

# Energy Resilience Program

2023 IACC Conference

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Washington State  
Department of  
**Commerce**

# Energy Resilience at the State Level

WA State is Strongly Committed to an Equitable Transition to Clean Energy



# Energy Division strengthens communities

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**CLEAN ENERGY FUND**



**STATE EFFICIENCY &  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PERFORMANCE (SEEP) OFFICE**



**ENERGY POLICY OFFICE**



**WEATHERIZATION**



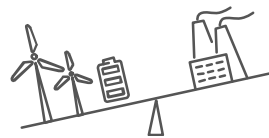
**GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION**



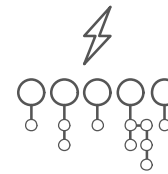
**CLEAN BUILDINGS**



**ELECTRIC VEHICLES**



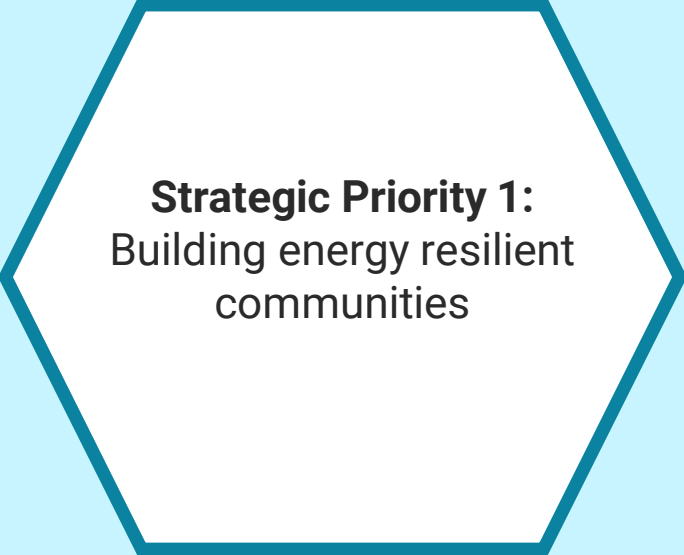
**RESOURCE ADEQUACY**



**ENERGY EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT OFFICE**



**STATE ENERGY STRATEGY**



**Strategic Priority 1:**  
Building energy resilient  
communities

Goal 1: Develop a Statewide Energy Resilience Strategy

Goal 2: Develop state-level policy recommendations to support innovation in energy resilience, cybersecurity, emergency efforts

Goal 3: Make the most effective use of available funding and resources to reach our mission, strategic priorities, and goals

Goal 1: Develop a Statewide Energy Resilience Strategy

Goal 2: Develop state-level policy recommendations to support innovation in energy resilience, cybersecurity, emergency efforts

Goal 3: Make the most effective use of available funding and resources to reach our mission, strategic priorities, and goals

## The HOW of our Goals

- Establish an Integrated Energy Resilience Workgroup
- Ensure polices are effective to build and sustain a secure, resilient, and reliable energy system.
- Implement our strategic plan to use all state and federal funds available to meet the needs of Washington residents for a secure, reliable, resilient, equitable, and clean energy future.
- Provide resource and expertise gaps, more fully supporting communities to achieve success. To meet communities where they are, to help them get where they want to be in energy resilience.

# Federal and State Funding Opportunities

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The Federal government is strongly prioritizing small, rural, remote, tribal, and under-resourced communities for funding energy projects. However, Washington State recognizes that just throwing money at these critical projects is not enough.

# WA State Energy Resilience Program

A State Energy Resilience Framework



# Energy Resilience Program – Our Mission

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**Our team fills resource and capacity gaps, supporting communities to successfully access funding and accomplish their critical energy resilience goals.**



# Energy Resilience Program – Our Framework

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Meet Communities Where They Are

We Don't Have to Agree on the "Why"

We Do Government Differently

# Energy Resilience Program – Our Framework

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- **Meet Communities Where They Are**
  - Pay attention to their logistical needs first.
  - Communities are always in charge.
  - We don't take credit for their projects (i.e. these are not “our meetings”).

# Energy Resilience Program – Our Framework

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- **We Don't Have to Agree on the “Why”**
  - We don't have to talk about “climate change”.
  - Focus on what we are experiencing now – What is your current reality?

# Energy Resilience Program – Our Framework

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- **We Do Government Differently**
  - From an emergency management perspective
    - Pragmatic
    - Solution-based

# Energy Resilience Program

## - Our Internal Framework

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- Big things happen when no one cares who gets the credit.
- Everything starts and ends with relationships.
- Everything must be ADA accessible, in-language, and culturally contextual.
- Our engagement work has sustainable results for communities.
  - Relationships
  - Energy resilience mind-set

# What We Bring to Communities

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- Outreach & Engagement Planning
  - Partnership identification and engagement
  - Memorandum of Understanding /Partnership Agreement (MOU/PA) development
  - Partnership meeting facilitation
  - Community outreach strategy
  - Outreach and informational materials development
- Community meeting support
  - Meeting planning and facilitation support
  - ASL and Language interpretation; live captioning services
  - Language translation for materials
  - Technical equipment for remote/hybrid meetings

# What We Bring to Communities

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- Community Visioning and Prioritization
  - Community energy assessment and hazard identification
  - Critical energy infrastructure identification and assessment
  - Community visioning, goal-setting, and project planning
- Energy Resilience Project Support
  - Funding identification and application assistance
  - Specific technical assistance and vendor identification
  - Project planning support
  - Technical assistance for maintenance and operations planning
  - Technical assistance with funding reporting requirements

# Framework in Use

Year One





# Our Work So Far...

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This program had a (very) soft launch at the beginning of 2023 and focused initially on program development, partner identification, and making connections in the various power industries.

Then in early February, Kate and I visited Clallam County to discuss their interest in the Solar Plus Storage program.....

## And Then an Email Went Out

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Our two Federal Grants staff sent out an email to our mail lists about the new ERA grant opportunity and mentioned that technical assistance may be available, with my contact info.

And suddenly we were off  
and running!

# Goldendale WA

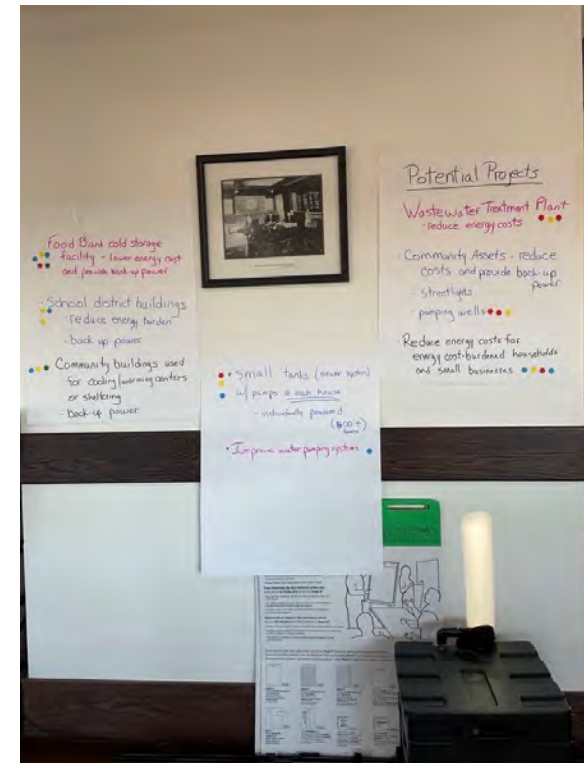
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Supported our first community meeting at their Grange Hall on the evening of Tuesday, June 27<sup>th</sup> :

- Facilitated several planning meetings; agenda development.
- Produced a community flyer; invited area contacts (CIL and AAA)
- Wrote press release and social media pieces (draft) for their use.
- Provided captioning services for the meeting; served as accommodations POC.
- Provided technical equipment to support meeting and captioning.
- Gave a presentation on federal and state funding available and what project support our team can provide.

# Tenino WA

- Supported a community visioning meeting - evening of July 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - Facilitated planning meetings
  - Assisted with press pieces and outreach
  - We facilitated a visioning and prioritization exercise
  - We provided captioning services, and served as ADA POC; we provided some tech equipment to support a robust hybrid meeting



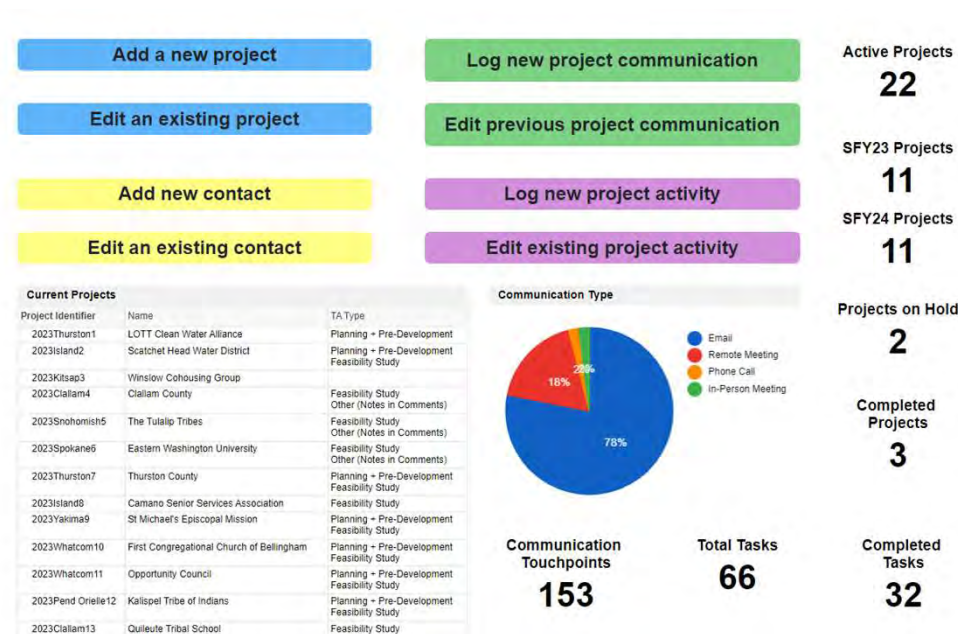
# Lessons Learned, Part 1

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- Program Development is continuous
- Synergy Between ERP and Solar + Storage TA Programs
- How Best to Explain our Program Services
- Refining the Intake and Initial Meeting Process

# Lessons Learned, Part 2

- Program Management – we needed an App for that!



## Lessons Learned, Part 3

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- **How to Define and Measure Success (Quantitative)**
  - Number of Partnership Meetings Held
  - Number of Projects Supported
  - Number and Type of TA Activities Completed
- **How to Define and Measure Success (Qualitative)**
  - Partner Feedback and Stories

# Lessons Learned, Part 4

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- If you have worked with one small community... you have worked with one small community. Similar, but unique.
- Do a demographic profile.
- Small town politics exist – but we stay out of the way.
- Public meetings – know who is in the room!



# What's Next...?

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- **Get the word out about our new program services!**
  - Internally
  - Statewide outreach with a focus on small/rural/remote/tribal communities
  - National exposure
- **Grow the Energy Resilience Workgroup and support internal energy resilience work.**

# Year Two Program Goals

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- Regional and national collaborations, partnerships, and learning.
  - Climate Ready America Pilot State – coming in 2024
- Statewide Workgroup on Workforce Development
- Peer Learning Cohort

# Energy Resilience Program Contacts



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