

A row of five incandescent light bulbs is shown against a dark blue background. The bulbs are arranged horizontally. The third bulb from the left is illuminated, casting a soft glow, while the other four bulbs are unlit. The text of the slide is overlaid on this image.

Achieving Equity with Community Choice Aggregation

Alicia Zhang

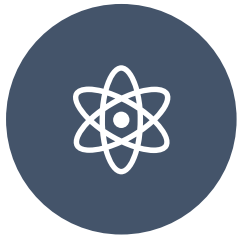
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Agenda



OVERVIEW OF THE
ENERGY SYSTEM



WHAT IS "ENERGY
JUSTICE"?



CASE STUDY OF
BOSTON

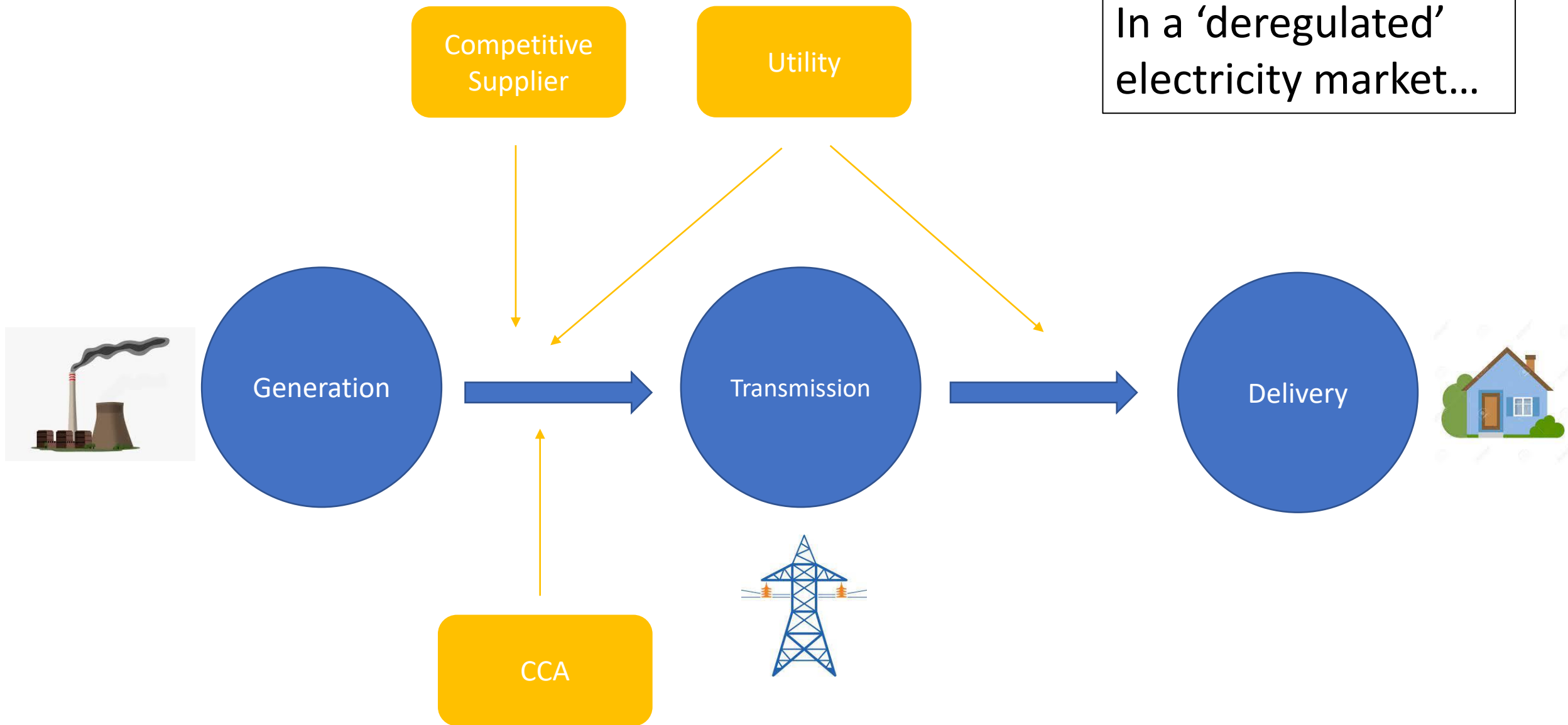


CHALLENGES/WHAT
WE LEARNED



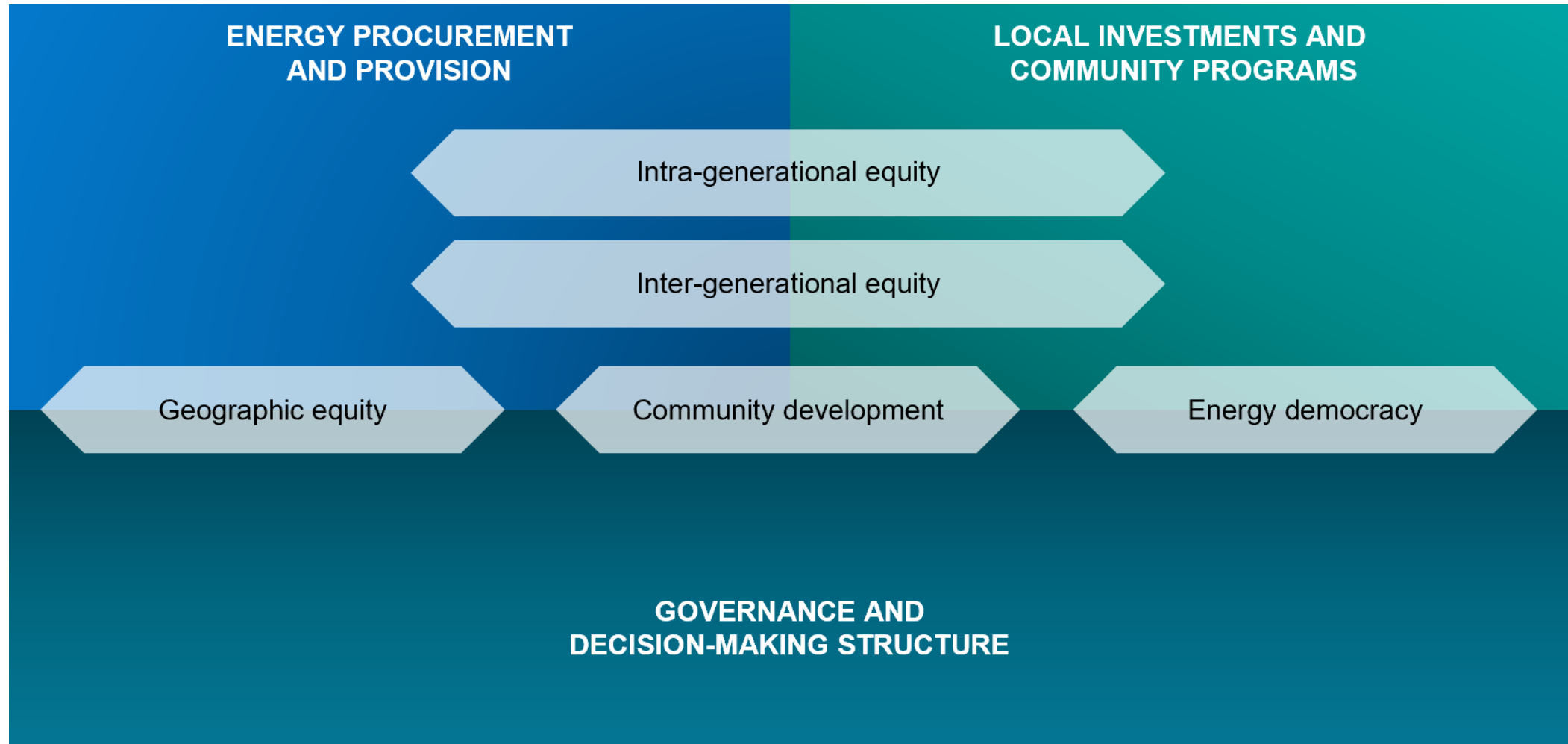
RECOMMENDATIONS

In a 'deregulated' electricity market...



LOWER RATES FOR CLEAN ENERGY

What is energy justice?



CCA models vary in their opportunities for equity

Characteristics of the three CCA Models.

Model type	Main features	State presence	Program Examples
1.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CCA acts only as an electricity supplier. - Main objective is cost savings. - Short-term contracts. - Limited managerial control. - Electricity is usually purchased from the market or remote generating sources. 	MA, OH, VA, CA, RI, NJ, NY, NH, MD	Lowell Community Choice Power Supply Program (Lowell, MA)
2.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CCA can provide multiple energy services. - Main objective is to maximize community benefits, including but not limited to cost savings. - Requires managerial capacities and more complex governance. - Emphasizes energy democracy and local ownership. 	CA, NH	East Bay Community Energy (Alameda County, CA)
3.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CCA programs across municipalities can develop a Joint Powers Agency and share expertise and managerial capacities. 	CA, NH	MCE (Contra Costa, Napa, Marin, and Solano Counties, CA). MCE is also part of the California Community Choice Association.



Case Study of Boston

Community Choice Electricity (CCE)

- Largest CCA program in MA
- Began in February 2021
- Opt-out program
- Automatically enrolls all Eversource Basic customers

Standard (default)	Optional Basic	Optional Green 100
\$0.11409/kWh	\$0.10959/kWh	\$0.14764/kWh
28% renewable electricity	18% renewable electricity	100% renewable electricity

Environmental justice is a core principle of CCE

We recognize that pollution and climate change cause more harm to socially vulnerable communities. The program aims to deliver benefits and economic opportunities to these communities.

City of Boston Website

Methodology

Interviewed 8 persons of interest over video-call/ phone/ email

- Boston city officials who worked on CCE (Community Choice Electricity Outreach Coordinator & Energy Efficiency and Distributed Resources Finance Manager)
- 2 members of Working Group
- Executive Director of Green Energy Consumer Alliance
- Clean Energy Director of MCAN
- Researcher at the Applied Economics Clinic
- Community Outreach Coordinator at Sierra Club (MA Chapter)

Questions asked based on interviewee's role in CCE

- Community outreach, misconceptions about CCE, how to address rate variability, influence of Working Groups, opt-out rates, low-income assistance, educating residents, competitive suppliers, etc.

Themes from Interviews

Clean energy procurement and low-cost provision is a core feature, but there are challenges

Challenges

- Structuring choice between lower rates and higher renewable energy options
- The type and location of new renewable energy sources linked to or owned by CCA programs can also present challenges

Possible Solutions

- Universal residential service and rate protections
- Decentralization of energy system
 - Include a choice for buying local green energy

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Need for a transparent and accountable governance and decision-making structure

Challenges

- Governance structure may not be transparent and inclusive throughout the design *and* implementation model
- Predatory competitive suppliers

PRESS RELEASE

New AG Report: Massachusetts F Million Through Competitive Elec in Last Five Years

Study Shows Low-Income Residents and Communities of Color Are Disproportionately Harmed; AG Urges Passage of Legislation to Ban S from Signing Up New Residential Customers

Possible Solutions

- Community outreach, participation, and engagement
- Selection consultant

ENGLISH CONSUMER NOTIFICATION LETTER



ARABIC (العربية) CONSUMER NOTIFICATION LETTER



CAPE VERDEAN CREOLE (KRIOLU) CONSUMER NOTIFICATION LETTER

FRENCH (FRANÇAIS) CONSUMER NOTIFICATION LETTER



HAITIAN CREOLE (KREYÒL AYISYEN) CONSUMER NOTIFICATION LETTER



PORTUGUESE (PORTUGUÊS) CONSUMER NOTIFICATION LETTER

RUSSIAN (РУССКИЙ) CONSUMER NOTIFICATION LETTER



SIMPLIFIED CHINESE (中文) CONSUMER NOTIFICATION LETTER



SPANISH (ESPAÑOL) CONSUMER NOTIFICATION LETTER

SOMALI (AF-SOOMALI) CONSUMER NOTIFICATION LETTER



TRADITIONAL CHINESE (中文) CONSUMER NOTIFICATION LETTER



VIETNAMESE (TIẾNG VIỆT) CONSUMER NOTIFICATION LETTER

CCAs provides opportunities for local investments and community programs

Challenges

- Department of Public Utilities has legislation that act as barriers to local development programs such as community solar

Possible Solutions

- Long-term contracts with local renewable energy generators
- Forming a coalition (3.0 model)



Recommendations to NEJAC



CCA is an opportunity to democratize

Community outreach, engagement, and empowerment should continue through all stages of the CCA implementation



Enforce open market to ward off competitive suppliers

Emphasize community education



Implement a decentralized renewable energy model

Sponsor local green energy



Form a coalition

Create an aggregation of aggregators run by a non-profit entity

How can we transform the energy system to foster sustainability and equity?

- Alternative energy procurement models provide opportunities for fostering equity, including:
 - Inter- and intra- generational equity
 - Energy democracy
 - Community development
 - Geographical equity
- Careful planning and attention on community engagement and equity principles can help municipalities transform the energy system and build community resiliency

How can we transform the energy system to foster sustainability and equity?

- Electric system is transforming very slowly
- We need to provide opportunities to be more just as we transition and for people to benefit from the system
- CCAs gives whole community stronger presence in the market



Thank you!



For full report, please visit: www.bu.edu/rccp

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