Low Carbon Energy Project Siting Improvement Study

Advisory Board Meeting
August 10, 2022
Today’s Topic: Economic Considerations for Low-Carbon Energy Project Siting

Objectives:

• Provide understanding of economic and financial considerations and requirements for low-carbon energy projects to inform recommendation development

• Discuss issues and emerging high-level recommendations for the siting study

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

• State Agency Presentations on Economic Considerations for Low-Carbon Energy Project Siting
• Break (2:15)
• Breakout Discussions: Economic Considerations
• Discussion on Issues and High-Level Recommendations
• Public Comment (4:15)
• Wrap up and Next Steps
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:
- 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
/* Content goes here */
Economic Considerations in Previous Advisory Board Discussions

- Local economic benefits and impacts (e.g., tax burden)
- Job creation and workforce opportunities
- Cost of up-front planning
- Cost and capacity for Tribes, local governments, and stakeholders
- Uncertain costs for developers
GIS Mapping Tool "User Stories"
Quick Ice Breaker

• What is your favorite spot in nature in Washington or the country?

Please use Zoom chat to respond
State Agency Presentations on Economic Considerations for Low-Carbon Energy Project Siting
Economic Considerations for Low-Carbon Energy Project Siting

• Economic Development Considerations: Radi Simeonova, Department of Commerce

• Property Tax Overview: Scott Sampson, Department of Revenue

• Utility Contracting Overview: Deborah Reynolds, UTC
Questions?
Break: Will Return at 3:00
Breakout Discussions
Advisory Board Member Insights

- Joe Kendo, Washington State Labor Council
- Mark Riker, Washington State Building and Construction Trades Council
Breakout Sessions

- ~25-minute small group discussions followed by report-outs
- Members of the public invited to observe breakouts
- Please do not click “Close Breakout Room” button
Breakout Sessions: Discussion Questions

- What would help low-carbon energy projects contribute economic benefits and opportunities for local communities, workers, and others?
Discussion on Issues and High-Level Recommendations
Discussion on Issues and High-Level Recommendations
Where we are in the process

July and August Advisory Board meetings:
- Review and feedback on potential high-level recommendations
- Are we heading in the right direction?

September – October 2022 meetings:
- Review and feedback on specific proposed recommendations

Legislative report is due
Dec. 1, 2022
## Categories of Potential Solutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suggested edits in red</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conduct upfront planning to make siting and permitting projects more efficient and ensure protection of communities, natural resources, and Tribal treaty rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve consultation, engagement, and information sharing with Tribes <em>(Based on input to date; will be further developed through ongoing discussions with Tribes)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve community engagement and ensure overburdened communities are not disproportionately impacted</td>
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<td>Assist local government and other entities involved to support coordinated clean energy and economic development</td>
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<td>Build state organizational structure to implement recommendations and coordinate efforts</td>
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</table>
# High-level recommendations

**Bold: Member feedback on most beneficial impact (2 or more)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Solution category</th>
<th>Potential recommendations</th>
<th>Improves efficiency</th>
<th>Reduces information gaps</th>
<th>Supports meaningful &amp; tribal consultation &amp; engagement</th>
<th>Improves impact and benefit analysis</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conduct upfront planning to make siting and permitting projects more efficient</td>
<td>1.1 Additional least-conflict mapping for specific geographic areas or energy types</td>
<td>XXX</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1.2 Planned actions and programmatic reviews to analyze potential impacts and mitigation (2)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1.3 Early engagement with Tribes and communities on every phase of process to identify issues and concerns (2)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1.4 Emphasis on pre-application phase to provide information and guidance</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Member Feedback on Additions and Emphasis

- Solution language should also say “and ensure protection of communities, natural resources, and Tribal treaty rights.
- Funding and/or capacity support needed for local governments, Tribes, and communities for up-front planning
- Guidance on pre-application phase outreach to Tribes and communities
- Improve accuracy and completeness of information in applications to facilitate review
- Planned clean energy actions/programmatic EIS done for specific geographies
- Consider running regulators' processes concurrently
High-level recommendations

*Based on input to date; will be further developed through ongoing discussions with Tribes*

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<tr>
<td>Improve consultation, engagement, and information sharing with Tribes</td>
<td>2.1 Improved early consultation, engagement, and information sharing for projects and planning (3)</td>
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<td>XXXX</td>
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<td>2.2 Improved analysis of impacts to Tribal treaty resources and cultural resources (2)</td>
<td>XX</td>
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<td>2.3 Identification of culturally important resources (1)</td>
<td>XXX</td>
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<td>2.4 Funding for dedicated staff (1)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2.5 Develop training for state agencies, local governments and developers on Tribal consultation and engagement (1)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>XX</td>
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Member Feedback on Additions and Emphasis

- Clear distinction between government-to-government Tribal consultation and other types of Tribal engagement
- Emphasize Tribal consultation and engagement in upfront planning
- Need more consistent practices for Tribal review of projects
- Consider how Tribal consent can be a siting criteria
- Require summary of Tribal engagement activities and review for adequacy
- Establish clear delineation between treaty resources and cultural resources
- Need for Tribal representation in EFSEC process
## High-level recommendations

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<tr>
<td>Improve community engagement</td>
<td>3.1 Environmental justice considerations included in the processes</td>
<td>XXX</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3.2 Emphasis on early engagement in projects and planning to address concerns, including prior to siting decisions (2)</td>
<td>XXX</td>
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Member Feedback on Additions and Emphasis

- Solution language should also say “and ensure that overburdened communities are not disproportionately affected”

- Consider how to increase community economic benefits from low-carbon projects (including tax treatment) and/or understanding of benefits

- Need greater clarity of best practices for equitable community engagement and analysis of environmental justice considerations

- Require environmental justice analysis for projects and use to determine significance under SEPA
# High-level recommendations

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<td>Assist local government and other entities involved to support coordinated clean energy and economic development</td>
<td><strong>4.1 Identification of local jobs and economic development opportunities (2)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>4.2 Improved guidance, training, and information to share with local communities and developers</strong></td>
<td>XXX</td>
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<td><strong>4.2 Clean energy “navigators” to provide expertise and support for multiple users</strong></td>
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Member Feedback on Additions and Emphasis

- Include labor standards and local hiring provisions for low-carbon projects
- Consider options for workforce development opportunities, including understanding of workforce availability and opportunities for training, apprenticeship, and high-quality jobs
- Clarify role and scope of "clean energy navigators"
- Clarify what is meant by “other entities involved”
## High-level recommendations

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<td>Improve guidance, training, and tools</td>
<td><strong>5.1 Clarity of permitting jurisdictions, timing, and trade-offs (3)</strong></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>XXX</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5.2 Mapping tools to support early issue identification and engagement for siting projects (1)</td>
<td>XXX</td>
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<td>5.3 Consistent information and access to best available science for analysis</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>5.4 Guidance/tools for assessing key impacts (vessel traffic, species, habitat, greenhouse gases, economic, cultural, Tribal treaty rights, etc.)</td>
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Member Feedback on Additions and Emphasis

- Need for public-facing permitting system with a user-friendly way to navigate the process
- Provide greater clarity of roles and responsibilities for making siting, review, and permitting decisions
- More information on new technologies and state expertise and guidance to facilitate review needed
- Clarify unique siting and programmatic needs for different types of low-carbon projects
- Conduct analysis of cumulative impacts, including at regional scale
- Include adaptive management in project development to identify/address unintended consequences and in mitigation
- Funding for Tribes to assess impacts to treaty rights, treaty resources, and cultural resources.
## High-level recommendations

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<td>6.1 Federal/state/local coordination mechanisms (2)</td>
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<td>6.2 Joint federal/state/local processes (e.g. joint review, landscape-level planning) (2)</td>
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Member Feedback on Additions and Emphasis

- Provide clarity on adequate timelines for reviews
## High-level recommendations

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<tr>
<td>Build state organizational structure to implement recommendations and coordinate efforts</td>
<td>7.1 Interagency coordination team to implement recommendations (3)</td>
<td>XXX</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>XX</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7.2 Dashboard to provide one stop for information on clean energy projects</td>
<td>XXX</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td>XX</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7.3 Funding to improve state agency capacity (1)</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td>XXX</td>
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Member Feedback on Additions and Emphasis

- Clarify purpose and scope of clean-energy project permitting dashboard
- Identify which state agencies for additional funding and for what; develop specific and measurable metrics
Additional Feedback

- Consider better data/analysis and lessons learned from recent project siting experience
- Need more alignment between siting process and state energy strategy (e.g., of renewables needed, timing to meet targets, relationship to transmission)
- Develop different paths for different types of low carbon energy projects, recognizing different types of impact
Discussion

- Any surprises or questions for fellow members?
- What feedback would members like to emphasize or add?
### Recommendations and Legislative Report

#### Advisory Board Review Opportunities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Now</td>
<td>Ongoing development of recommendations</td>
<td>Advisory Board</td>
<td>Iterative and ongoing discussion with Advisory Board, Tribes and Interagency Team</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Includes input and feedback on issues, high-level recommendations and detailed recommendations</td>
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<td>Changes shared throughout at meetings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 30</td>
<td>Review sections for: siting study overview, other related state work, glossary</td>
<td>Advisory Board</td>
<td>These sections are also being offered to Tribes and the Interagency Team for review.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 9</td>
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<td>Advisory Board</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 4</td>
<td>Review of entire draft legislative report</td>
<td>Advisory Board</td>
<td>All the report sections were provided earlier for review, except for the summary and recommendation section. Information from the recommendations development discussions will be used to develop the recommendation section. This draft is also being offered to Tribes and the Interagency Team for review.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 1</td>
<td>Legislative report due to Legislature</td>
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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.
Wrap Up & Next Steps
Wrap Up and Next Steps

- Follow-up from today
- Mapping tool prototype questions (due Aug 19)
- Next Meeting (September 13):
  - Appeals processes
  - Planned clean energy action concept
  - Recommendations development