



COMUNIDADES DEL SOL

ANCHOR COMUNIDADES

- ★ **Carrizo Springs TX** – successful pilot completed in 2022 with support from AEP Texas and HUD; Dimmit County seat; population around 5,000, declining; 90+% Hispanic; qualifying low-income and energy community; 45% LMI
- ★ **Austin TX** – pilot funding secured for east Austin African American neighborhood in cooperation with the Austin Area Urban League and Austin Energy; project request for proposals being developed

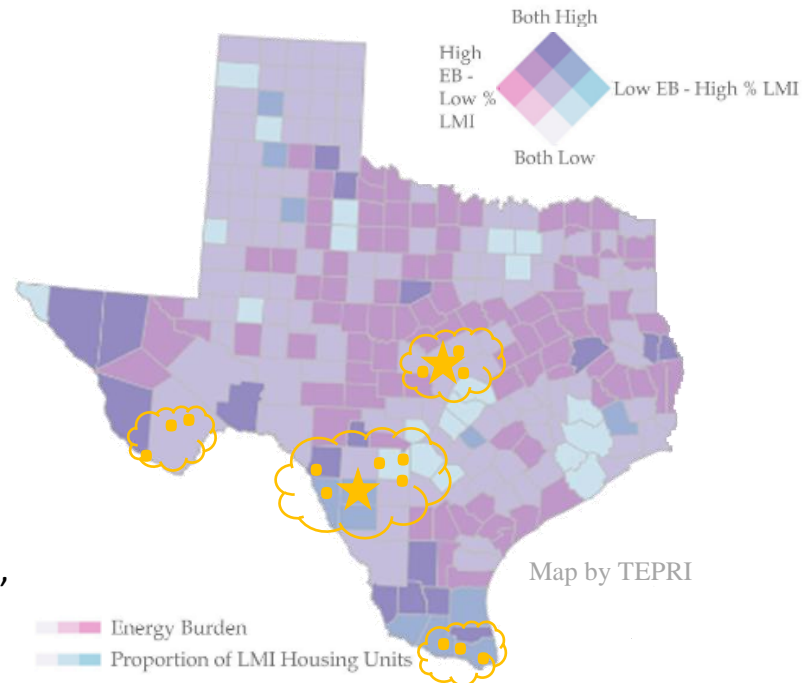


TEAM MEMBERS

- **Team Leader - Steve Wiese**, Director of Implementation Services, Frontier Energy, Austin
- **David Ojeda**, Executive Director, and **Sixto Ortega**, Weatherization Director, Community Services Agency of South Texas, Carrizo Springs
- **Alfredo Castaneda**, Executive Director, Carrizo Springs Housing Authority, Carrizo Springs
- **Margo Weisz**, Executive Director, Texas Energy Poverty Research Institute, Austin
- **Patrice Parsons**, Executive Director, Texas Solar Energy Society, Austin
- **Additional Partners:** AEP Texas, Solar Power Integrators, verbal interest from Austin Energy, Harlingen Community Development Corporation, and Community Council of South Central Texas, several housing authorities in S Texas

EXPANSION COMUNIDADES

Uvalde, Del Rio, Eagle Pass, Cotulla, Crystal City, Big Wells, Dilley, Pearsall, Alpine, Marfa, Presidio



CHALLENGES AND SOLUTION

- Proposal aligns with DOE solar energy goal
- Targeted areas have high energy burdens, substandard housing, limited access to capital/information/programs, and are affected by climate events and nearby energy developments
- Project team worked with NREL and Texas to enable co-funding of rooftop solar via combination of WAP/LIHEAP and utility-provided funds
- Initial 2 pilot projects validate proof-of-concept (energy burden reduction in LMI households at no cost to household) and have attracted interest within and outside the pilot communities
- Comunidades del Sol seeks to scale to 5-12 new projects to gain further experience, smooth the participation process, and enable organic growth statewide