2025

**Martin Luther King Jr.
Recreation Center**

**1107 Adrian St.
Jackson, MI 49203**

4 p.m. – 7 p.m.

**Connect with local organizations
to learn about helpful resources
to save energy and money.**

Consumers Energy is partnering with Residents in Action, Inc and its Core Members. Together, we will explore collaborative solutions to achieve safe, reliable, affordable, clean and equitable energy. All are welcome.

Home-Owners | Renters | Families | Youth | Seniors | Veterans



Scan
for More
Info



RESIDENTS IN ACTION





Thanks for participating!

Fill out and turn in for a chance
to win a prize.

On a scale of 1-10 with 10 being best,
Today's Event was **(circle one)**:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Please explain? _____

Energizing Equity Jackson

Resources to Help
Communities Thrive

PASSPORT

June 26, 2025



Energizing Equity Jackson



Ways to Save \$

- Consumers Energy Programs
 - ☐ Green Giving
 - ☐ Home Energy Analysis (FREE)
 - ☐ Multifamily resources

Additional Assistance

- ☐ Michigan Energy Assistance Program
- ☐ United Way
- ☐ Help with Your Energy Bill
- ☐ Oncourse Home Solutions
- ☐ Community Action Agency



Power Your Career



- ☐ Jackson College
- ☐ Consumers Energy interactive education trailer, Summer Youth
- ☐ Walker-Miller Energy Services

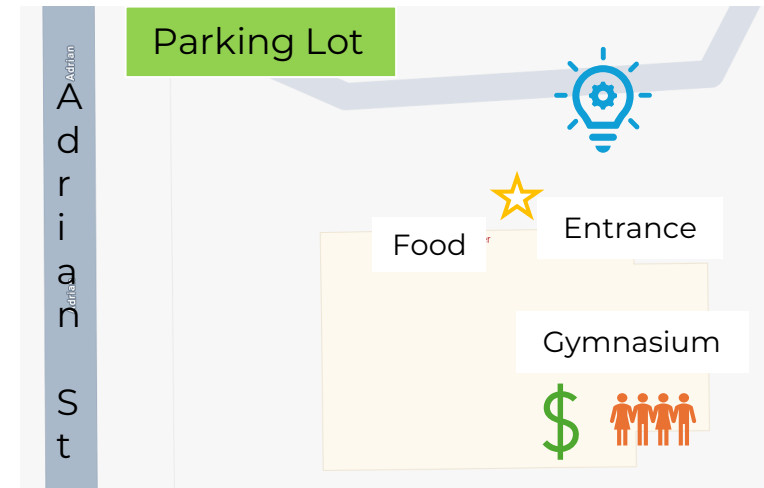
Resources to Help Communities Thrive

Healthy Community, Healthy You



- ☐ Jackson Department of Health and Human Services
- ☐ Jackson Care Hub
- ☐ McLaren Health Care
- ☐ Residents in Action
- ☐ disAbility Connections Jackson
- ☐ Drive Jackson
- ☐ Consumers Energy community connections

Choose Your Adventure



Energizing Equity Jackson

Breakout Session Content and Feedback

June 26, 2025

Objectives

Thank you for your time and perspective!



Energizing Equity community engagement is about access

- Bringing information directly to our customers that may carry higher energy burdens



During the breakout sessions, your voice and perspective is critical

- We need your help to understand what is going well along with any barriers in accessing the programs, information, and sustainable opportunities - like jobs and grant programs – that can help community members thrive.



This conversation is meant for two-way dialogue to better understand the unique problem statements faced by our customers right here in our hometown of Jackson

- Problem statements will help inform long-term relationship development plans across the community to continue building connection beyond this one-day engagement.

Breakout Topic #1

Feedback: Energy Supply Plan

June 26, 2025

Leading the Clean Energy Transformation **Isn't New to Us**

SINCE 2015

We have been adding renewable energy – through wind and solar – to our electric supply portfolio

SINCE 2018

Our Electric Supply Roadmap has been focused on cleaner and more renewable supply portfolio

2026

Consumers Energy files a new Integrated Resource Plan (IRP)

MICHIGAN'S CLEAN ENERGY LAW

60% Renewable by 2035 | 100% Clean by 2040



Renewable Portfolio Standard

Requires 15% of energy to be from renewable sources until 2029, ≥50% by 2030, and ≥ 60% by 2035

RPS



Clean Energy Standard

Requires ≥ 80% of energy to be from clean sources by 2035 and 100% by 2040

CES



Energy Storage Mandate

Requires ≥ 2,500 MWs of new energy storage in Michigan. CE's share is expected to be 820 MWs

COMPLIMENTED BY NEW LAWS & WHAT CUSTOMERS AND INVESTORS ARE ASKING FOR

Electric Supply Roadmap

Leading Michigan's Energy Future

The Strength of Our Supply Strategy

A DIVERSIFIED PORTFOLIO

Having a range of assets in our electric supply portfolio will allow us to be affordable and reliable for our customers, while being clean and renewable.

**THE DIVERSITY OF OUR
PORTFOLIO IS OUR STRENGTH.**



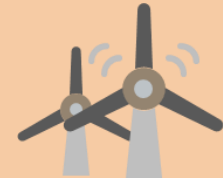
Natural Gas



Solar



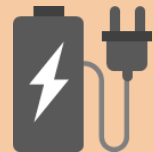
**Clean
Baseload**



Wind



Hydros



**Battery
Storage**

Think of what stuck out to you, how does this connect to you and your family

What does this information mean to you?

What barriers do you anticipate?

How might we remove or work past this barriers?

Summary of the **key themes and focus areas** from Breakout Session 1:

CE Context SME: Nichole Kramer

Attendees: 16 community members, 7 CE

Clean & Renewable Energy Strategy

- **Wind Energy:** Confusion around permitting policies—federal pause on new permits vs. continued state/county-level support in Michigan. Wind farms face local siting ordinances and spacing restrictions.
- **Solar Energy:** Customers considered more feasible in urban settings due to fewer restrictions. Questions raised about why smaller urban installations aren't more common.
- **Geothermal:** Interest in whether this is a realistic option; noted as less likely to be a major contributor.
- **Energy Mix:** Acknowledgement that no single resource is ideal—solar and wind need backup sources (e.g., battery storage, natural gas).
- **Battery Storage:** Seen as a critical tool but has limitations (4-hour lifespan); discussions around environmental impacts, recycling, and costs.

Affordability, Rates & Transparency

- **Energy Costs:** Interest in whether renewable energy sources will lead to lower bills over time.
- **Understanding Bills:** Desire for clearer breakdowns—how energy sources translate to customer bills and addressing public misperceptions on renewable cost and reliability
- **"Green Giving" Program:** Launched in March, but low awareness. Participants questioned surcharge fairness for renewable sign-up and preferred incentive-based options; Green Giving removes the surcharge barrier for low-income community members.

Near-Term vs. Long-Term Planning

- **Immediate Concerns:** Requests for more details on what's happening in the next 1–2 years (e.g., natural gas plant, battery storage projects in Jackson).
- **Future Outlook:** A 20-year IRP vision was mentioned by the company, but community members want short-term actions clarified.

Communication & Community Engagement

- **Barriers Identified:**
 - Lack of visibility for Consumers Energy in the MIEJ 80-100 census tracts of the Jackson community.
 - Limited awareness of available programs (e.g., Green Giving).
 - Communication channels may not be aligned with community needs.
- **Suggestions:**
 - Engage directly with trusted grassroots organizations and community leaders.
 - Use social media (e.g., Facebook groups), local advertising, and word-of-mouth.
 - Provide visible, accessible offices or contact points within the community.
 - Offer incentives (e.g., gift cards) for participation and feedback.

Broader Community Needs

- **Housing Crisis:** Community interest in how Consumers Energy supports solutions for homelessness and affordable housing.
- **Bill Payment Access:** Frustration that there's no walk-in office; desire for fee-free payment options and transparency on charges (e.g., VISA processing fees).
- **Relationship Building:** Enthusiasm for a new chapter of cooperation with Consumers Energy, recognizing efforts to build trust and two-way communication.

Breakout Topic #2

Reliability and Affordability (Rate Case)

June 26, 2025

Investing in Reliability



You count on reliable electricity in your day-to-day life, not just during severe weather

Consumers Energy is committed to delivering on this promise in all weather conditions



The Reliability Roadmap investment:

- Tree clearing frequency, adjust from a 7 to 5-year cycle
- Underground lines, expand
- System repairs and upgrades, stronger equipment for high outage areas



NEW Vulnerable Communities Resiliency Plan:

- Focused system hardening for under resourced communities
- Ensure improved reliability in all weather conditions

Commitment to Affordability



MYTH: CE is raising rates in the afternoon, and it will increase my bill by 50%.

FACT: On-peak rate (June – Sept., M-F from 2-7 p.m.) is 50% higher than the off-peak rate; off-peak rate was lowered from 2020's rate and occurs 19 hours a day.

Customers who can shift their energy use away from 2-7 p.m., M-F, are using energy at a lower cost than in 2020.

Off-peak times: Mornings, nights and weekends in the summer

Why? By shifting when we use energy, Consumers Energy can avoid building more power plants that aren't needed most of the year and keep overall energy costs lower

Keeping affordability top of mind, alongside reliability investment



- NEW My Personalized Offerings**, ConsumersEnergy.com/GetMyPlan
- Step 1: answer questions about your household
 - Step 2: received personalized recommendations to meet your needs
 - Step 3: select your programs and enroll



- Energy Waste Reduction:** complete a Home Energy Analysis for free energy saving tips, free home upgrades and a personalized report. Potential upgrades could include smart thermostat, door sealing, insulation for water pipes, and more.
- These programs have saved customers more than **\$7.3 billion** since 2009



- Energy Savings Tips:**
- Switch to LED bulbs
 - Regularly clean or replace air filters and keep blinds/curtains closed during the day
 - Complete chores like laundry, cooking, and running the dishwasher in the morning or evening when it's cooler outside and electricity costs less
 - Set thermostat to 78 degrees when home (especially 2-7pm) and a couple degrees higher when you are away to save 1-3% cooling costs for every degree you dial up, use smart thermostat to save money and earn incentives



- Trouble paying your bill:**
- Call 2-1-1 to connect with available resources in your community
 - Consumers Energy programs like Budget Plan for consistent payments, high bill alerts to notify you of significant usage, and more options. Call 800-477-5050.

Think of what stuck out to you, how does this connect to you and your family

What does this information mean to you?

What barriers do you anticipate?

How might we remove or work past this barriers?

Summary of the **key themes and focus areas** from **Breakout Session 2** on **Affordability and Reliability** • **(rate case):**

CE Context SME: Doug Chapel

Attendees: 13 community members, 9 CE

⚡ **Affordability & Energy Usage Awareness**

- **Unexpectedly High Bills:** Participants expressed confusion about high bills despite limited home usage. They requested practical, accessible energy-saving tips that don't require extreme measures (like late-night laundry).
- **Desire for Simple Efficiency Guidance:** Suggestions included producing video tutorials and social media content with energy-saving tips (e.g., thermostat settings, changing air filters, sealing windows).
- **Need for Engagement:** Many participants aren't connected to Consumers Energy's online presence; they emphasized using word of mouth, trusted voices, and possibly compensating community members to share tips online.

🔧 **Reliability, Equity & Emergency Response**

- **Understanding “High-Risk” Areas:** Concerns that “high-risk” is a proxy for racial and socioeconomic inequities. The MIEJScreen tool was discussed as a way to rank energy burden using 26 factors.
- **Outage Impact vs. Frequency:** Participants wanted clarification that high-risk areas aren't necessarily more outage-prone—but suffer greater impact when they occur due to fewer resources.
- **Medical Dependency & Response Gaps:** A story was shared about a man on oxygen who died after being without power for 7 days. Participants stressed the need for a process to register medically vulnerable individuals for priority support.

🚧 **Barriers to Accessing Support**

- **Awareness Gap:** Participants cited a disconnect in community awareness to what programs exist (e.g., smart thermostats, free energy audits), but the public isn't hearing about them.
- **Landlord Restrictions:** Renters struggle to take part in energy programs (e.g., needing landlord approval for audits); creating delays and rework.

Trust & Representation: Strong emphasis on representation in home visits. Some participants expressed discomfort with auditors not reflecting their identity or background—highlighting the need for optional auditor selection for customers and bias training for those entering homes to conduct the audits.

🌍 **Community Engagement & Inclusion**

• **Outreach Suggestions:**

- Partner with groups like **Residents In Action** or community colleges for local training and visibility.
- Use **minority- and women-owned contractors** (e.g., Walker Miller) to increase trust and community involvement.
- Set up public **solar-powered charging stations and Wi-Fi hubs** during outages. Those experiencing homelessness have devices but nowhere to charge devices.

- **Community Employment:** Suggestions to keep workforce development and equitable and inclusive hiring local.

- **Medical Power Needs:** Participants asked for clear instructions or partnerships (e.g., with Red Cross) to ensure support during outages for those with life-sustaining equipment.

🔄 **Moving Forward**

- **Repeat Community Forums:** Participants valued the session and suggested holding forums once or twice per season.

• **Action Steps:**

- Improve communication via trusted channels.
- Return with updates through RiA—especially around medical registration and program access.
- Strengthen relationships with local partners (e.g., Jackson College, community action organizations).

Thank you! Next steps



We greatly appreciate your time and conversation



Notes from this session will be consolidated and grouped into core themes which will:

- Help to shape problem statements from the community member perspective
- Inform long-term relationship building needs across the community
- Indicate where problem solving may be needed to remove a barrier(s)



Consumers Energy's Jackson Community Affairs Manager:

- Work with Jackson stakeholders to continue building relationships
- Own the collaboration process and feedback loop to share progress on problem statements identified today