Rendering the Clean Energy Space Accessible for Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs); Albany, NY

Introductory Statement:

In this era of unprecedented federal spending around clean energy, there remains an urgent need in making sure the clean energy space remains accessible and understandable for historically underserved communities. Each clean energy options comes with its own pros and cons. Minority-Serving Institutions and Historically Black Churches are often sidelined and underrepresented in high-level policy discussions around energy resilience, community administrative goals, and energy transition policy. Yet the passion for cleaner and less destructive ways of 21st century living (climate change action) is one that resonates not only with people of STEM institutions background but also for people of religious and spiritual faiths. Educating these communities in cutting-edge hydrogen-centered technologies is much needed for our society.

Academic Institution:

-University at Albany

Community Partner:

-Wilborn Temple First Church of God in Christ

Location of Community of Benefit:

-Wilborn Temple 1st COGIC, Albany NY [Historically Black Christian Church]

Project Statement:

There exists in Albany, New York a Community Center Place of Worship that has for years attempted to replace aging oil-burning energy infrastructure. Standalone grant attempts have not succeeded and it has become evident that such an endeavor requires equitable collaboration. This multistakeholder input can come from academia, the Department of Energy, etc. The Community Partner in question can no longer afford to maintain its conventional energy system which dates back centuries. But its Board of Trustees and congregation do not quite understand the clean energy space's various options and each option's pros and cons. Under the CEIP Collegiate Track the proposal team seeks to advance multistakeholder capacity-building and a careful, impartial study of all energy pathways. By the end of the project, there should be clarified a real-world pathway for collegiate-based energy infrastructure upgrades.

Project POCs:

Team Faculty Advisor:
Dr. Haralabos Efstathiadis, College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering, hefstathiadis@albany.edu

Student Team Leader(s):
Yamini Kumaran, ykumaran@albany.edu
Arnaud Guerimand, arnaud.guerimand@gmail.com

Community Partner:
Tony Mariano, talkingrx@aol.com
Reverend Solomon Dees, Solders34@aol.com