CLEAN ENERGY SITING COUNCIL SUMMARY

Date: October 8, 2025, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Council Co-leads:

Ecology: Joenne McGerr, Diane Butorac, Alex Shin, Amelia Fujikawa

Commerce: Glenn Blackmon, Dan Siemann, Nora Hawkins, Monica Bramble, Rebecca Ponzio, Shannon Pressler

Council members: *DAHP:* Allyson Brooks; *DNR:* Zoe Mullendore, James Woodward; *EFSEC:* Lisa McLean; *EJ Council:* Jonathan Chen; Sierra Rotakhina; *GOIA:* JT Austin, Gordon James; *GOV:* Kate Brouns; *ORIA:* Dan McConnon; *UTC:* Payton Swinford, Heather Moline, Michael Furze; *WDFW:* Ben Blank; *WSDA*: Alison Halpern; *WSDOT:* Ahmer Nizam, Gretchen Coker

Introductions

The Council welcomed two new members, Zoe Mullendore from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Michael Furze, policy director for the Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC).

Governor's Office Update

Kate Brouns (Governor's Office) stated that the Council's draft annual report is currently under review by the Office of Financial Management (OFM) and should be finalized soon. A new budget bill is currently under development for the upcoming legislative session. Furthermore, the Governor is meeting with legislators about a potential transmission bill for the next legislative session.

Data Center Workgroup Update

Kate Brouns (Governor's Office) and Glenn Blackmon (Commerce) shared an update from the Data Center Workgroup that was commissioned by Governor Ferguson (Executive Order 25-05) and began meeting in May. Their report to the Governor with findings and policy recommendations is due in December 2025. The workgroup has 32 members and organized itself into two subgroups: Tax Revenue & Economic Development Subgroup and Energy & Resource Impacts Subgroup. Data centers are relevant to the Council's work because energy availability, transmission, siting, and permitting are key components of data center development.

Resource Adequacy Meeting Summary

Heather Moline (UTC) and Glenn Blackmon (Commerce) provided an update on the September 2025 resource adequacy meeting jointly hosted by Commerce and the UTC. Presentations and discussions included an overview of resource adequacy, regional resource adequacy assessments, a status update on the data center working group, and a review of demand-side resource opportunities.

GOIA Tribal Directory and Clean Energy Training Update

JT Austin and Gordon James (GOIA) shared an update on GOIA's work to develop a list of Tribal contacts and gather information about each Tribe's preferences for outreach regarding clean energy projects, as required by HB 1216 (2023). GOIA has reached out to each Tribe and is continuing to receive responses. When completed, the information will be published on the GOIA website and may be linked from other agency's webpages, such as Ecology's Clean Energy Siting Council page. Work on a Tribal engagement training for clean energy developers (also required by HB 1216) is continuing in coordination with Commerce, EFSEC, DAHP, and others.

Efforts to Address Expiring Federal Tax Credits

Dan Siemann (Commerce) provided a summary of efforts to expedite solar and wind projects. Agencies are coordinating to identify barriers to progress for clean energy projects that may qualify for the expiring federal tax credits. The directors of Ecology, Commerce, EFSEC, and the UTC have been meeting to address these issues.

Environmental Justice Toolkit for Green Hydrogen Project Developers

Shannon Pressler (Commerce) shared an overview of the Environmental Justice Toolkit for Hydrogen Project Developers. She highlighted best practices for community and Tribal engagement and noted that the toolkit does not rely on involvement from state government agencies. The toolkit provides suggestions and guidance rather than a guarantee of outcomes. Commerce is considering ways to incentivize the toolkit guidelines and expand the framework to other technologies and initiatives.

Tribal and Community Benefit Agreements

Dan Siemann (Commerce) provided an overview of how Tribal Benefit Agreements (TBAs) and Community Benefit Agreements (CBAs) can help Tribes and communities benefit from clean energy projects, amplify community voices, and potentially reduce opposition to projects. TBAs and CBAs can include both monetary and non-monetary benefits.

ATNI Responsible Energy Siting Project

This topic was postponed to a future meeting.

WDFW Wind & Solar Guidelines

Ben Blank (WDFW) presented on the final Guidelines for Utility-scale Solar & Onshore Wind Energy Development in Washington published in October 2025. WDFW has limited regulatory authority in solar and wind permitting. The guidelines address protection for habitats and species, identify best management practices, define appropriate mitigation measures, address wildlife corridors and cumulative impacts, and encourage early consultation with WDFW and Tribes. The guidelines also align with Ecology's PEIS documents for utility-scale solar and onshore wind projects.

Planning for Fall/Winter Interested Parties and Tribal Workshops

Dan Siemann (Commerce) discussed plans for the Council's upcoming Tribal and interested parties workshops. The Council convenes three public workshops each year. For the winter workshops, the Council will provide a summary of the 2025 Council legislative report and recommendations, updates on agency work, grant program availability, and upcoming legislative session and agency proposals. The winter workshops will also provide opportunities for Q&As and public comments related to clean energy siting and permitting challenges, needs, and opportunities. Spanish and ASL interpreters are being arranged and community compensation will be offered for the interested parties workshop.

ACTION ITEMS			
Responsible	**Action**	**Start Date**	**Due Date**