

---

## Washington State 2021 Energy Strategy Technic Advisory Process Description

### Introduction

The Washington Department of Commerce is developing the 2021 State Energy Strategy (SES) to support the state's ambitious goals to protect our climate while **ensuring an equitable transition to clean energy**, promoting the state's economic competitiveness, and providing jobs.

The call for an updated state energy strategy is part of Washington's landmark 2019 legislation establishing a new clean electricity standard for Washington, the Clean Energy Transformation Act of 2019 (CETA). The review and update of the state energy strategy will focus on recommendations to align Washington's policies and actions with meeting the state's greenhouse gas reduction limits and transforming the electricity sector to meet CETA's 100% clean standard.

The Department of Commerce is developing the SES collaboratively with stakeholders and members of the public. The Legislature established an Advisory Committee to develop recommendations for policies and actions to include in the strategy. The 27-member committee is made up of legislators, government officials, and representatives of civic organizations, energy and utility businesses, and public interest advocates.

The SES will focus on policies and actions for the 2020-2030 timeframe that support Washington's broader vision for transitioning to a sustainable, clean energy economy that equitably meets the needs of the state's diverse communities and regions. The strategy will further position the state to pursue economic opportunity through investing in a clean energy economy as part of a post-Covid-19 recovery.

### Technical Advisory Process

The Department of Commerce selected the Clean Energy Transition Institute (CETI) to provide technical assistance to develop the SES. The CETI developed a Technical Advisory Process (TAP) to identify and formulate policies and actions to feed into a set of energy sector-specific recommendations that the Department of Commerce will ultimately evaluate for inclusion in the 2021 State Energy Strategy to deliver to the Governor and legislators by the end of 2020.

The CETI is engaging specialists from relevant government agencies, research institutions, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector, as well as Advisory Committee members, to assist in providing both quantitative and qualitative analysis of the technical, economic, regulatory, equity, and implementation issues associated with developing policies and actions for four energy sectors, **Electricity, Buildings, Transport, and Industry**, as follows:

- **Electricity** – Focused on the transition to carbon-free resources while meeting economy-wide electrification targets, via a mix of renewables, hydro, hydrogen, biofuels, and demand-side management; determining the role of gas as part of the supply mix; addressing reliability and affordability; grid modernization and integration, and expanded transmission

- **Buildings** – Focused on decarbonization and efficiency, building codes, appliances, and the role of gas in heating and cooling
- **Transport** – Focused on enabling a transition to accessible, affordable, zero-carbon mobility and transportation options, through reducing travel demand, improving efficiency, and promoting adoption of electric and other zero-carbon vehicles.
- **Industry** – Focused on options to transition energy- and carbon-intensive industries, as well as other manufacturing and industries to low, and ultimately zero-carbon production, while retaining and enhancing competitiveness.

Each sector TAP is tasked with addressing both sector-specific issues for each of the four sectors, as well as cross-sectoral overlap. To a significant extent, sector-specific and cross-sector solutions are intertwined, such as in electrification of the buildings and transportation sectors, which the deep decarbonization pathways modeling that the CETI is producing will draw out.

In addition, there are common issues and solutions across the four sectors, such as how to achieve an equitable transition; how to implement policy programs so that all communities in Washington benefit from the clean energy transition and address historical inequities; and how to avoid placing undue burdens on vulnerable or more dispersed populations. Additional cross-cutting issues include enhancing the state’s economic competitiveness, technology and market innovation, and addressing affordability. These will be addressed for each of the four sectoral focus areas, as well as throughout the SES.

The four sectoral TAPs are expected to identify key issues, significant opportunities or gaps in current approaches, and solutions that encompass policies; regulations; regulatory frameworks; infrastructure; programs; economic incentives; markets; business models; innovation; and research and development. While focusing on state and local government action, the scope includes identifying and advancing solutions to be implemented by the private and nonprofit sectors, as well as what is needed at the federal level.

## Criteria for Recommended Strategies

The TAP is to develop recommended strategies for each sector that in the aggregate meet these criteria:

- Put Washington firmly on the path to meet its 2030, 2045, and 2050 clean electricity and emissions reduction targets
- Facilitate an equitable transition, addressing workforce development and historically disproportionately impacted, communities, rural and urban alike
- Improve, and at a minimum sustain, Washington’s economic competitiveness
- Address reliability and security
- Address affordability with fair prices and distribution of opportunities and benefits
- Avoid locking in higher emissions pathways
- Provide technically and practically feasible actions that can be implemented and lay the groundwork for emergent solutions
- Support recovery from COVID-19-caused economic downturn, creating jobs and business opportunities
- Position Washington to leverage federal clean energy stimulus funds that might flow to the states.