

CAEECC-hosted Workshop on Workforce Standards AGENDA

Purpose: to establish a common understanding of the opportunities, benefits, challenges, and perspectives of different interested parties re: applying workforce standards to energy efficiency/electrification programs. Note the purpose isn't to problem-solve¹.

Date: May 18, 2026

Time: 1:00-4:00 p.m. pacific

Location: Virtual

Register for Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?meeting=ifK8YgqiQISUBMGWvivyMvA#/registration>

Supporting material can be found at: [5-18-2026-Workforce-Standards-Workshop | CAEECC](#)

Time	Topic & Description	Presenter
1:00	Welcome & Workshop Context Setting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Workshop purpose & intended outcomes B. CAEECC past involvement on workforce standards C. Background on Workforce Standards legislation (SB 350), regulation (CPUC D.18-10-008), implementation and evaluation 	A. and B. Amber Zirnhelt, Facilitator C. Ellen Steiner, Opinion Dynamics
1:30	Panel Discussion on Workforce Standards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Risks to meeting energy goals with improper product installation B. PA Experiences with Implementing Workforce Standards and Contractor Training with Code Updates C. From Code to Practice: Aligning Energy Standards, CPUC Programs and Workforce Training and Compliance D. Possible additional speakers TBD 	A. Chris Rusch, SMW Local 106 B. Audrey Bragg, SoCalREN; Benjamin Druyon, I-REN; others to be confirmed C. Gina Rodda, Gabel Energy D. Possible additional speakers to be confirmed
2:30	Break	
2:40	Breakout Room Discussions Participants will pre-register for two discussion topics from the following list: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Top Challenges in Meeting Workforce Standards for HVAC/Lighting Contractors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ High-level discussion on key challenges and solutions for workforce standards. 	

¹ Note: this workshop will focus on standards within market-rate energy efficiency programs under the auspices of the CPUC

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	<p>B. Incentive Threshold Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Are the incentive amount thresholds for non-residential HVAC and ALC projects adopted in 2018 still appropriate now? <p>C. Contractor Credentialing Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Challenges, inconsistencies and solutions for contractors in meeting credential requirements ■ Contractor certification requirement relevancy and costs <p>D. Contractor Verification, the Importance of Quality Assurance and Consumer Protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Roles and challenges for PAs in ensuring contractors meet required credentials ■ Importance of quality assurance for on-site work, program administration, and training ■ Consumer protection as a policy driver for workforce standards for contractors <p>E. Market Participation, Equity and Access: Who Gets Left Out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Workforce standards' effects on contractor participation and access to training ■ Barriers and opportunities to support contractors in obtaining qualification and maintaining a robust contractor pool for HVAC and ALC <p>F. Coordination on Contractor Requirements: Across PAs and at the State Level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Opportunities for PA collaboration with workforce, labor, and other stakeholders to address local gaps in available, qualified technicians ■ Gaps and opportunities for state-level coordination across orgs and regions ■ Priorities for workforce standard coordination 	
3:40	Plenary Discussion: Highlights from Breakout Room Discussions	Amber Zirnhelt, Facilitator and CAEECC Facilitators
3:55	Wrap-up and Next Steps	Katie Abrams, Facilitator
4:00	Workshop Adjourned	

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