CLEAN ENERGY SITING COUNCIL SUMMARY

Date: December 11, 2024, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Council Co-leads:
Ecology: Joenne McGerr, Diane Butorac, Alex Shin, Brenden McFarland, Tyson Orerio
Commerce: Michael Furze, Aaron Peterson, Dan Siemann, Rebecca Ponzio, Monica Bramble, Valerie Smith, Nora Hawkins, Michelle Gladston-Wate, Kent Brady, Deanah Watson
Council members:
DAHP: Allyson Brooks; *DNR:* Jim Woodward, Natalie Wade; *EFSEC:* Stewart Henderson, Lisa McLean; *EJ Council:* Jonathan Chen; *ORIA:* Dan McConnon; *UTC:* Payton Swinford; *WDFW:* Ben Blank; *WSDA:* Julia Terlinchamp; *WSDOT:* Ahmer Nizam

Rural Clean Energy Economics and Community Engagement Study, Aaron Peterson, Commerce

Aaron Peterson, Senior Energy Policy Specialist at Commerce, provided an overview of the recently completed Rural Clean Energy Economics and Community Engagement Study. HB 1216 directed commerce to produce a study and legislative report addressing potential opportunities and impacts of clean energy development in rural communities throughout Washington. The Study included two related parts: potential non-economic impacts to – and opportunities for – rural communities from clean energy development; and direct and indirect economic and financial impacts of clean energy projects in rural Washington. Public engagement included 44 interviews, 3 focus groups, 3 community-based public meetings, and a statewide virtual meeting. The report, meeting materials and other information are available at: https://ruralcleanenergywashington.org/.

Legislative update

Agencies discussed clean energy issues in preparation for the 2025 legislative session.

Siting Council Engagement with Tribes and Interested Parties

Input and feedback from Tribes and interested parties are important to inform Council work and improve awareness on clean energy issues. Key discussion topics included goals for engagement, options for sharing information, and the need to set clear expectations on how feedback and input would be used by the Council. Siting Council members discussed options for enhancing engagement with Tribes on Clean Energy Siting Council activities and ensuring engagement is tailored to Tribal preferences and is equitable across Tribes. Initial ideas considered included advisory groups, presentations at Siting Council meetings, separate meetings with specific entities, developing a Tribal consultation and engagement plan, and public meetings or workshops. Members reviewed the engagement process during the Low-Carbon Energy Project Siting Improvement study, assessed the strengths and weaknesses of existing Tribal engagement and considered the existing forums that are available to engage with Tribes. Ecology's Executive Advisor for Tribal Affairs and Commerce's Tribal liaisons provided context and feedback to inform the Siting Council discussion. The Siting Council will continue discussion on the topic of Tribal engagement and engagement with interested parties in early 2025 and identify next steps. Members also emphasized the importance of describing the Council's roles and responsibilities as part of the engagement process.

Agency updates

The following members of the Siting Council announced their departure from the Siting Council:

- Craig Bill, Director, Governor's Office of Indian Affairs
- Michael Furze, Assistant Director, Energy Division, Commerce, and Siting Council Co-Chair
- Becky Kelley, Senior Policy Advisor for Climate, Office of Governor

Ecology informed the Siting Council that the Draft Hydrogen PEIS will be released in mid-January.

ACTION ITEMS			
Responsible	**Action**	**Start Date**	**Due Date**
	None		