We strengthen communities

- Housing Homelessness
- Infrastructure
- Business Assistance
- Energy
- Planning
- Community Facilities
- Crime Victims & Public Safety
- Community Services
Virtual Meeting Reminders

- The presentation portions of the meeting will be recorded
- Raise your hand, use the chat box and then unmute to ask questions or contribute to the discussion
- If possible, turn on your camera when you are speaking
- Don’t forget to mute yourself when you are not speaking
- Reach out to Queenie Karlik for technical help
Agenda

• Welcome and introductions
• Community agreements and meeting guidelines
• Timeline
• Federal and alternative opportunities:
  • USDA REAP
  • Department of Commerce
• Breakout groups:
  • Recommendations to address barriers
  • Review draft goals/guiding principles
Goals of Today’s Workshop

• Learn about federal, state and alternative opportunities to advance clean energy
• Brainstorm policies and programs that dismantle barriers to meeting rural community needs
• Brainstorm ways to leverage federal funds
• Review draft guiding principles for rural clean energy priorities
Community Agreements

• Be present!
• Step up, step back
• Respond to and challenge ideas, not people
• Protect confidences: Stories stay, lessons leave
• Avoid jargon, acronyms, and industry language - use inclusive language that is accessible for people with varying inside knowledge
## Work Group Timeline Detail

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task Description</th>
<th>Timing</th>
<th>Focus</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kickoff Meeting #1</td>
<td>Early October</td>
<td>Introductory meeting: history of CEF, background, context, proviso, roles and responsibilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting #2</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>Technologies, programs and investments that address rural community priorities and align with the 2021 State Energy Strategy</td>
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<td>Breakout groups</td>
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<td>Report back, identify emerging ideas and themes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting #3</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>Federal opportunities, and recommended strategies for leveraging federal funds with CEF; policies that dismantle barriers; review draft recommendations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting #4</td>
<td>January 2022</td>
<td>Finalize recommendations and strategic plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public comment</td>
<td>January/February</td>
<td>Opportunity for public comment in response to recommendations from work group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerce process</td>
<td>February-June</td>
<td>Circulate report for internal review, and for OFM and Governor’s office review and processing</td>
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Presentations

• Veronica Baer, Business and Cooperatives Program Specialist, USDA Rural Energy for America Program

• Tina Hochwender, Managing Director, Department of Commerce, Community Assistance and Research Unit
Federal Programs
Infrastructure Package

- **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act**
  - The bipartisan infrastructure bill, passed 11/06/21

- **Build Back Better***
  - The Democratic budget resolution, *not currently passed*
  - Rural Partnership Program
(Some) Federal Grant and Loan Programs

• **FEMA:**
  • Building Resilient Infrastructure in Communities (BRIC) Grant

• **Department of Interior:**
  • Office of Indian Energy

• **Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) Grants:**

• **EPA:**
  • Region 10 Healthy Resilient and Sustainable Communities Grant
(Some) Federal Grant and Loan Programs

- **USDA Rural Development:**
  - Rural Energy for America Program
  - Rural Energy Savings Program
  - High Energy Cost Grant

- **USDA Forest Service:**
  - Wood Innovations Program
  - Community Wood Grant
Alternative Funding Opportunities (updated 4/2022)

- Grid Alternatives
- The Nature Conservancy
Discussion: Funding Programs

What are specific barriers that prevent access to federal or alternative opportunities?
Discussion: Funding Programs

How do we leverage federal funding with state capital investments?
(Some) State Grant and Loan Programs at Commerce

- Weatherization Assistance Program
- Clean Energy Fund
- Energy Retrofits for Public Buildings
- Community Development Block Grants
- Washington Broadband Office
- Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council has an extensive resource for drinking water and waste water, transportation and other projects! [Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council (IACC) (wa.gov)](https://www.wa.gov/infrastructure-assistance-coordinating-council)
Questions
Break

• Break ends at 10:05am
Breakout Activity
What Suite of Policy Mechanisms and Actions Dismantle Barriers

Policies

Investments

Programs
Breakout Activity

- Exercise #1: Which policy mechanisms and actions would dismantle barriers to addressing priority areas?

- Things to consider in this exercise:
  - What types of programs, actions and policies do rural communities need that they don't have?
  - Is there a particular program type or policy mechanism that supports the unique needs of rural communities?
Barriers to Meeting the Needs of Rural Communities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score (importance x urgency)</th>
<th>Barrier</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>Lack of technical expertise for developing clean energy (projects)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>Aging or inadequate rural infrastructure</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Lack of programs tailored for rural use cases</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>Small government and rural community staffing capacity</td>
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<td>1.8</td>
<td>Cultural and language barriers</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>Lack of workforce in rural areas to build projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>Aging or inadequate infrastructure</td>
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<td>2.6</td>
<td>Access to information</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>Lack of access to capital</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>Rural utility role, mission and capacity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>Global supply chain/COVID impacts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>Rural communities attitudes (perceived or real)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>Climate policy goals not considering forestry and agriculture industry needs</td>
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Guiding Principles

1. Prioritize sustainable, climate smart models for the agriculture and forestry sector
2. Prioritize universal broadband and digital equity
3. Bolster rural technical expertise and capacity building
4. Expand opportunities to finance resilient clean energy projects and infrastructure improvements
5. Prioritize Tribal energy sovereignty
Exercise

- What are the top goals/guiding principles for rural clean energy? *What is unique about a rural clean energy strategy?*
  - View starter list
  - Each group of 2-3 people will edit one of those principles
- What is missing from this list?
- Brainstorm other goals/principles
Next Steps and Reminders

• **Commerce:**
  - Distribute summary of meeting notes and handout
  - Post presentation slides and recordings to website
  - Share homework and draft materials

• **Work Group:**
  - Share public comment form with communities
Thank you!

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SENIOR ENERGY POLICY SPECIALIST
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Appendix
Resources

- Spark Northwest
- Philanthropy Northwest – Rural Funders Series
- Aspen Institute – Thrive Rural
- EPA AgStar