CLEAN ENERGY SITING COUNCIL SUMMARY

Date: March 13, 2024, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Council Co-leads:
Ecology: Joenne McGerr, Diane Butorac, Brenden McFarland, Abbey Wellemeyer, Alex Shin, Lila Costello
Commerce: Michael Furze, Brian Young, Nora Hawkins, Dan Siemann
Council members: *DAHP:* Allyson Brooks; *DNR:* Jim Woodward, Natalie Waid; *EFSEC:* Stewart Henderson, Lisa McLean; *EJ Council:* Jonathan Chen; *GOV:* Becky Kelley; *ORIA:* Dan McConnon; *UTC:* Heather Moline; *WSDA:* Gary Bahr; *WSDOT:* Ahmer Nizam

MEETING SUMMARY

Preparation for legislative report
Michael Furze (COM) talked about the purpose, timeline, and format for developing the Legislative report due by October 1, 2024. He asked council members to broadly consider where the council and each agency has had success and what accomplishments are hoped for near-term and longer-term. House Bill (HB) 1216 identifies items to be included in the report. Related reports to consider include the Low-Carbon Energy Siting Report, Rural Energy Report, and Siting Evaluation Report. Throughout the conversation it was suggested that the report highlight successes, challenges, and collective actions. The group discussed issues with timing, new work, and funding. Members brainstormed ideas and recommendations will be developed during future meetings.

Clean Energy Coordinated Process Presentations (EFSEC and ECY)

Stewart Henderson (EFSEC) reviewed EFSEC's Solar Application and emphasized the importance of meeting with proponents very early in the process. He noted studies required for a project to be feasible are the biggest challenges and it is best to identify and discuss these early. Diane Butorac (ECY) shared ECY's new clean energy coordinated permit process website and the joint ECY and EFSEC focus sheet on permitting options for clean energy projects.

Agency updates

Agencies provided information on their clean energy work. Several agencies reported on new work from the legislative session which ended the week prior. Legislative bills related to clean energy which passed include HB 1924 on nuclear fusion energy, SB 6039 on geothermal energy resources, and provisos.

WSDA is continuing work with the Climate Smart Livestock Committee and expect request for funding applications for dairy anaerobic digesters to be released soon. The EJ Council and COM received funding for clean energy work.

Next steps and action items

ACTION ITEMS

Responsible	Action	Start Date	Due Date
ALL	Update Work Plan	Ongoing	