

## 2021 Washington State Energy Strategy Advisory Committee

### Advisory Committee Charter

The Washington State Energy Strategy Advisory Committee discussions and meetings will serve as an important forum for the Department of Commerce to gain stakeholder input and insight on the Energy Strategy from a range of perspectives. This forum is a key component of the broader public engagement process in developing the Strategy. It will assist Commerce in understanding implementation issues across sectors and interests and identifying policies and actions to meet the State's greenhouse gas reduction goals. Successful approaches will support our state's continued economic success and increase competitiveness by fostering a clean energy economy and jobs through business and workforce development, putting the state at the forefront of the clean energy economy. The Advisory Committee's work is being conducted during the unprecedented COVID-19 crisis, which creates new challenges for the state's economy and society as well as new opportunities as we recover from the crisis to achieve energy strategy goals related to fair and reasonable prices, supporting our state's continued economic success, fostering a clean energy economy and jobs, and meeting the state's obligations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The work of the Advisory Committee will be informed by past and ongoing technical analysis.

The focus of the Energy Strategy on emissions and economic vitality reflects a strong historical relationship between the state's energy economy and its environmental and financial health. The extraction, generation, delivery, and consumption of energy by industry, business, government, and consumers accounts for the great majority of Washington's greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>1</sup>

Meeting the state's greenhouse gas reduction goals will require deep decarbonization of the state economy by 2050. Achieving this level of decarbonization by 2050 may, in some cases, require much nearer term transformations and a range of short and long-term investments. Attention must be paid to avoid "locking in" long-term investments that may reduce emissions in the near term but do not put the state on a path to achieving long-term goals. The 2021 State Energy Strategy will be informed by technical analyses of potential pathways to achieve state goals.

Advisory Committee members have an opportunity to work toward a positive future of a robust, low-carbon energy economy in Washington State that benefits all of its residents and keeps the state at the forefront of economic innovation. This will be a forum that invites and encourages creative ideas and solutions. It will not be a forum for revisiting state energy planning goals or energy policy, questioning the validity of climate science, or reconsidering the state's commitment to reducing greenhouse gases.

#### **Advisory Committee Purpose**

- Provide independent guidance, advice and recommendations on the State Energy Strategy as it is being developed, especially helping Commerce understand high-level implications, trade-offs, and opportunities associated with implementation of proposed strategies as they relate to energy planning goals and principles and to particular interests, sectors, and regions of the state.
- Provide a venue for broader public involvement through open Advisory Committee meetings, a public hearing on the Advisory Committee's advice and recommendations, and, as appropriate, by providing advice to Commerce on actions that can be taken to engage and hear from key interests and constituencies throughout the region, including historically underrepresented groups.

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<sup>1</sup> See: <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/documents/1802043.pdf>. Figure 7.

- Provide review and feedback on the draft State Energy Strategy to inform final Strategy development.
- Describe the Advisory Committee process and guidance in a written document to be conveyed through Commerce to the Governor and appropriate legislative committees, either as a stand-alone submittal or an attachment to the State Energy Strategy report.

#### **Desired Outcomes of the Advisory Committee Process**

- The insights and perspectives of all Advisory Committee members have been meaningfully considered.
- Advisory Committee input aligns with the legislative goals and principles guiding the development and implementation of the 2021 State Energy Strategy.
- Documentation of the Advisory Committee process provides a fair and accurate record of the Advisory Committee's deliberations and guidance.
- The Advisory Committee membership comes away from this work with an understanding that the planning process was complete, accurate, fair, and transparent.

#### **Advisory Committee Operating Guidelines**

- To support candid and fluid dialogue during Advisory Committee discussions, individual member observations are presumed to represent their personal, not organizational, perspectives. Members can, at any time, specifically indicate that an observation reflects their affiliated organization's official policy or messaging.
- Members are encouraged to reach out to constituencies whose interests they represent and, as appropriate, to other interested and impacted parties to communicate about the State Energy Strategy and gather input and ideas for the effort.
- Members are encouraged to frame observations in terms of needs and interests, not in terms of positions. Opportunities for finding solutions increase dramatically when discussion focuses on needs and interests.
- Members will not be asked to come to consensus or vote on any proposal.
- Participation does not imply or presume agreement with, or support for, any action taken in response to input from Advisory Committee members.
- Members are encouraged to come to the process to work together and offer ideas and solutions toward a positive future of a robust, low-carbon energy economy in Washington State that keeps the state at the forefront of economic innovation.
- Members will refrain from revisiting state energy goals or existing energy policy and/or questioning the validity of climate science or the state's commitment to reducing greenhouse gases.
- Advisory Committee members will generally meet in full plenary session, but sub-groups may be used for deeper-dive topical information sharing and discussions. Members will be invited to participate in sub-groups of their choosing.
- Alternate members are not needed. A member may invite someone to observe the meeting. If a member is unable to attend, they are encouraged to offer thoughts in advance, based on materials distributed prior to the meeting, and can catch up through meeting summaries and, when requested, through briefings from the facilitator or other staff.
- In-person attendance is strongly encouraged. However, opportunities will be provided for members to listen or participate in meetings remotely by phone and web.
- Recognizing that public characterizations of Advisory Committee deliberations could affect the committee's collegiality, Advisory Committee members are specifically requested to refrain from

characterizing the views of other Advisory Committee members in any public statements they may make.

- Media inquiries about the process may be directed to the Department of Commerce’s communications office or to the facilitator.

#### **Technical Support for the Advisory Committee**

- Commerce will provide technical input and resources to the Advisory Committee as needed or requested.
- Advisory Committee plenary and/or sub-group meetings may include subject matter experts, such as staff, technical consultants, or other organizations at the discretion of Commerce.

#### **Advisory Committee Facilitation**

- Advisory Committee meetings will be supported by a third-party facilitation team. The facilitation team is a neutral third party with no stake in the outcome of the discussions. The facilitation team, although under contract to Commerce, works for the process and treats all Advisory Committee members as equal “clients.”
- The facilitator will notify members of meeting details and distribute materials by email in advance of meetings and will provide summaries via email following meetings. Meeting information will also be posted on the Department of Commerce website.
- The facilitator will manage any meeting disruptions, as needed.
- Summaries of each meeting will include general descriptions of discussions. Individual perspectives and differences of opinion will not be attributed to individuals or organizations. Advisory Committee members can, however, submit attributed comments directly to Commerce for consideration.
- The final Advisory Committee document, prepared by the third-party facilitation team in close consultation with and on behalf of the Advisory Committee membership, will be the written record of member deliberations.

#### **Public Participation**

- Public observers are welcome at Advisory Committee meetings, but they will not be direct participants in the Advisory Committee’s deliberations. Meeting agendas will include time for up to two-minute statements from members of the public.
- Meetings will be held in various locations around the state. Commerce will provide remote viewing options (by phone and web) for meetings.
- The time, date, and location of meetings will be posted on the Department of Commerce website,<sup>2</sup> with specific information posted at least a week in advance of meetings.
- All agendas and materials provided for Advisory Committee meetings and meeting summaries will be posted to the Department of Commerce website. Materials will be posted at least week in advance of meetings and summaries within two weeks after meetings.
- The Advisory Committee will host a public hearing on its initial advice and recommendations for the State Energy Strategy to complement other public engagement on the state energy strategy led by Department of Commerce.

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<sup>2</sup> [commerce.wa.gov/energystrategy](http://commerce.wa.gov/energystrategy)