

Low Carbon Energy Project Siting Improvement Study

Advisory Board Meeting
February 9, 2022



Today's Topic: Pre-Application Assistance and Information

Objectives:

- Provide an overview of state pre-application resources
- Understand pre-application needs and potential solutions from member perspectives

Please note this meeting is being recorded; the recording and all slides will be posted to Ecology's project website



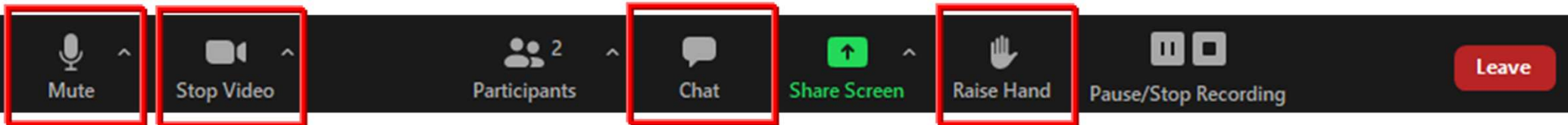
Agenda

- State Updates
- State Agency Pre-Application Resources
- Insights from Applicants
- Advisory Board Discussion (Breakout sessions)
- Wrap up and Next Steps
- Public Comment (2:50)



Participating Effectively via Zoom

- To reduce background noise, please mute yourself when you are not speaking
- Advisory Board members please show your video
- If you have questions or ideas to share during presentations, please chat them to the group, and we can address them during the Q&A and discussion time
- During discussions, please let us know you'd like to jump in by "raising your hand"



Public Participation

- This meeting will be recorded and posted on the Ecology website: <https://ecology.wa.gov/Air-Climate/Climate-change/Greenhouse-gases/Reducing-greenhouse-gases/Clean-Fuel-Standard/Low-carbon-energy-siting>
- Members of the public will be muted, off video, and off chat until public comment
- Members of the public may observe breakout discussions
- There will be an opportunity for 2-minute public comments at the end of the meeting. At that time, members of the public who would like to comment should raise their hands if they would like time to speak
- You may also submit comments at the e-comment site: <https://sea.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=tiufU>



Proposed Topic Schedule (March-Aug)



Today: Pre-Application Assistance and Information

A. Understanding of Permitting and Review Process

Why might applicants have unclear understanding or expectations about the permitting and review process?

What would it take to

From November Mural exercise

- Lack of knowledge as to
- Lack of knowledge of per
- Investor confidence and
- Lack of communication in
- Lack of clarity in the state
- mitigation of identified im
- Cost for EIS is indetermin

B. Information in Applications

Why might applicants' proposals be regarded as inadequate or incomplete?

What would it take to have more robust initial proposals for low-carbon facilities to support review and permitting processes?

From November Mural exercise:

- Inadequate/incomplete information from project proponents and lack of clear process for permitting agencies to address this
- Stricter scoping requirements



Pre-Application Assistance and Information

Key Issues

For applicants:

- Lack of clarity of process—what information needed and what path to follow
- Gaps in guidelines (e.g., wind but not solar)
- No clear feedback process
- Inconsistencies across agencies

For reviewers:

- Lack of capacity to review complex, technical applications
- Proprietary information not included in applications
- Applications evolve over time

Potential Solutions

- More streamlined, predictable, and consistent processes
- Feedback loops and adaptive management for applications
- Step-by-step roadmaps for different types of low-carbon facilities
- Better information and/or access to expertise on new low-carbon energy project technologies



Pre-Application Assistance and Information

Discussion Questions:

- For those that have applied for permits, what do you wish you had known ahead of time?
- What would it take for applicants to provide more detail on proposals early in the process?
- For environmental reviews and permits, what do you wish had happened earlier in the process?



Quick Ice Breaker

- What is the best piece of advice you have every received?

Please use Zoom chat to respond





State Updates



State Agency Pre- Application Resources

State Agency Pre-Application Resources

- **State agency permitting process improvements for pre-application phase**, *Diane Butorac, Ecology*
- **Permitting resources**, *Shanelle Pierce and Kelly Craig, Office for Regulatory Innovation and Assistance (ORIA)*





Questions?



Insights from Applicants

Insights from Applicants

- **Brief presentations from Advisory Board members that have applied for low-carbon facility permits in Washington:**
 - *What has your organization done to prepare for siting, environmental review, and permitting in Washington?*
 - *What lessons have you learned?*





Advisory Board Discussion

Breakout Sessions

- ~25-minute small group discussions followed by report-outs (one in plenary, one in a breakout room)
- Members of the public invited to observe breakouts
- Please do not click “Close Breakout Room” button



Breakout Sessions: Discussion Questions

- *For those that have applied for permits, what do you wish you had known ahead of time?*
- *What would it take for applicants to provide more specific proposals early in the process?*
- *For environmental reviews and permits, what do you wish had happened earlier in the process?*





Wrap Up & Next Steps

Next Meeting: March 16, Local Government/GMA/Planned Actions

- *Planning for Low-Carbon Energy facilities (e.g., GMA, planned actions)*
- *Opportunities and challenges for local government*





Public Comment

Instructions for Public Comment

- Members of the public that are interested in making 2-minute statements are invited to do so
- Please use Zoom to raise your hand if you would like to make a statement, and you will be unmuted
- Please introduce yourself
- To the extent possible, please frame remarks as comments rather than questions
- Written statements can be sent to the e-comment site:
<https://sea.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=tiufU>

