Rural Clean Energy Work Group

Meeting #4

Energy Division

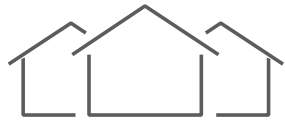JANUARY 26, 2022

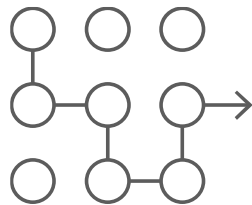# We strengthen communities

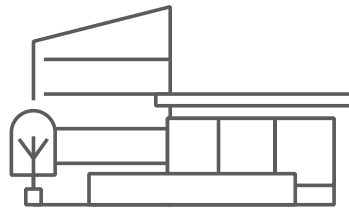**HOUSING HOMELESSNESS**

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 for report

- Review guiding principles and ~40 draft recommendations Breakout groups:
  - Edit guiding principle
  - Review draft recommendations

Goals of today's workshop

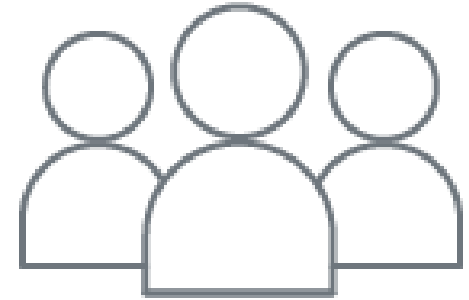- Edit guiding principles
- Brainstorm policy outcomes and specific recommendations
- Review report timeline

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

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

Next steps

Internal/External	Milestone	Deadline
Internal	Kickoff Meeting	1/14/2022
External	Final Work Group Meeting	1/26/2022
Internal	Outline	1/30/2022
External	Public comment form and additional research	12/2021-2/25/2022
External	Tribal Info Session	2/15/2022
Internal	Draft 1	Early/Mid-March
External	*Tentative: Public comment period*	3/20/2022
External	Work Group Review	3/29/2022
Internal	Commerce process	4/9/2022-6/9/2022
Internal	Publish/Submit	6/30/2022

Guiding Principles Edits (Meeting #3)

1. Prioritize sustainable, climate smart business models for the agriculture and forestry sector

2. Prioritize resilient technologies, universal, affordable, reliable high speed broadband, and digital equity for rural communities

3. Expand and support rural technical expertise and capacity building

4. Expand opportunities to finance resilient clean energy projects and infrastructure improvements

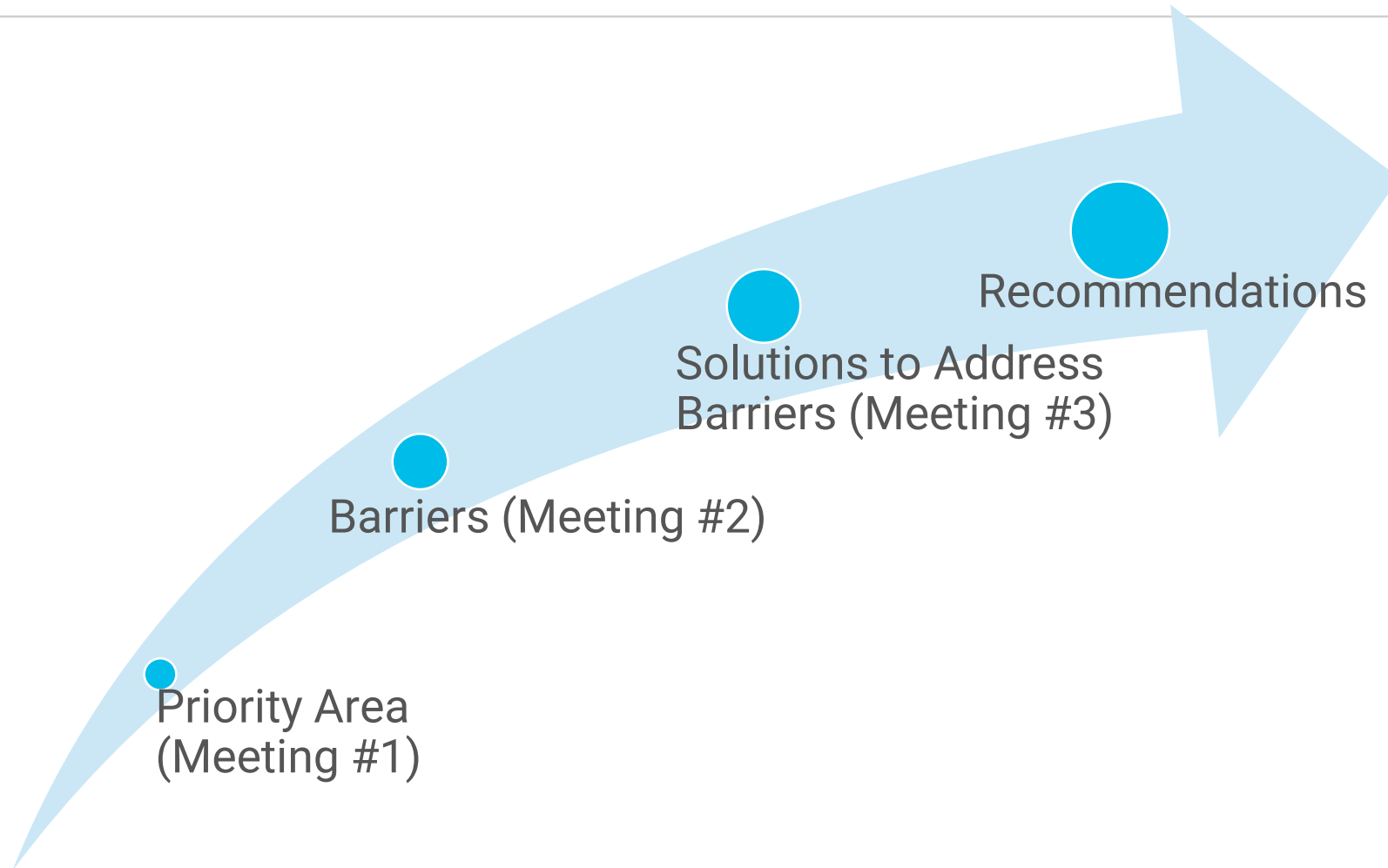5. Ensure the equitable distribution of clean energy projects

Example draft recommendation (see handout)

- **Guiding principle 3**: Increase access to opportunities around financing resilient clean energy projects and infrastructure improvements that also provide co-benefits for economic and workforce development
  1. **Recommendation:** Develop programs and policies that support rural grid modernization and resilience among remote customers
     a) **Addresses barrier:** Aging or inadequate rural infrastructure
     b) **Example strategies, programs and policy mechanisms**
     c) **Specific Examples**
  2. **Recommendation:** Invest in resilient distributed clean energy technologies for critical facilities, including but not limited to, drinking and waste water systems, communications infrastructure (e.g. radio & cellphone towers), healthcare facilities, emergency shelters

We drew on rural priorities and barriers identified in first 3 meetings to draft recommendations

Recommendations

Solutions to Address Barriers (Meeting #3)

Barriers (Meeting #2)

Priority Area (Meeting #1)

Rural community priorities (Meeting #1)

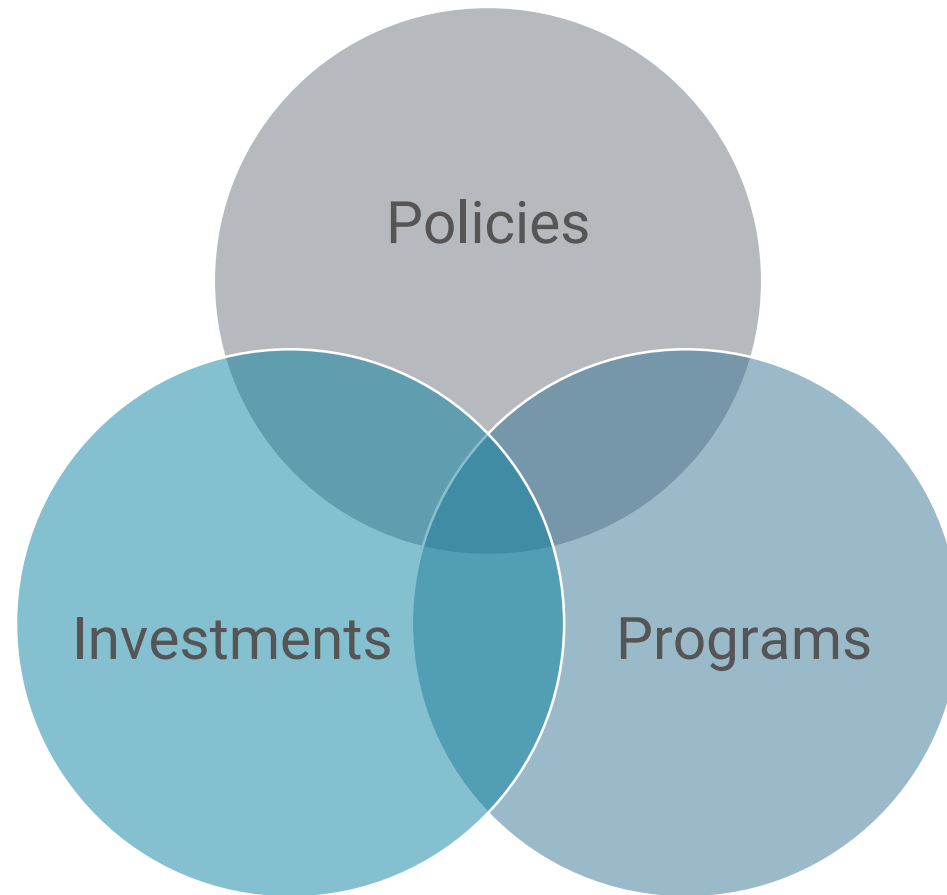| Priority Area |
|---|
| Agriculture/climate smart agriculture, wood biomass and carbon sequestration |
| Broadband, digital equity |
| Clean Energy projects/ Infrastructure |
| Communities |
| Economic impacts |
| Equity |
| Food security |
| Health care |
| Housing |
| Tribes |
| Workforce development |
| Wildfires |

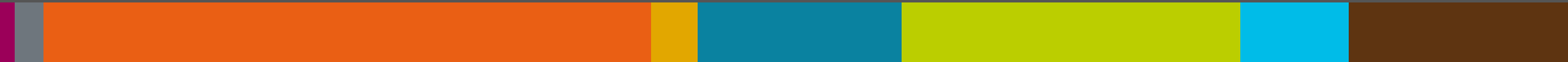# Barriers to meeting the needs of rural communities (Meeting #2)

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

Meeting #3: What suite of policy mechanisms and actions dismantle barriers?

Breakout Activity
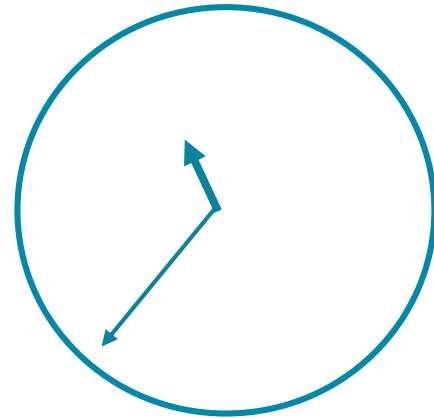
Breakout Room #1

- **Edit guiding principle** (80 minutes)
  - Think, pair share for each principle
  - 1 minute to write notes about principle on own
  - Send away to random pair and chat for 3 minutes
  - Come back and discuss for 10 min (Please designate a spokesperson!)

- **Questions:**
  - Is there anything you cannot live with?
  - Is there anything missing?
  - Is there anything that needs clarifying or defining?

Break

- Break ends at 10:40am

Breakout Room #2

- **Round #1: Assigned rooms for each principle (review related recommendations) (5 rooms)**
  - **Room (15 minutes)**
  - **Report Back (15 minutes)**

- **Round #2: Choose your own room**
  - **Room (15 minutes)**
  - **Report Back (15 minutes)**

Questions

- Is there anything you cannot live with?

- Is there anything missing?

- Is there anything that needs clarifying or defining?

Next Steps and Reminders

- Steps to complete legislative report
- Opportunities for further input
- Community input
- Actions:
  - Commerce:
    - Distribute summary of meeting notes
    - Post presentation slides and recordings to website
    - Share draft materials
  - Work Group:
    - Send Angela your edits
    - Share public comment form with communities
    - Recommendations for 1:1 interviews

Guiding principles edits (post meeting)

1. Prioritize sustainable, economically viable, and climate smart business models for the agriculture and forestry sector

2. Expand and support rural technical expertise and local capacity building, as well as statewide resources and technical assistance targeting rural energy needs

3. Increase access to opportunities around financing resilient clean energy projects and infrastructure improvements that also provide co-benefits for economic and workforce development

4. Ensure the equitable participation in program design, and equitable distribution of benefits and reduction of burdens and access to funding of clean energy projects in rural communities

Thank you!

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Appendix