

## Rural Clean Energy Workgroup Meeting #2

The Department of Commerce Energy Division hosted the second meeting for the Rural Clean Energy Work Group on November 30, 2021. The objectives of the meeting were to learn about the 2021 State Energy Strategy, learn about recent relevant policies and to discuss the types of clean energy technologies needed to address rural community priorities. The group also identified and ranked barriers to meeting rural community needs.

### Attendees

#### Work Group:

- Mary Harrington, Department of Ecology
- Scott Kuhta, Department of Commerce
- Mia Devine, SPARK NW
- Dever Haffner-Ratliffe, Department of Natural Resources
- Mika McLean, USDA Rural Development
- Georgine Yorgey, Washington State University Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Jennifer Harper, Energy NW
- Brian Young, Department of Commerce
- Katie Ware, Renewable NW
- Nicholas Cusick, Pierce Conservation District
- Alison Halpern, State Conservation Commission
- John Rothlin, Avista
- Clyde Abrahamson, Spokane Indian Housing Authority

#### Commerce:

- Angela LaSalle
- Aaron Dumas
- Hans Berg
- Sarah Vorpahl
- Forrest Watkins
- Jennifer Grove

### Presentation

Commerce provided a recorded presentation discussing the 2021 State Energy Strategy and recent policies relevant to rural communities. The recording and slides will be posted to the Rural Clean Energy Innovation program webpage.

## Discussion

The second part of the meeting was not recorded. Prior to the meeting, Work Group members were asked to complete a homework exercise in which they ranked technologies by importance in addressing ten rural community priorities (Agriculture, Broadband, Infrastructure, Community Resilience, Economic Impacts, Food Security, Healthcare, Housing, Workforce Development, Wildfires). The priorities were derived from themes identified in the first rural work group meeting discussion.

Work Group members were divided into four breakout groups where they discussed the collective rankings of each technology and which technologies recommended in the 2021 State Energy Strategy would best support the needs of rural communities. Work Group members recommended additional technologies that were not mentioned in the 2021 State Energy strategy. Work Group members also identified barriers to meeting the needs of rural communities. Each breakout room was asked to rank the importance of addressing barriers to meeting rural community priorities by impact and urgency.

## Relevant links

- [American Solar Grazing Association](#)
- [Renewable Northwest](#) (See reports on Dual-use Solar in the Pacific Northwest).