

# Low Carbon Energy Project Siting Improvement Study

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# Purpose

As directed by the Low Carbon Fuel Standard, E3SHB 1091, Section 28:

Ecology, in coordination with Commerce and other agencies, will develop recommendations for potential improvements to the permitting processes for industrial projects and facilities in Washington that would contribute to achieving greenhouse gas emissions limits established under RCW 70A.45.020 while maintaining standards for the protection of the environment and the preservation of tribal consultation and treaty rights.



# Approach

- Partnership approach with Ecology's Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program and Air Quality Program, Commerce, and the Governor's Office to engage with agencies, the public, and interested stakeholders and consult with tribes.
- Conduct a study using input and feedback to develop recommendations for the legislative report.

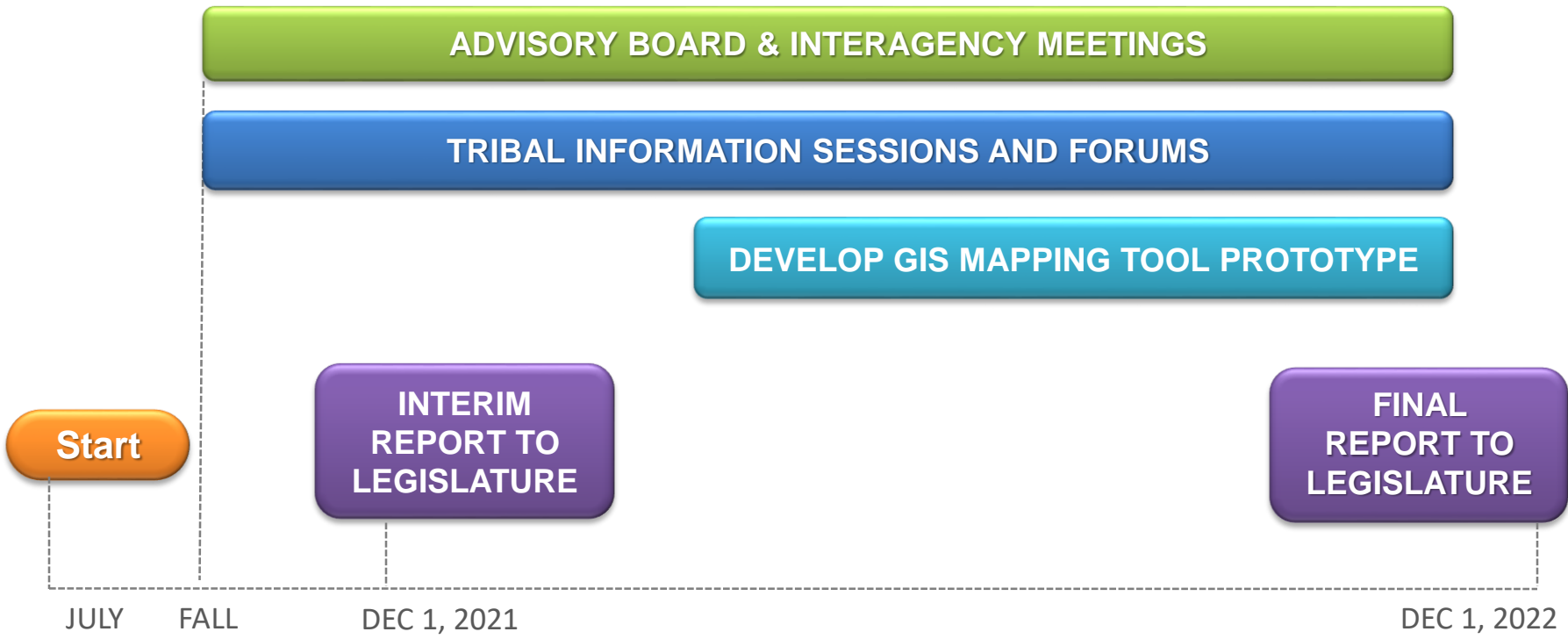


# Goals

- Help achieve future greenhouse gas limits required under state law
- Help contribute to low-carbon economic development and support good in-state jobs
- Reduce potential adverse impacts to the environment, tribes, and highly impacted communities
- Preserve tribal consultation and treaty rights



# Timeline



# FOCUS OF STUDY

- Identify systemic issues:
  - Siting of projects
  - Environmental review and permitting processes
  - Tribal treaty rights and cultural resource processes
  - Consideration of highly impacted communities



# FOCUS OF STUDY

- Industrial clean energy facilities and projects:
  - Bio-refineries and refineries producing alternative fuels
  - Solar and wind farms
  - Solar and energy storage major component manufacturers, including electric vehicle batteries
  - Pumped storage hydropower and battery energy storage facilities
  - Green hydrogen facilities
  - Offshore energy facilities (e.g., wind, tidal)



# ENGAGEMENT

- Advisory board
  - Representative stakeholders
  - Tribal representatives
- Tribal information sessions and forums
- Interagency policy team
- Public informational meetings
- Online comment site





# Tribal Consultation and Engagement

- Government-to-government consultation
- Tribal information sessions
- Tribal forums
- Leadership roundtables



# Interagency Policy Team

- Ecology (co-lead)
- Commerce (co-lead)
- Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation (DAHP)
- Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC)
- Governor's Office of Indian Affairs (GOIA)
- Governor's Office
- Governor's Office for Regulatory Innovation & Assistance (ORIA)
- Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW)
- Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA)
- Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)
- Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC)



# Public Engagement

- Public informational meetings in 2022
- Webpage with information
- Online comment site - available now
- Email distribution list



# Siting and Related Work

- [Clean Energy Transformation Act \(CETA\)](#)  
(Commerce)
- [Compatible Energy Siting Assessment](#) for  
military-civilian coordination on wind and  
solar projects (Commerce)
- [Transmission Corridors Working Group](#)  
(EFSEC)
- [Washington marine spatial planning](#)  
(Ecology)



# Siting and Related Work

- [Healthy Environment for All \(HEAL\) Act Implementation](#) (state agencies)
- [Growth Management Act Reform Task Force](#) (Commerce)
- [Growth Management Act Washington Administrative Code \(WAC\) Update](#) (Commerce)
- Future: [Washington Columbia Basin Least Conflict Solar Project](#) (Washington State University)



# LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

- Interim Report (Dec 1, 2021)
  - Information about parties involved
  - Approach to develop the siting study
  - Overview of other siting work in Washington State
- Final Report (Dec 1, 2022)
  - Recommendations
  - Identify additional studies or actions needed in the future



# Siting Study Links

- [Low-Carbon Energy Project Siting Improvement Study webpage](#)
- [Advisory Board webpage](#)
- [Provide input or feedback](#) for the study
- [Review input and feedback](#)
- [Sign up for email list](#) to get updates



# QUESTIONS?

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Thank you