Interagency Clean Energy Siting Coordinating Council
INTERESTED PARTY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

INTERESTED PARTY ENGAGEMENT PLAN OVERVIEW

This document outlines a plan for the Interagency Clean Energy Siting Coordinating Council (Council) to engage with interested parties on clean energy siting policy and coordination. The Council was established by Chapter 43.394 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW). The group includes representatives from 13 state agencies, councils, offices, departments, and commissions. The Department of Commerce (Commerce) and the Department of Ecology (Ecology) serve as co-leads.

The Council:

- Coordinates interagency information sharing
- Identifies actions to improve siting and permitting of clean energy projects
- Tracks federal government efforts to improve clean energy project siting and permitting
- Conducts outreach to parties interested in clean energy siting and permitting
- Supports independent state agency work to improve clean energy siting and permitting
- Develops an annual legislative report with updates on clean energy efforts and recommendations to support Washington's clean energy transition

The Council coordinates among agencies on clean energy development trends and issues. The Council does not make decisions related to projects, siting, funding, individual agency actions, or statewide policy. Siting, environmental review, and permitting for proposed projects are conducted by state, local, and federal agencies under their regulatory requirements.

GOALS | What this plan aims to accomplish

- Provide multiple options where interested parties may choose to share information, comments, and perspectives on clean energy siting policy and coordination.
- Develop relationships with interested parties based in trust, accountability, and transparency.
- Identify multiple options for input, feedback, and learning from interested parties throughout the development of recommendations for the Council's annual legislative report.

AUDIENCES | Who is important to reach through this effort

- General public
- Developers, industry, and businesses
- Utilities
- Organizations, including those representing clean energy, environmental justice, conservation, environment, economic development, agriculture
- Overburdened communities as defined in RCW 70A.02.010 of the Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act
- Labor organizations
- Local governments and ports

Please note, the Council will coordinate with Tribes to develop a separate Tribal engagement plan for Tribes and Tribal communities.

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GOVERNING LAWS AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES | Follow for all actions

- RCW 70A.02.050 Equitable Community Engagement and Public Participation
- Federal Title VI of Civil Rights
- Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act
- Executive Order 23-02 Plain Language
- Executive Order 05-03 Plain Talk
- Office of Equity Community Compensation Guidelines
- Environmental Justice Council's Adopted Community Engagement Values and Guidance

IMPLEMENTATION | How to accomplish the goals

The Council will engage with interested parties using a variety of formats and methods. Meetings and workshops will be scheduled and implemented in ways that support interested parties' ability to participate in engagement opportunities with the Council.

Materials and Information

The Council will provide materials and information in plain language and ADA accessible formatting. People with limited English proficiency may request translation and interpretation for materials and meetings and options to do this will be explained on the Council website and outreach materials.

Compensation Options

The Council will look for opportunities to support interested parties that are a part of or represent overburdened communities and provide resources to engage meaningfully. This includes participation in meetings, workshops, and other opportunities for participation. The Council will collaborate with members and other agencies to identify available funding for interested parties with limited capacity or resources following the Office of Equity Community Compensation Guidelines. These opportunities shall be shared on the website, through email, at workshops and meetings, and other engagement events.

Council Webpage

The Council will maintain a public webpage with information on:

- Monthly Council meeting agendas and notes
- Dates of upcoming public workshops or document review periods
- Annual legislative reports

Workshops

The Council will plan virtual workshops at least twice a year to provide updates on clean energy work by state agencies, discuss potential ideas for annual report recommendations, and learn participant specific needs. The co-leads will facilitate the workshops and represent the Council. Council members may attend as well and may present on specific topic areas.

The intent of the workshops is to:

- Provide information and updates on state agency clean energy efforts.

- Receive input and feedback on clean energy issues to better inform the development of recommendations for the Council's annual legislative report.
- Discuss ideas and issues related to clean energy and siting coordination.

Input and Feedback for Annual Report Recommendations

The Council will invite input and feedback from interested parties on the annual legislative report draft and recommendations. These recommendations are policy-level and not project specific.

Actions include:

- Discussion of topics and ideas for development of recommendations at the spring workshop.
- Sharing draft recommendations for a 30-day public review and comment period in the summer.
- A question-and-answer session approximately two weeks after the draft recommendations are provided for review.
- Providing the final legislative report online.

Presentations to the Council

Interested parties may be invited to present on clean energy topics at monthly Council meetings. The co-leads will be responsible for coordinating clean energy presentations to align with the Council's planned agenda topics and priorities.

Updates and Feedback at Public Meetings or Conferences

Council agencies regularly work with interested parties and attend public meetings and conferences where clean energy topics may be discussed. Engagement may occur at various levels and on multiple topics:

- Council agencies may provide updates on Council work or the annual report at various meetings or conferences.
- Council agencies will share external feedback from meetings or conferences with the Council at monthly meetings.
- Council agencies that regularly meet with interested parties will provide the Council with updates and information provided on clean energy topics.

Communication Methods

The Council will inform interested parties of workshops and meetings, availability of draft report recommendations and comment periods, and release of the annual legislative report. Outreach would be done through:

- Council website updates
- Council-specific email distribution list that people can sign up to receive emails
- Clean energy newsletters and distribution lists managed by Council agencies
- Council Co-lead social media channels

Interested Parties Engagement Plan Updates

The Council will revisit and evaluate the Engagement Plan annually and make revisions or improvements based on interested party engagement and input.

PLANNED ANNUAL TIMELINE

- Spring — Workshop to provide updates and discuss recommendation ideas
- Summer — 30-day public review of draft annual report recommendations
  Q&A session 2 weeks after release of draft annual report recommendations
- Fall (Oct. 1) — Notification of release of annual legislative report
- Winter — Workshop to provide updates