CLEAN ENERGY SITING COUNCIL AGENDA

Date: November 12, 2025, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Council Co-leads:

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

Commerce: Glenn Blackmon, Jennifer Grove, Dan Siemann, Nora Hawkins, Valerie Smith, Rebecca Ponzio, George Lynch, Shannon Pressler, Monica Bramble, Talia Mirel

Council members: *DAHP:* Allyson Brooks; *DNR:* Kate Dean, Jim Woodward, Zoe Mullendore; *EFSEC:* Sonia Bumpus, Lisa McLean, Sean Greene; *EJ Council:* Sierra Rotakhina, Jonathan Chen; *GOIA:* JT Austin; *GOV:* Kate Brouns; *ORIA:* Rafael Fernandez; *UTC:* Payton Swinford, Heather Moline; *WDFW:* Michael Garrity, Ben Blank; *WSDA:* Alison Halpern; *WSDOT:* Ahmer Nizam, Gretchen Coker

Panel Discussion

The Council welcomed Cassie Bordelon with Climate Jobs Washington, Casey MacLean with Renewable Northwest, and Justin Allegro with The Nature Conservancy to a panel discussion. The speakers shared their organizations' recent work relating to clean energy siting and suggested topics for the Council going forward. Topics of discussion included supporting Washington's clean energy workforce, removing siting barriers to get projects across the finish line faster, defending the Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA), addressing transmission challenges, balancing agricultural protection with energy development and agrivoltaics, producing permitting case studies to support process improvements, addressing concerns with WDFW's wind and solar guidelines, and revising clean energy tax policy.

Transmission Final PEIS

Sean Greene (EFSEC) shared updates on the final Transmission Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS), which was published in October. In 2023, the state legislature directed EFSEC to prepare, under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), a non-project environmental review of transmission facilities with capacities over 230 KV, including overhead and underground lines, substations, and related equipment. The goal of the PEIS was to identify probable, significant, and adverse environmental impacts common to transmission projects. EFSEC assessed resources and determined impacts on a scale from nil to high. Transmission upgrades and modifications are defined and assessed separately. The report includes general measures, design considerations,

and avoidance criteria for a range of resources, including Tribal resources. Programmatic and online GIS Sensitivity Maps are in progress, and EFSEC and Ecology are organizing PEIS informational meetings with county planning departments.

Data Center Update

Diane Butorac (Ecology) and Glenn Blackmon (Commerce) shared an update about the Data Center Workgroup. The report is planned for release in December, and Glenn and Kate Brouns (Governor's Office) will be presenting the findings and recommendations to the Joint Legislative Committee on Energy Supply, Energy Conservation, and Energy Resilience on December 3. Ecology highlighted that the scale of data center growth overall is unprecedented and impacts to water and air resources are the main concerns. They shared that discussions around using clean energy as the main energy source resulted in some recommendations, but that not all were adopted. Current proposals for data centers use fossil fuels for main power. Additional topics relevant to the Council included discussion on the requirements of the Climate Commitment Act (CCA) and Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA), as well as how the rapid development of many data centers can affect local utilities and the state's energy grid. They also noted that the several workgroup members are submitting minority reports

Discussion: Annual Legislative Report Process

Alex Shin (Ecology) led a discussion about successes and opportunities for process improvements related to the Council's recently completed second annual legislative report that wrapped up in October. In comparison to the first annual report, the Council spent more time engaging with interested parties and tribes, including Tribal and public workshops in May and June and a 30-day comment period on draft recommendations.

Discussion included a range of observations and suggestions. Council members appreciated the thorough collaboration on edits throughout the drafting process. Attendance at Tribal and public workshops is influenced by the time of day and time of year for workshops, and how they are advertised. Community engagement during the earlier stages of the report process offers the greatest opportunity to shape the report.

Planning for Fall/Winter Interested Parties and Tribal workshops

Dan Siemann (Commerce) provided updates about proposed dates for the workshops. He also shared that the interested parties workshop will provide Spanish and ASL interpreters and community compensation.

Governor's Office Update

Kate Brouns (Governor's Office) provided an update on her ongoing work relevant to clean energy siting. Kate and Glenn Blackmon (Commerce) will present the Data Center Workgroup findings to the Governor's Artificial Intelligence (AI) Taskforce in the coming weeks and envision interoperability between the two groups.

Agency Legislative Proposals

Commerce is expecting to support last year's agency request legislation concerning the disclosure of critical energy infrastructure information. Commerce's Growth Management Services Division also has a proposed bill to develop guidance and rulemaking to help local governments with clarity around managing clean energy siting alongside GMA requirements regarding resource lands.

Agency Updates

Ecology is seeing high public interest in the geothermal collaborative process. Ecology has now completed the scoping process for its sustainable aviation fuel PEIS and is holding an extended comment period for Tribes. The UTC reported about the current federal rulemaking process for data centers and the focus on data centers at the recent National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) annual meeting. The National Governor's Association (NGA) recently published a bipartisan letter on permitting. Federal transmission line environmental reviews were also discussed.

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