

Siting Clean Energy Facilities in Washington State

**Low Carbon Energy Project Siting Study - Interagency Policy
Team Meeting
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Office of Economic Development & Competitiveness | Washington State
Department of Commerce



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Washington Business Attraction – Current Status

- Washington attracts investment for large manufacturing facilities
 - Cheap power, quality of life, workforce
- Most large investors understand general process but not specifics
 - Consultants play a big role in helping investors evaluate different site options
- WA requires more effort than some other states
 - Site readiness and longer timelines
 - Outreach to tribes
 - SEPA, perceived lack of transparency of the permitting process
 - Infrastructure investment. Abundant energy but no infrastructure to accommodate new large clients
 - Very limited grant incentives or tax incentives

Washington Business Attraction – Current Status

- Current Programs
 - Statutory Tax incentives. Some targeted at clean tech.
 - Governor’s Strategic Reserve Fund. Typical range: \$100,000-\$300,000
 - Projects of Statewide Significance
 - Clean Energy Fund
 - Workforce Development Programs
- Proposal Generation and Marketing Support
- Site Selection Assistance

Our property database managed by local partners:
<http://choosewashingtonstate.com/i-need-help-with/site-selection/property-search/>
- Local stakeholder assistance via a network of Commerce partners (ADOs)

Business Attraction Moving Forward

- **Permit streamlining.** Perceived lack of transparency. Competing with states that are willing to go above and beyond and cut corners to attract new investors
 - Multiple efforts to bring more transparency to the permitting process
- **Pre-site development.** Our sites require substantial investments compared to other states.
 - Initiative to bring more resources to local communities to invest in environmental and engineering studies as well as infrastructure.
- **Marketing our premier properties.**
 - Competing with “Megsites”, highly developed, heavily promoted properties in states with significant economic development resources. See Rivian’s investment in Georgia.
 - Shovel readiness program. A marketing and investment tool that can help us compete.



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Thank you.

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