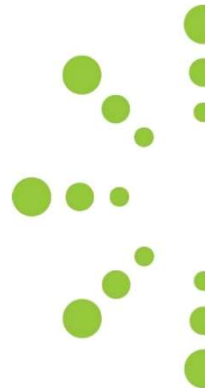
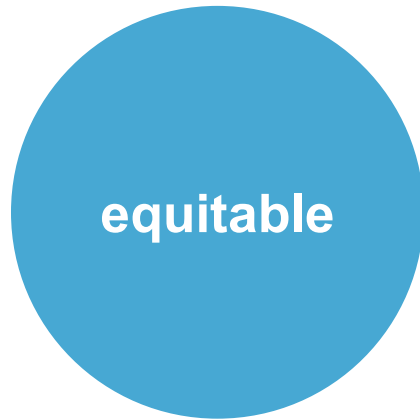




Community-Centric Approaches to Clean Energy

Spark Northwest partners with communities to build . . .

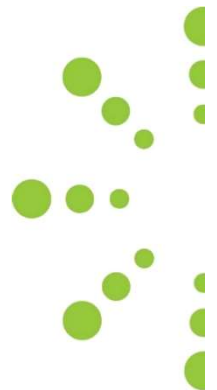


What is a Just Transition to clean energy?



- Moves power and control of production into hands of the community
- Ensures fair distribution of benefits and burdens
- Centers concerns of marginalized people

Definition from: [Initiative for Energy Justice](#)



Washington's clean energy revolution

11/28/202
3

4



Clean energy crossroads



Potential benefits

- Protect climate
- Cut energy burdens (bills)
- Create jobs
- Healthier environment
- Healthier homes



Clean energy crossroads



Potential pitfalls

- Wealth gap increases
- Frontline communities don't benefit
- Renters, rural and Tribal communities are displaced



State goals for energy & equity



Supporting WA Energy Priorities: State Energy Strategy

From Commerce:

“[E]nergy policy is informed by **local knowledge**,

meets **local needs**

and is **viewed as legitimate by the local community.**”



Supporting WA Energy Priorities: HEAL Act (Ecology)

From Ecology:

"We will reduce greenhouse gas emissions,

promote **community resilience**,

and **prevent and remediate negative impacts**

with an **emphasis on overburdened communities** and
vulnerable populations."

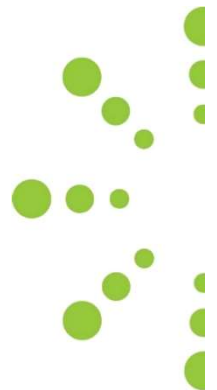


Community-centric approaches to reach these goals



1. Understand the Community Perspective

- Most people are not thinking about solar...they're worried about paying bills
- Community members and leaders have day jobs and full plates
- Growing number of funding opportunities is overwhelming
- Underserved communities may be hesitant about investing time and energy on something they are not confident they will obtain



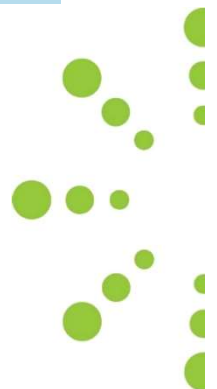
2. Move at the Speed of Trust

- It takes time to establish trust
- Understand power structures
- Develop cross-cultural competencies
- Progress is not linear
- The likelihood of long-term success is greater if you've already invested in trust-based relationships
- Stay curious, patient and authentic

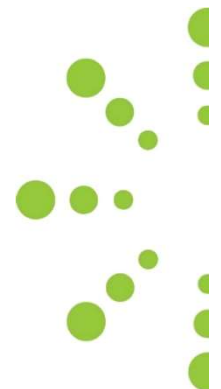
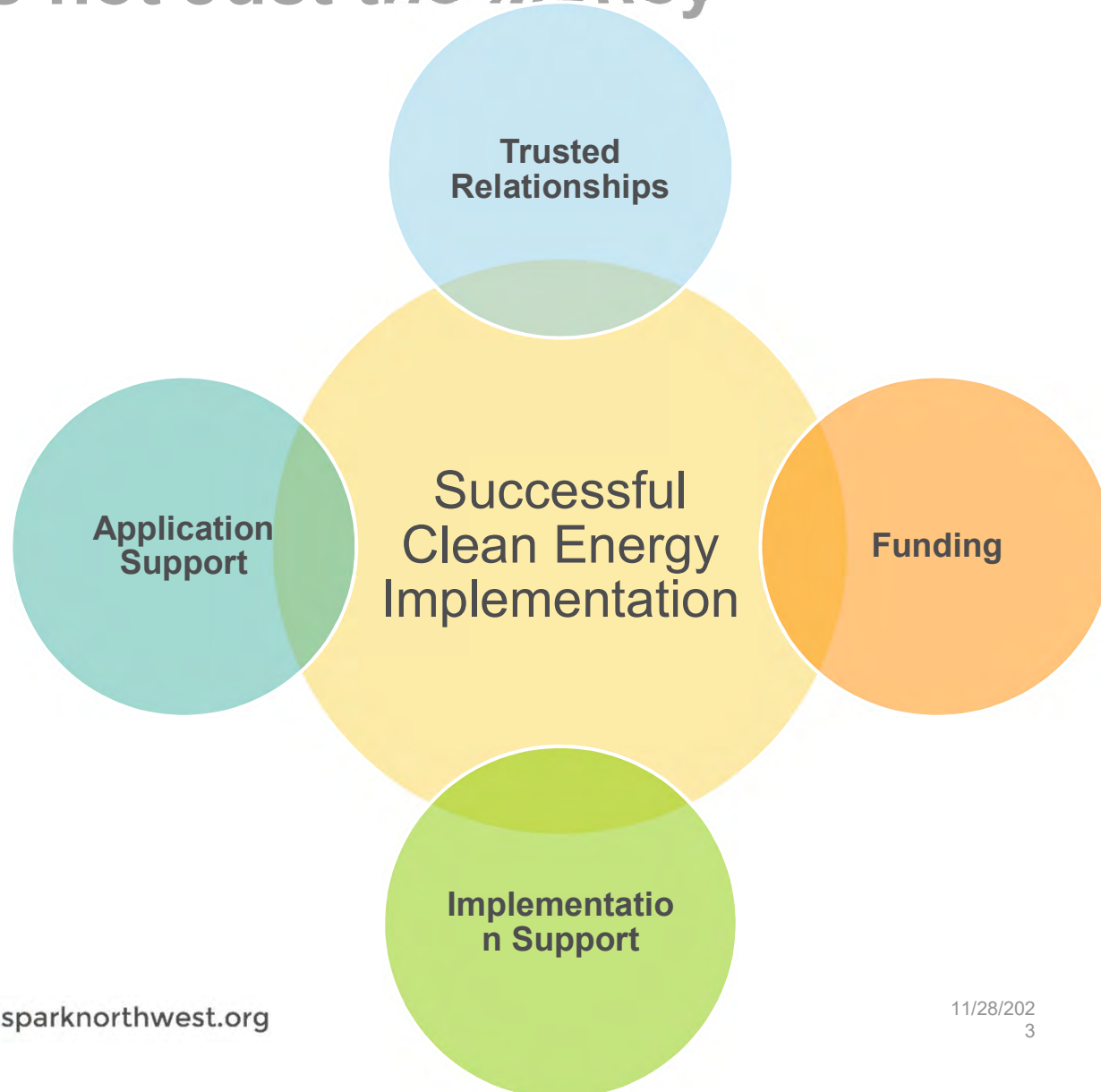


1. Go Beyond Outreach

Community Outreach	Community Engagement
Spread awareness - usually one-way interaction	Community members are actively involved and typically two-way interaction
More transactional	More partnership-based
Mostly short-term results	Higher probability of long-term impact

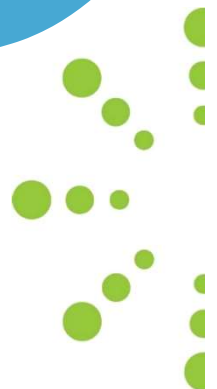
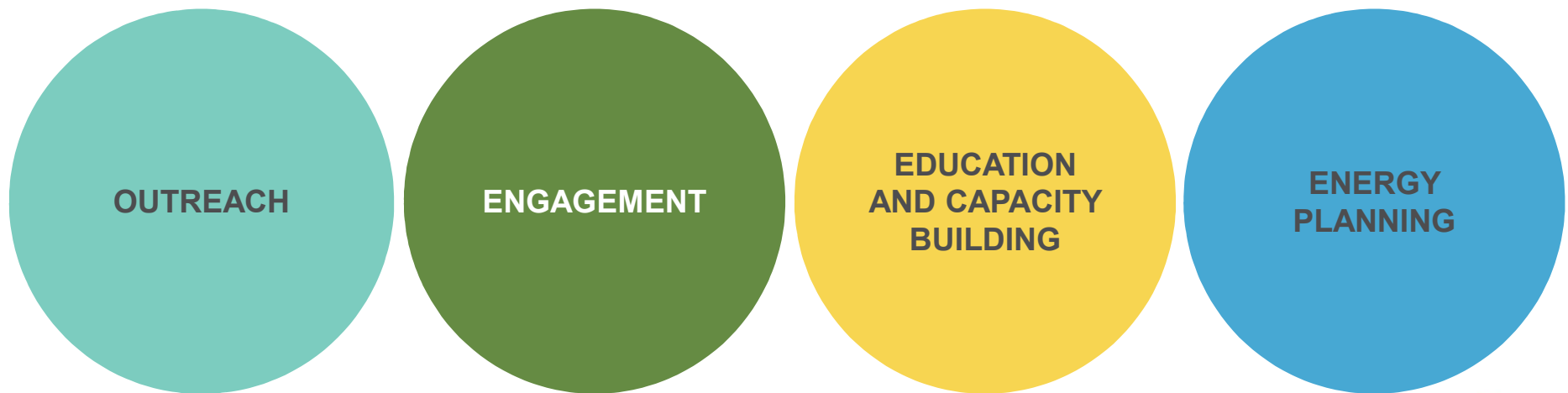


3. It's not Just the Money



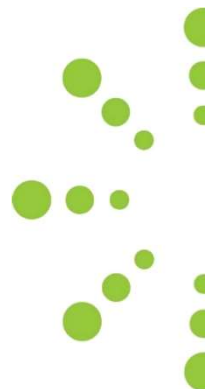
4. Think Long Term

- Every step on the path to community energy planning takes intention and effort
- It always takes more time than we think



What Can Governmental Entities Do?

1. Have realistic expectations, especially when working with a community that is just getting started on clean energy
2. Be proactive, don't just wait for communities to come to you
3. Offer flexible funding that allows for community engagement and capacity building
4. Fund idea development and application support
5. Reduce barriers to obtaining funding like onerous match requirements and reimbursement grants





Thank you!

Contact:

veena@sparknorthwest.org

