CLEAN ENERGY SITING COUNCIL SUMMARY

Date: December 10th 2025, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Council Co-leads:

Ecology: Diane Butorac, Amelia Fujikawa, Alex Shin, Fran Sant, Brenden McFarland

Commerce: Glenn Blackmon, Dan Siemann, Deanah Watson, Talia Mirel, George Lynch, Rebecca Ponzio, Valerie Smith

Council members: *DNR:* Ryan Maverick, Jim Woodward; Kate Dean, Zoe Mullendore; *EFSEC:* Lisa McLean; *EJ Council:* Jonathan Chen; *DAHP:* Dr. Allyson Brooks; *UTC:* Payton Swinford, Heather Moline; *WSDOT:* Gretchen Coker, Ahmer Nizam; *Governor's Office*: Kate Brouns; *GOIA:* JT Austin *WDFW:* Benjamin Blank *AGR:* Alison Halpern

The council said farewell to co-lead and chair, Glenn Blackmon who is retiring from the Department of Commerce at the end of December.

Governor's Office update
Kate Brouns (Governor's Office) gave an update about TransAlta Centralia's coal facility conversion to natural gas announcement and pending Executive Order 25-11. The order was subsequently issued on December 16, 2025.

State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)
Brenden McFarland, Environmental Review and Transportation Section Manager and Fran Sant, Senior Environmental Planner at Ecology provided an overview of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).

They discussed the types of SEPA determinations, key functions of SEPA, and roles of the lead agency. SEPA is not an approval or permit; it is an environmental review process that evaluates projects at an early stage. Most SEPA actions are led by cities or counties. The majority of actions are determinations of nonsignificance or mitigated determinations of nonsignificance, which have shorter timelines. Environmental impact statements make up less than 2% of SEPA actions. They also discussed the tools and resources that are available on Ecology's SEPA webpage, including trainings and updated SEPA handbook.

November and December meeting updates
Dan Siemann (Commerce) provided a recap from the November council meeting's panel discussion. The panelists raised important issues about clean energy development that the council will consider in its work and development of the next annual report.

The council also reviewed the logistics for the December interested parties and Tribal forums.

Siting Council topics for 2026
Alex Shin (Ecology) led a discussion on potential council meeting topics for 2026. Some topic ideas emerged from public input and discussions during the finalization of the 2025 legislative report. Council members also proposed topics that would align with future reports and research efforts at the agency level. Some of the potential topics include agrivoltaics, transmission siting and permitting, pre-application processes, clean energy

workforce, energy supply and demand, federal environmental policy changes, and community and Tribal benefit agreements.

Agency updates

Agencies provided updates on agency clean energy efforts both planned and in progress.

- WSDOT will be releasing a study on siting solar projects near roadways in January

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