

INTERAGENCY POLICY TEAM

Purpose: Low Carbon Energy Project Siting Improvement Study
Date: April 28, 2022
Attendees: Joenne McGerr (ECY), Brenden McFarland (ECY), Diane Butorac (ECY), Sarah Vorpahl (COM), Brian Young (COM), Stephanie Celt (COM), Deanah Watson (COM), Dever Haffner-Ratliffe (DNR), Kathleen Drew (EFSEC), Kelly Craig (ORIA), Michael Garrity (WDFW), Benjamin Blank (WDFW), Gary Bahr (WSDA), Susan Hayman (Facilitator, Ross Strategic), Tom Beierle (Ross Strategic) Heather Christopher (Ross Strategic)

ACTION ITEMS			
Responsible	Action	Start Date	Due Date
All IPT members	Come prepared to May 26 th IPT meeting to discuss agency staffing/budget needs to address clean energy process improvements	3/10/22	5/26/22
All IPT members	Review the first group of recommendations and provide changes and comments for further discussion	5/4/22	5/19/22

MEETING SUMMARY

Agency Updates

Update on DNR land solar mapping project, *Dever Haffner-Ratliffe, DNR*

- DNR land solar mapping project is moving ahead as scheduled. DNR gave a presentation to existing lessees on April 19th. Feedback was positive on the mapping work.
- DNR will be hosting an information session with Tribes on May 12th. After the information session with Tribes, DNR plans to do broader engagement.
- On track to have map posted on DNR website by end of year.

Other agency updates

- Commerce is in the process of finalizing the [Rural Clean Energy Report](#), which overlaps with topics discussed in this group. The report will be shared with this group once released.
- WDFW is talking with Renewable Northwest about pre-application coordination for species and habitat impacts. WDFW is planning to have more pre-leasing conversations with developers to address issues early.
- WDFW will be engaging with Tribes, industry, and other stakeholders to develop solar guidelines (similar to current wind guidelines) based on the results of the Columbia Basin solar energy least-conflict siting study.

Discussion on First Group of Draft Recommendations

In support of the process to develop recommendations for the legislative report, a first set of draft recommendations was presented to the team. These recommendations were selected based on previous meeting topics for the Interagency Team and the Advisory Board where there was broad agreement on the concepts. These do not represent all the recommendations for the topics, but rather

are only the first group and are being provided for input. Feedback throughout will also be used to improve the process for future recommendation development and review. It is expected that these will be modified based on input and feedback.

The group provided initial thoughts and the revised draft recommendations will be sent to the Interagency Team for agency review and comment. This work is to support development of meaningful and actionable recommendations for the legislative report due December 1, 2022. As these recommendations are still in draft form, Ecology reminded IPT members not to share the document beyond their agency.

Key points from the discussion related to the advance planning, pre-application phase, and mapping recommendations in this initial group include:

- Agreed that any identification of potential agency leads for any draft recommendation is preliminary and for discussion purposes only. The process will benefit from agencies collectively identifying who might lead on any given recommendation.
- Continue examining existing/new programs, initiatives, and offices that may be sources of funding for some of the recommendations.
- Consider and identify whether the recommendation complements or duplicates an existing program or process currently underway.
- Adjust review and update cycles in several recommendations to reflect realistic timelines given anticipated program staffing and funding.
- Identify additional opportunities to strengthen environmental justice aspects of the recommendations.

Draft recommendations will also be shared with the Advisory Board and interested Tribes for their input and review. Any feedback and changes will be shared between all groups during the recommendation development work over the next months.

Updates on Committees, Work Groups, and Other Related Work

- Public Information Meetings
 - Scheduled for May 26th and June 16th, from 2-4pm.
- Tribal Forums
 - The first Tribal Forum was held on April 14th. Tribes discussed concerns around early engagement in the siting process and highlighted the need for engagement in all aspects of permitting and environmental review. Additional forums are being scheduled.

Next steps

- Ecology will compile feedback from today's discussion into the recommendations document and sent it out to the IPT group. (Sent 5/4/22)
- Please come prepared to the May 26th IPT meeting with a sense of how much additional staff/funding your agency needs.