

Learn More About

The Kittitas County Clean Energy Siting and Permitting (CESP) Project

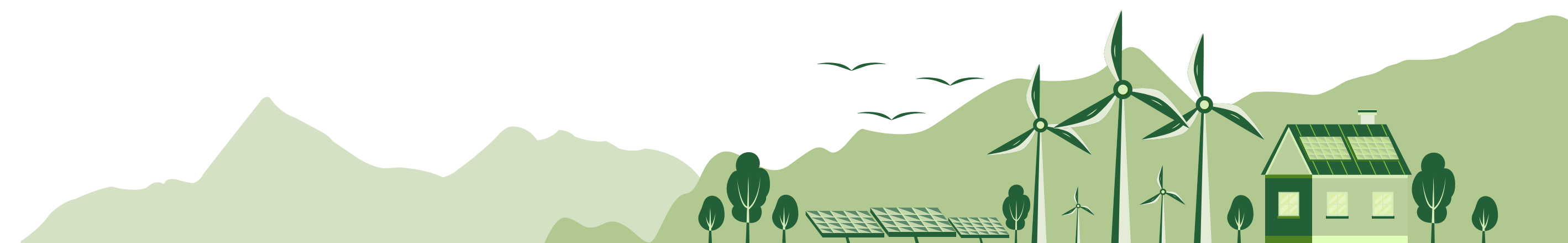


Learn more and sign up for updates

Kimley»Horn



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The Clean Energy Siting and Permitting CESP-CLEANENERGY25 RFA is supported with funding from Washington's Climate Commitment Act. The CCA supports Washington's climate action efforts by putting cap-and-invest dollars to work reducing climate pollution, creating jobs, and improving public health. Information about the CCA is available at www.climate.wa.gov.

Project Overview

Learn more
at the project
website:



Kittitas County is conducting a review and potential update of the local permitting processes for established and emerging energy technologies.

 **Important Note: This project does not mean that energy facilities will be automatically approved or permitted in specific areas.**

Instead, any application for an energy project will be reviewed individually to ensure it meets all requirements set by Kittitas County and the State Environmental Policy Act. Additionally, when future applications are filed, there will be opportunities for the public to receive notice, provide comments, and file appeals, allowing for community involvement in each proposed project.

The Kittitas County Clean Energy Siting and Permitting (CESP) project goals are to:

- ✓ **Determine what clean energy types are most suitable** for local permitting when proper mitigation is implemented during construction, operation, and decommission of projects
- ✓ **Retain local control of permitting** to provide greater opportunities for the community to participate and be heard during permitting processes
 - Where Kittitas County does not provide a permitting pathway for energy projects, the uses may still be permitted by the state's energy permitting process.
- ✓ **Develop and/or modify county code**, where appropriate, so project applicants and the public understand:
 - Where various uses may be appropriate
 - What studies and information is necessary to evaluate applications
 - The types of mitigation which may be appropriate for energy projects that are proposed in Kittitas County
- ✓ Where energy uses may be appropriate, **create a streamlined permitting process**

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Project Schedule and Process

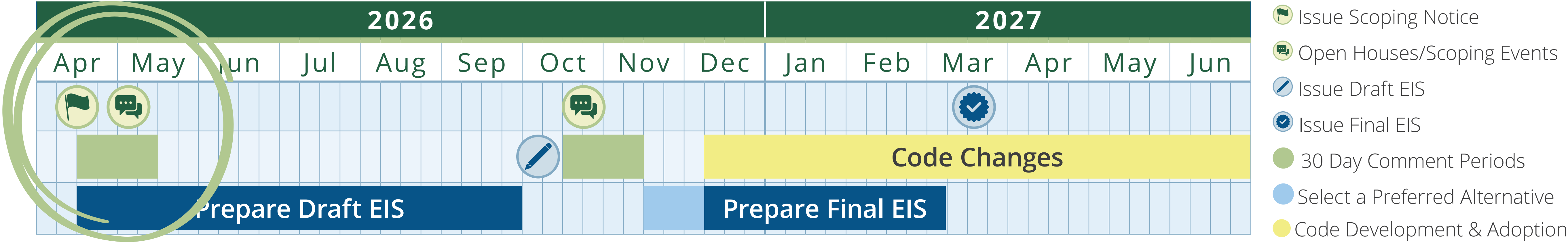
Learn more at the project website: 

To achieve the project goals, the CESP Project will:

-  **Complete an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** to evaluate appropriate locations, impacts, and mitigations for different energy uses
-  Use the EIS findings to **determine the approach for permitting energy uses**
-  **Engage the public, elected officials, agencies, tribes, and impacted communities** throughout the process to help inform the decision-making process

The CESP Project will be completed by June 2027 with work to progress through different phases.

EIS & CODE DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE



You Are Here

Additional community engagement opportunities include a comment period when the draft EIS is issued and during public meetings for the code updates with the Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners (BOCC).



Energy Uses and Related Impacts

Learn more
at the project
website:



Which energy types interest you the most?

Place a sticker dot under the energy type/s you are interested in.



Large Scale Solar



Large Scale Wind



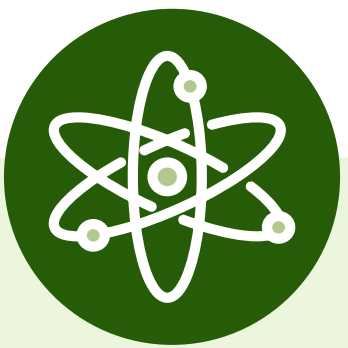
Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

BESS facilities are a technology which can store energy generated for later use.



Geothermal Energy

Geothermal energy consists of accessing the heat generated under the surface of the earth.



Small Modular Reactors (SMR)

SMR facilities are advanced nuclear reactors.



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What environmental factors are important to you?

Learn more at the project website: 

Kittitas County has identified the following elements of the environment for discussion in the EIS.




Earth Resources




Environmental Health and Safety




Visual Quality




Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases



Environmental Justice, Impacted Communities, and Overburdened Communities



Recreation




Water Resources




Tribal Rights, Interests, and Resources




Historic and Cultural Resources



Biological Resources
(species and habitats, including shrub steppe habitat)




Land Use, including agricultural and ranching uses and military installations and operations



Transportation



Energy and Natural Resources



Noise and Vibration



Public Services and Utilities



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What is Scoping?

Scoping is the first step in the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Environmental Impact State (EIS). Scoping lets people get involved early in the process, so their opinions and ideas can help shape what will be studied and considered.

Provide Your Input

The County would like your feedback on:

- Different energy-siting alternatives which should be considered
- Elements of the environment to be studied
- Potential impacts of concern
- Measures/mitigation which should be evaluated to reduce potential impact
- Any studies or other information the County should consider

Scoping comments may relate to one or more of the energy uses being studied and may vary by uses.

To provide comments by May 18, 2026:



Email **cleanenergy@co.kittitas.wa.us** with the subject line "EIS Scoping Period"

OR



Submit by mail to Kittitas County
Community Development Services 411 N
Ruby ST, Suite 2 Ellensburg WA 98926

What Happens Next?

After reviewing the comments received during the scoping period, Kittitas County will finalize the alternatives and environmental factors that will be analyzed under the EIS.

Learn More

To learn more about the proposal, read frequently asked questions, see the project schedule, and how you can get involved and stay updated, please visit the project website at <https://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/cds/cesp.aspx>

This website will continue to be updated throughout the project.



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Provide Feedback

Learn more at the project website:



What thoughts do you have about the County's approach? What stands out to you?

What potential impacts concern you the most? Are there impacts to add?

What matters the most to you as this work moves forward

What do you hope comes out of this study? What benefits are you interested in?

Is there anything we missed or should look at more closely?

