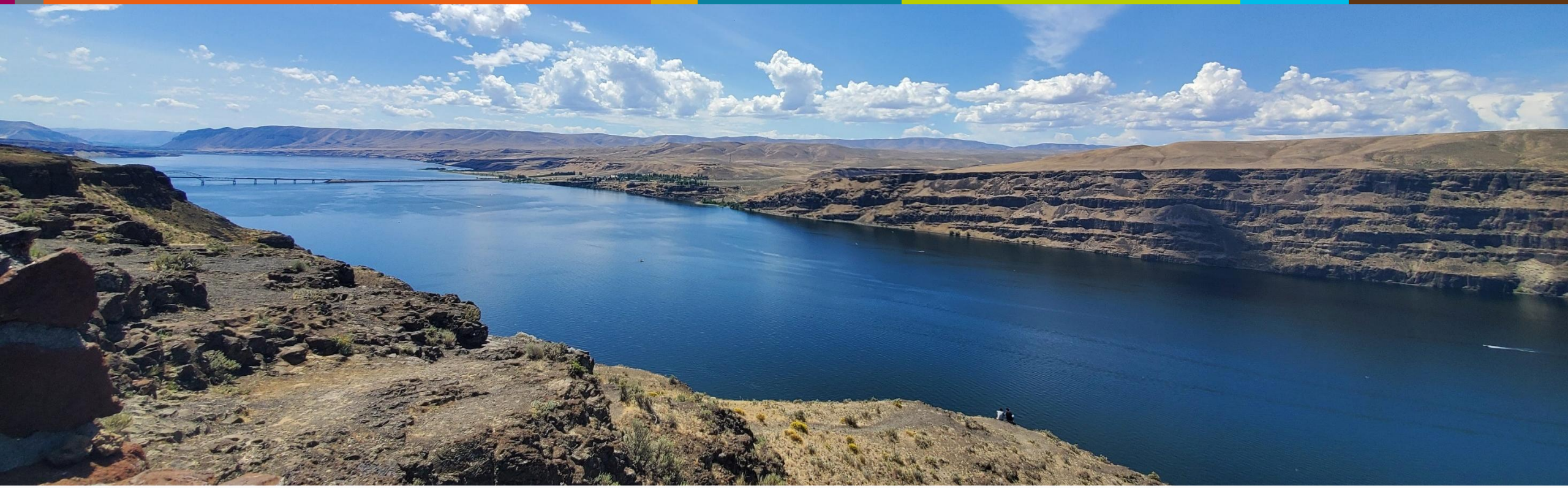


Interagency Clean Energy Siting Coordinating Council

Spring Forum for Interested Parties

April 30, 2026

Agenda

- Poll
- Overview of the Clean Energy Siting Council
- Council annual report
- 2026 legislative session
- Small group discussion (breakout rooms)
  - Concerns or challenges with clean energy & transmission development
  - Recommendations for improvement
- Full group discussion

Poll

- **Role in Washington's energy development**
  - Developer/energy industry
  - Federal/State/Local government
  - Utility
  - Tribe
  - Non-profit/advocacy organization
  - Interested citizen
  - Other

- **Have you participated in a Siting Council forum previously?**

Interagency Clean Energy Siting Coordinating Council (Council) members

- Ecology (Co-lead)
- Commerce (Co-lead)
- Energy Facility Siting Evaluation Council (EFSEC)
- Environmental Justice Council Staff
- Governor's Office (GOV)
- Governor's Office for Regulatory Innovation & Assistance (ORIA)
- Governor's Office of Indian Affairs (GOIA)
- Washington Department of Agriculture (WSDA)
- Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP)
- Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW)
- Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)
- Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC)

Council purpose and objectives

- The Council DOES
  - Coordinate between agencies for consistency and effectiveness
  - Identify actions to improve clean energy siting and permitting
  - Provide annual updates and recommendations on clean energy efforts to the Governor and legislature
  - Advise and support agency work
- The Council does NOT
  - Make decisions on projects, siting, funding, individual agency actions, or statewide policy

Council engagement with Tribes and interested parties

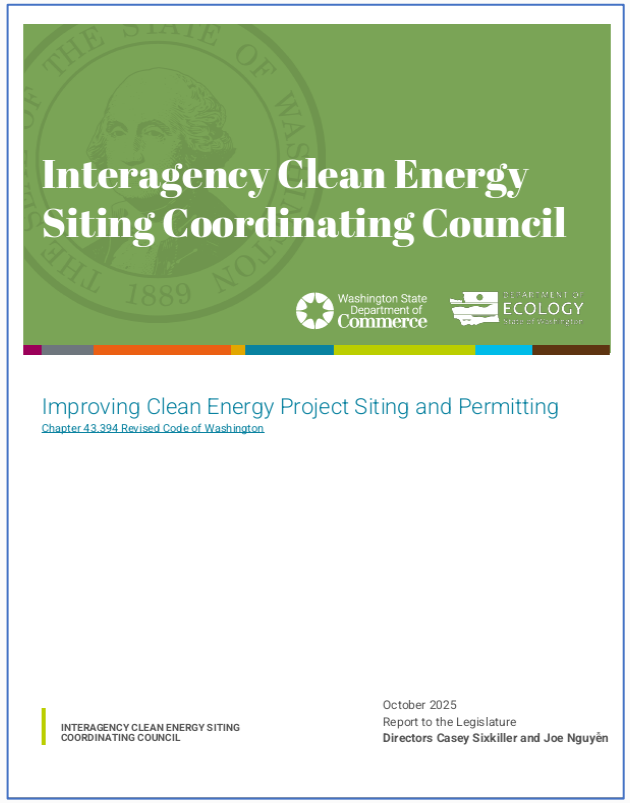
- Council website and email updates
- Workshops for Tribes and interested parties (e.g., this meeting)
- Input and feedback on annual report recommendations
- Agency-specific work
- Information sharing and presentations at meetings and conferences

Siting and permitting activities supported by Council

- Clean energy and transmission programmatic environmental impact statement implementation (Ecology & EFSEC)
- Developing new programmatic environmental impact statement for alternative jet fuel (Ecology)
- Updated archaeological risk assessment (DAHP)
- Environmental justice toolkit for hydrogen project developers (Commerce)
- Promoting pre-application and early planning discussions (multiple agencies)
- Support development of agrivoltaics and anaerobic digesters (Commerce)
- Workgroups on data centers, nuclear fusion, and alternative jet fuel
- State funding for
  - Siting and permitting grants
  - Tribal capacity grants
  - Tribally-led project to identify areas for clean energy development
  - Transmission assistance
  - Engaging overburdened communities

Annual Legislative Report (October)

- Report to the governor and Legislature includes:
  - Updates on work to advance the development of clean energy at the federal, state, and local level
  - Areas where additional work is needed
  - Recommendations for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of clean energy and transmission siting and permitting



Community input in 2025 Annual Report

- May and June 2025: Online tribal & interested parties workshops to explore topics
- July: Distributed draft recommendation topics for 30-day review
- August: Online tribal & interested parties Q&A session re: draft recommendation topics

Criteria for recommendations

- Legislative criteria for recommendations:
  - Advance the goals of HB 1216 and state energy policies
  - Address clean energy siting and permitting concerns
  - Support current or expected clean energy technologies
  - Process, not project oriented
  - Promote coordination across multiple agencies

2025 Siting Council recommendations

- **Address transmission capacity limitations**
  - Establish a state entity to develop and finance transmission projects
  - Develop transmission siting and permitting tools
  - Improve the capacity and efficiency of existing transmission infrastructure
- **Support clean energy development**
  - Support clean energy development that does not require transmission connections
  - Incentivize existing energy infrastructure upgrades
  - Promote Tribal clean energy projects

2025 Siting Council recommendations cont.

- **Improve permitting through meaningful engagement and planning**
  - Provide long-term funding for Tribal project review
  - Engage with Tribes on categorical exemptions under the State Environmental Policy Act
  - Support local governments in clean energy planning
  - Assess lands available for energy development
- **Support community engagement**
  - Develop community engagement tools
- **Address emerging technologies**
  - Support local government response to emerging technologies
  - Identify and resolve obstacles to developing geothermal energy resources

Report timeline for 2026

- **Spring (April/May)**
  - Tribal and interested party workshops
  - Identify topics for recommendations
- **Early Summer (June/July)**
  - Share draft recommendation topics for comment;
  - Online question-and-answer session
- **Late Summer (August/September)**
  - Council integrates feedback and finalizes recommendations
- **October 1 report due**

2026 Legislation about clean energy siting/permitting

- **SHB 2496**: Tribal consultation conducted by the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
- **SSB 6355**: Washington Electric Transmission Authority
- **HB 1960**: Encouraging renewable energy in Washington through tax policy and investment in local communities

Small group discussion prompts

- What do you consider the most critical problem holding back clean energy development?
- What suggestions do you have for improving siting and permitting of clean energy?
- What can be done to improve siting and permitting of transmission?
- What future topics would you like the Council to address?
- Are there things other states are doing that we should consider?
- What actions are you/your organization taking to advance clean energy development?

Full group discussion

- Share a highlight from the Small Group Discussion
- Open discussion: prompts in chat
- Additional input can be emailed to cleanenergy@ecy.wa.gov

Full group discussion prompts

- What do you consider the most critical problem holding back clean energy development?
- What suggestions do you have for improving siting and permitting of clean energy?
- What can be done to improve siting and permitting of transmission?
- What future topics would you like the Council to address?
- Are there things other states are doing that we should consider?
- What actions are you/your organization taking to advance clean energy development?

Next steps

- **Spring (April/May)**
  - Identify topics for recommendations
- **Early Summer (June/July)**
  - Share draft recommendation topics for review
    - 30-day comment period
  - Online question-and-answer session
- **Late Summer (August/September)**
  - Council integrates feedback and finalizes recommendations
- **October-December**
  - Annual report due October 1
  - Workshop to review final recommendations and continue engagement

Thank you

Clean Energy Siting Council Co-leads

Alex Shin
alexandra.shin@ecy.wa.gov

Dan Siemann
daniel.siemann@commerce.wa.gov

Clean Energy Siting Council Webpage

https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/clean-energy/council