

# Let's Go Solar!

2023 IACC Annual Conference  
Wenatchee

Larry Mattson & Maureen Maples  
ENERGY PROGRAMS IN COMMUNITIES (EPIC)

10/25/2023



Washington State  
Department of  
**Commerce**

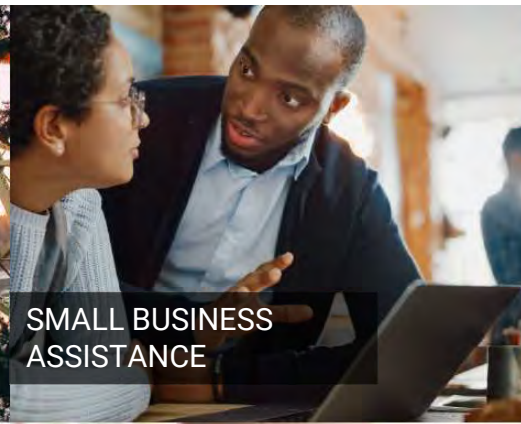
# We strengthen communities



HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS



INFRASTRUCTURE AND BROADBAND



SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE



ENERGY



PLANNING AND TECH ASSISTANCE



COMMUNITY SERVICES



CRIME VICTIMS AND PUBLIC SAFETY



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT





***The people of Washington thrive in a clean,  
affordable and equitable energy economy***

***The Energy Division catalyzes the transition  
to a clean and just energy future: We inform,  
We invest, We influence***

# WA is a national leader in climate policy

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## Key Policies and Plans:

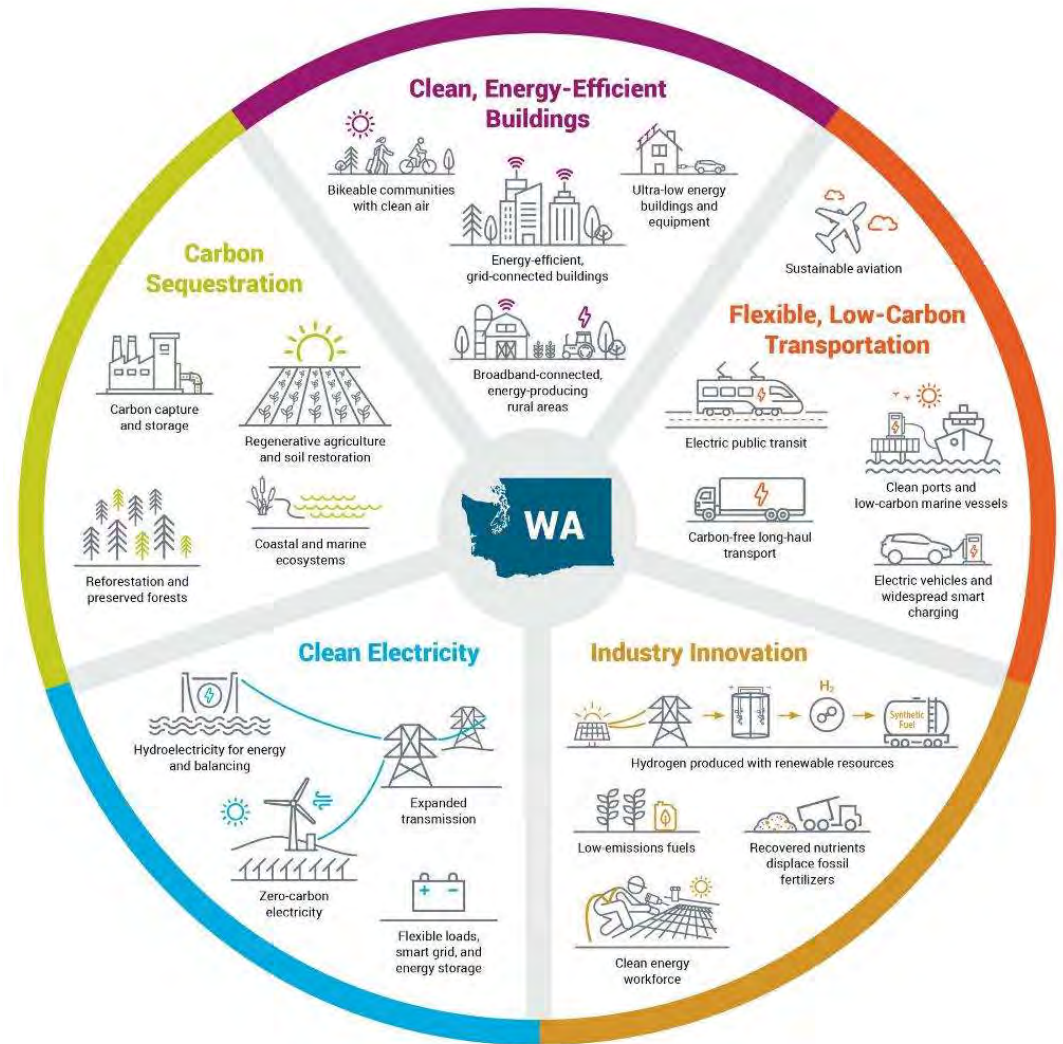
- Climate Commitment Act
- Clean Energy Transformation Act
- HEAL Act
- State Energy Strategy



## WASHINGTON STATE 2050

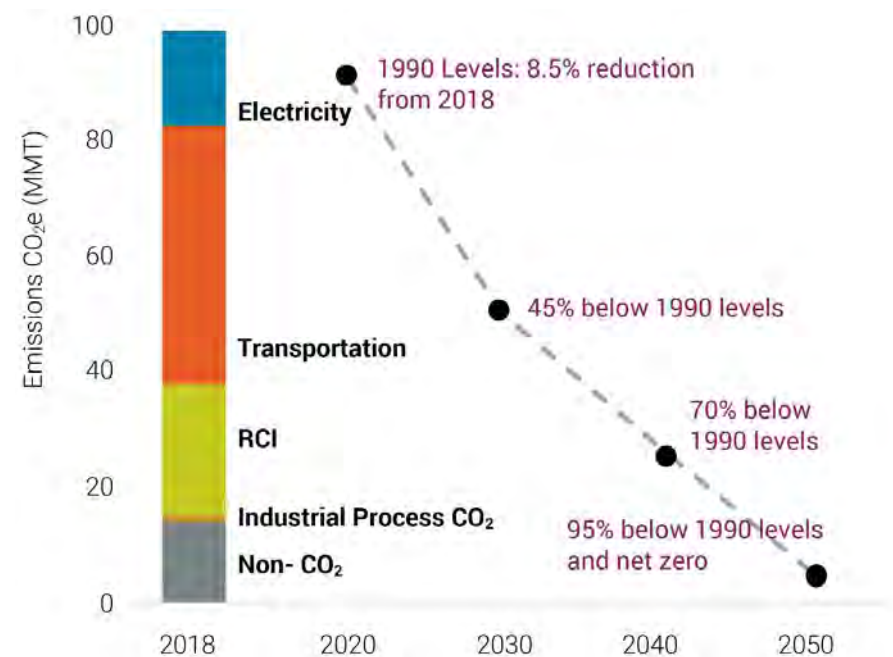
# Net-Zero Vision

A blueprint for how we can meet our state's climate goals to nearly eliminate the use of climate-threatening fossil fuels by 2050, while growing a prosperous economy and maintaining affordable and reliable energy supplies.



# Guiding objectives

- **Reduce:**
  - Greenhouse gas emissions
  - Income-based disparities in access to clean energy investments
  - Geographic disparities in access to clean energy technology
  - Environmental health disparities caused by transportation-related pollutants
- **Improve the state's energy resilience and security**



Source: Washington State Department of Ecology and Washington State.  
Appendix A –Deep Decarbonization Pathways Modeling Technical Report, December 11, 2020 (p. 15).



# Environmental justice and equity

## Federal

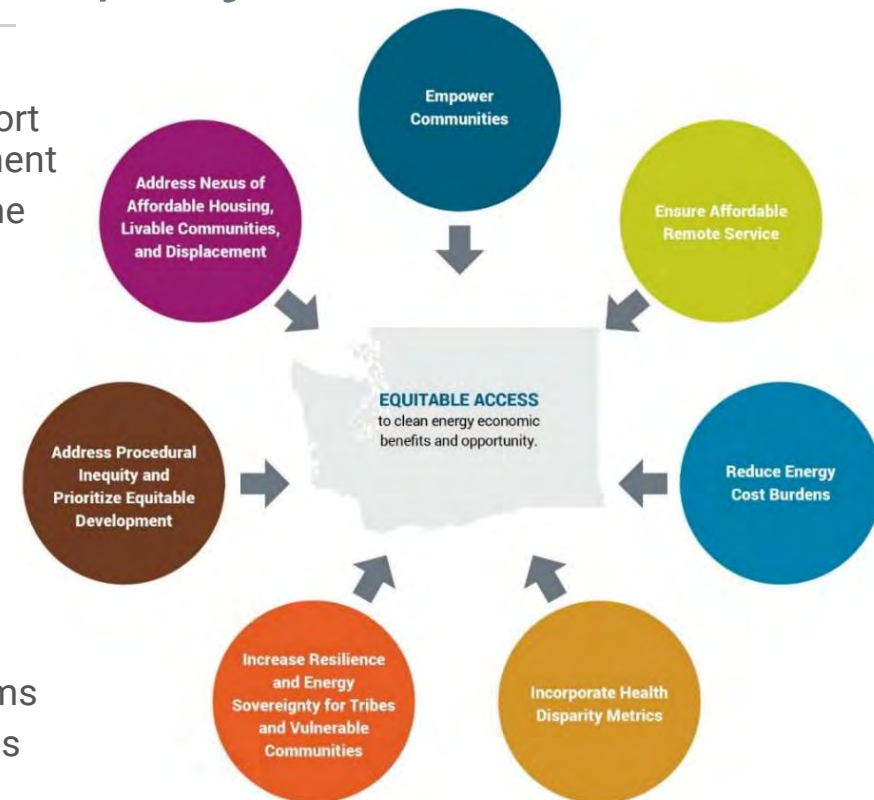
- Executive Order 13985 – Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities through the Federal Government
- Executive Order 14008 – Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad

## State

- Healthy Environmental for All (HEAL) Act
- Climate Commitment Act (CCA)
- Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA)

## Community-engaged process that lead to:

- Equitable participation in decision-making, accountability to communities and tribes
- Environmental justice assessments for policies and programs
- Equitable distribution of benefits, improved health conditions



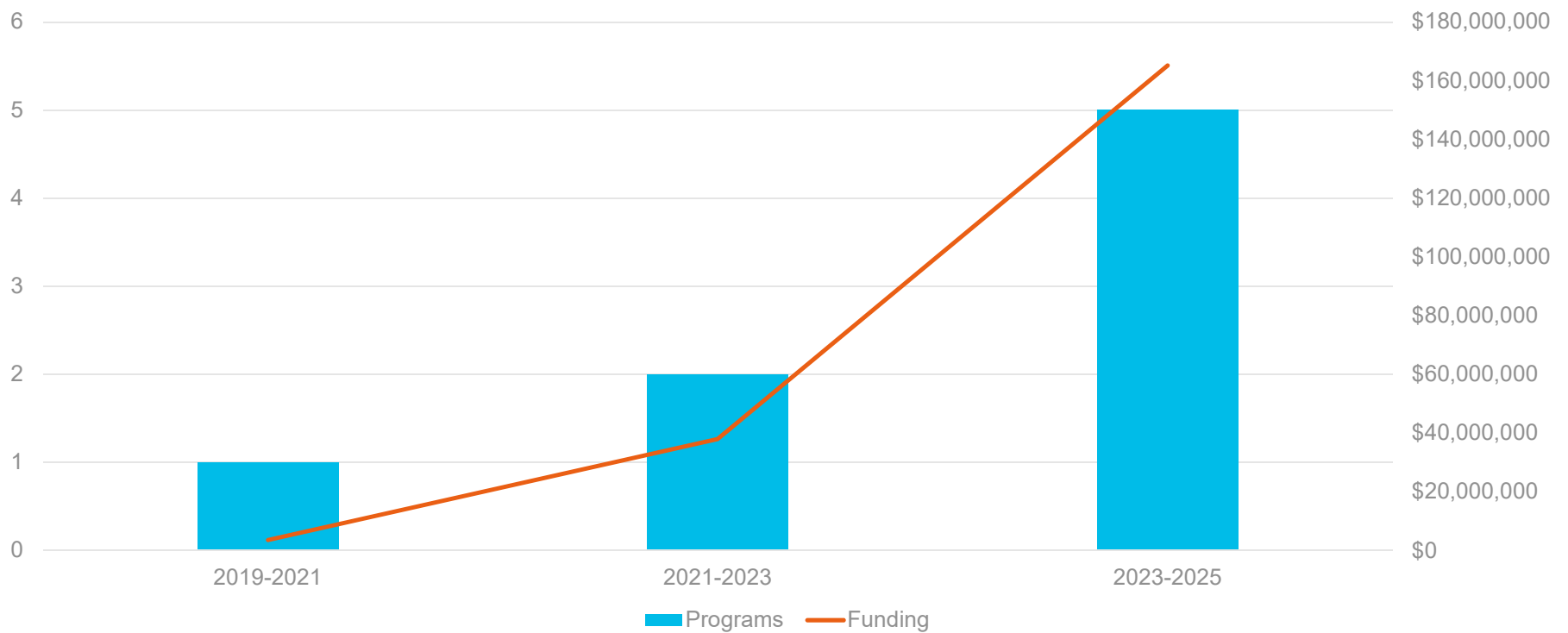
# How are solar programs funded in Washington?

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- **State-funded grant programs**
  - Capital & operating budgets
  - Agencies w/solar funding:
    - Commerce
    - WSU Energy Program
- **Federally funded pass-through**
  - Formula grants
  - Competitive grants
  - Investment tax credits

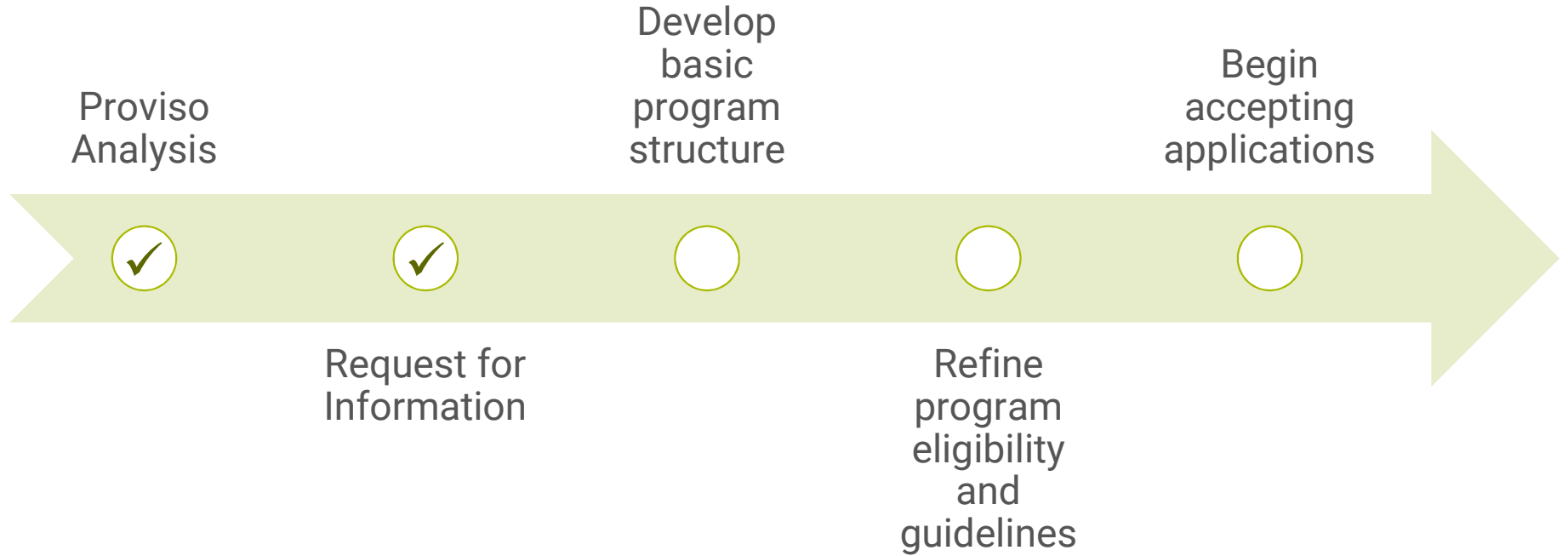


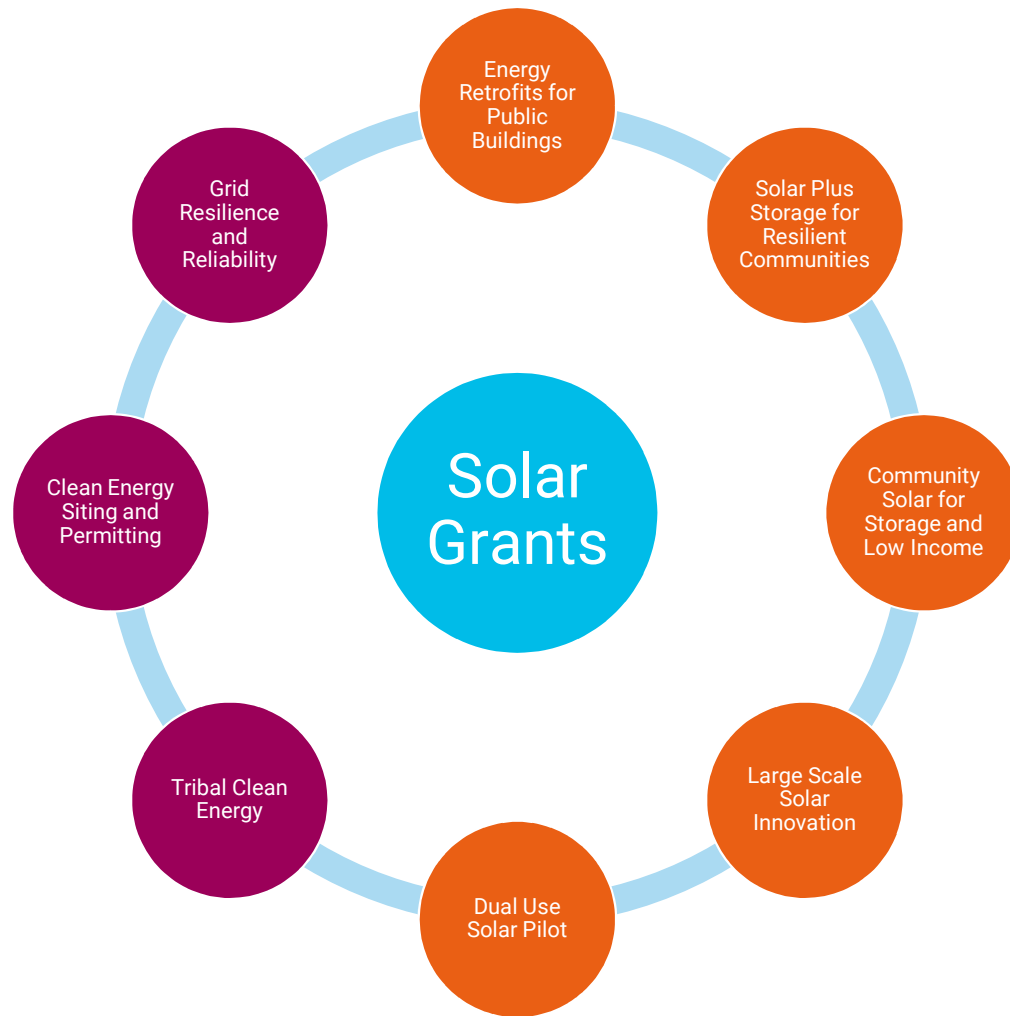
# Growth of solar grant funding at Commerce



# Program Development Process

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# Solar Energy Retrofits for Public Buildings

\$22.5 million



- Purchase and installation of solar energy systems in public facilities
- Local government, public higher education, school districts, state agencies and tribal governments
- **Priority consideration:** projects in small cities or towns and projects that use made-in-Washington solar modules or inverters



# Solar Plus Storage for Resilient Communities

\$74 million



- Solar and battery storage in community buildings
- Enhance grid resiliency and provide backup power for critical needs during outages
- Provide incentives for electric utility demand response programs that include customer-sited solar and battery systems
- Planning and predevelopment work

# Community Solar and Storage for Low Income

\$39 million



Photo: OPALCO

- Community solar and battery storage projects for public assistance organizations serving low-income communities
- 12 kW to 1 MW DC
- 2+ subscribers or 1 low-income service provider
- Planning and predevelopment work

# Large Scale Solar Innovation

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\$19 million



- Advance large-scale solar innovation in Washington

# Dual Use Solar Pilot

\$10.6 million



- Support the planning, predevelopment, and installation of commercial, dual-use solar power demonstration projects
- Eligible grant recipients include nonprofit organizations, public entities, and federally recognized tribes



# Solar + Storage Technical Assistance

FREE!!



- **Planning Assistance**
  - Early; help you prepare for future funding opportunities
- **Feasibility Studies**
  - Have a site(s)? Help with sizing your system, grid connections, and costs/benefits
- **Apply here:**
  - [Commerce.wa.gov/growing-the-economy/energy/solar-plus-storage/](https://commerce.wa.gov/growing-the-economy/energy/solar-plus-storage/)

# Solar for All Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund

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- Focus: expand access to solar for income-qualified residents, with focus on frontline communities
- \$250 million request to serve over 10,000 households across Washington through 4 programs:
  - Washington Affordable Solar Homes (WASH)
  - Expanded Shared Solar Access Program (ESSAP)
  - Bridging Energy Affordability through Multifamily Solar (BEAMS)
  - Tribal Solar Program
- Federal government will issue notice of awards next summer– could be lower than requested amount
- If awarded, Commerce will use the first year for program design, including community engagement. Programs would open in 2025.

# And more...

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- **Tribal Clean Energy**
  - \$10 million exclusively for tribes to support clean energy development projects
- **Clean Energy Siting and Permitting**
  - \$10 million for local governments and tribes to support site predevelopment, land use studies, and planning
- **Grid resilience and reliability**
  - \$70 million federal and state funding for modernizing electric grid
  - Electrical grid integration and innovation

# Opportunities to engage

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- How might we prioritize funding opportunities for frontline communities and tribes?
- What ideas do you have for co-creating these funding opportunities?



Image credit:  
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# Opportunities to engage

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- **More ways to engage:**
  - Sign up for email GovDelivery updates:  
<https://www.commerce.wa.gov/growing-the-economy/energy/>
  - Information session hosted by Commerce
  - Individual meetings





Washington State  
Department of  
**Commerce**

[www.commerce.wa.gov](http://www.commerce.wa.gov)



# Thank you!

For more information, contact

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