Tribal Information Session

Clean energy opportunities for Tribes

Energy Division

FEBRUARY 15, 2022
We strengthen communities

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

• Welcome and introductions
• Overview of the Clean Energy Fund, Energy Retrofits and other opportunities
• Overview of Rural Clean Energy Work Group
• Discussion and Listening
Virtual meeting reminders

• The presentation portions of the meeting will be recorded.
• Raise your hand or use the chat box, then unmute if called upon 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.
Clean Energy Grants
Background
“Governments need to evaluate proposed and existing policies using a framework for equitable policy design and ensuring meaningful engagement in policy design and implementation by those affected. Local communities and advocacy organizations in turn need to hold policy makers and government officials accountable when policies fail to meet these criteria.”

State Energy Strategy, pg. 26
Equitable clean energy future

- Providing public benefit through clean energy projects
- Creating respectful and thoughtful partnerships with Tribes
- Seeking to better understand Tribes’ relationship with energy, climate and sovereignty, and the supporting role state government can play
- Welcoming community feedback
Clean Energy Fund

- Since 2013, $211 million appropriated by Legislature
- Competitive grants to develop, demonstrate and deploy clean energy technologies
- Catalyze public-private collaborations
Equity and grantmaking

• Increasing stakeholder engagement and outreach to inform program design.
• Funding reserved for Tribes.
• Using energy burden data from the Environmental Health Disparities Map.
• Allowing planning and pre-development activities.
• Prioritizing partnerships that include Tribes.
• Demonstrating community involvement in project development and implementation.
• And more to come …
Previous Clean Energy Fund

• Solar Deployment: Supported the development of projects that deliver environmental and economic benefits to Washington communities.

• $3.7 million in grants for nine solar energy projects across the state.
  - Lummi Nation — $593,898 for installing solar PV systems on the Lummi Nation Administration Building and HeadStart Building
Clean Energy Fund

• **Grid modernization**
  - Expected to prioritize projects that demonstrate partnership between utility applicants and Tribes, and projects that benefit Tribal Communities.
  - Expected to provide options for reduced match.

• **RD&D (Research, development and demonstration)**
  - CEF4 round awards to be announced February 2022.
  - Next round expected to provide options for reduced match.
  - $4.8M – Request for Applications opens fall 2022.
Clean Energy Fund

- Electrification of Transportation Systems: Innovative approaches to electric vehicle charger installations
  - Expected priority for projects benefitting overburdened communities and vulnerable populations.
  - $1.9 million (of $2.9 million) for local governments in rural communities and Tribal governments, for projects addressing EV charger gaps in rural communities.
  - Next round of grants to open summer 2022.
Clean Energy Fund – New!

- **New! Rural Energy Innovation**
  - Example projects — Enhance energy efficiency, demand response, energy storage, renewable energy, resilience, organic waste management and biological carbon sequestration.
  - $4.6M – Request for Applications opens fall 2022
    - $1.84 million for dairy digester bioenergy
    - $2.8 million for rural energy innovation (20% for Tribal projects)

- **New! Clean Buildings**
  - These projects would demonstrate grid-enabled, high-efficiency, all-electric buildings.
  - $9.7M – Request for Applications opens fall 2022
Energy Retrofits for Public Buildings

• Grants for energy updates to public/Tribally-owned buildings and facilities
• Requests for Applications coming soon
  • Energy Efficiency projects: $1.5 million+
  • Solar projects: $1 million
  • Tribal governments are eligible for lower match
• Recently funded projects:
  • Nooksack Indian Tribe - $84,061 for IT/PPE Warehouse 38.5kW solar installation
  • Samish Indian Nation - $21,445 for Cannery Building 33.4kW solar installation
  • Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe - $182,912 for community building 90.7kW solar installation
Weatherization

- Statewide weatherization program is administered by Commerce
- Formula-funded grants for energy efficiency and housing improvement measures, including Tribal households
- Tribal partners:
  - Yakama Nation
  - Spokane Tribe
  - South Puget Sound Intertribal Planning Agency
  - Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe
  - Quileute Tribe
  - Lummi Nation
  - Swinomish Indian Tribe
(Some) Federal grant and loan programs

- USDA Rural Development
  - Rural Energy Pilot
  - Rural Energy for America Program
  - Rural Business Development Grants
- Department of Interior
  - Tribal Climate Resilience
- Department of Energy
  - Weatherization Assistance Program
  - National Community Solar Partnership
  - Many more at Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs!
- USDA
  - Conservation Innovation Grant
Want to know more?

State Energy Strategy website:
https://www.commerce.wa.gov/growing-the-economy/energy/2021-state-energy-strategy/

Clean Energy Fund:
https://www.commerce.wa.gov/growing-the-economy/energy/clean-energy-fund/

Energy Retrofits for Public Buildings:

Weatherization:
$150,000 is provided solely for Commerce to develop targeted rural clean energy strategies informed by rural community and business engagement, outreach, and research.

The June 2022 report will:

- Provide recommendations on investments, programs and policy changes that increase access to clean energy opportunities in rural communities, as well as agricultural and forestry management practices.
- Present a strategic plan for state rural clean energy investment.
Rural Clean Energy Program timeline

**Rural Clean Energy Work Group**
- Rural Clean Energy Workgroup scoping: Jun – Aug 2021
- Rural Clean Energy Work Group meetings: Oct 2021 – Jan 2022
- Final Strategic Plan Report for Rural Clean Energy Investment due: Jun 30, 2022

**Rural Clean Energy Innovation Grants**
- Outreach and Education: Jan 2022 – Apr 2022
- Rural Clean Energy and Digester Grants: Fall 2022
Opportunities for input

• Public comment form [Rural Clean Energy Public Comment Form (smartsheet.com)](https://smartsheet.com)

• Set up 1:1 meetings with Department of Commerce through 3/02/2022

• Email ideas and thoughts to [cef@commerce.wa.gov](mailto:cef@commerce.wa.gov)
Definition of ‘rural’ aligns with USDA

• For the purpose of the report and grants, we agreed to use a working definition provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Rural Energy for America Program (REAP).

• Per the USDA REAP, “rural” includes any other area than a city or town that has a population greater than 50,000 people.

• How do you define “rural?”
Questions?
Discussion and listening
Poll questions

• Have you previously applied to a Commerce clean energy grant opportunity? (Yes, no)
• Have you applied for and NOT received a Commerce clean energy grant opportunity? (Yes, no)
• Are you aware of these clean energy grants, but have not applied due to grant requirements? (Yes, no)
• If your Tribe or community is interested developing a clean energy project, which of the following would you prioritize: (multiple choice)
  • Solar + storage
  • Wind
  • Energy Efficiency
  • Bioenergy
  • Other (if other put in chat)
Discussion

Breakout room 1:

25 minutes: 15 minutes in room
10 minutes to report

• What sort of funding or other resources would help you meet clean energy goals?

• How can Commerce reduce barriers to applying to grants or otherwise support these goals?
Discussion

Breakout room 2:

25 minutes: 15 minutes in room
10 minutes to report

• What are the barriers to meeting the needs of your Tribe or community (clean energy or other)?
Discussion

Breakout room 3:
25 minutes: 15 minutes in room
10 minutes to report

• What kinds of clean energy technologies or use cases would be a priority for your community?
Closing

• Recording will be shared on Rural Clean Energy Innovation website: Rural Clean Energy Innovation - Washington State Department of Commerce

• Additional opportunities for input on Leg report
  • Public comment form
  • Set up 1:1 meetings with Department of Commerce through 3/02/2022
  • Email ideas and thoughts to cef@commerce.wa.gov
Thank you!

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