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

## Scoping Events – Summary



## *Event Details*

| | |
|---|---|
| **Date** | **May 2nd, 2026** |
| **Event #1:** | **Ellensburg Farmers Market** - Tabling<br>From 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.<br>4th & Pearl Street, Ellensburg WA 98926 |
| **Event #2:** | **Dru Bru - Cle Elum** – Open House<br>From 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.<br>1015 E 2nd Street, Cle Elum WA 98922 |
| **Facilitators** | **Kittitas County and Kimley-Horn Staff** |
| **Approximate Public Attendance** | **Total: ~80 attendees** |

*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.*

## *Event Purpose & Outcome*

**Purpose:** Inform and Consult

This engagement event provided an opportunity for the public to learn about the project, EIS scoping process, provide scoping comments. The events were also utilized to help identify key issues, potential impacts which should be explored during the EIS process, and listen to community concerns and excitment as the project begins.

**Intended Outcome:** Attendees left informed about the project and were better prepared to provide public comments during the scoping comment period.

## *Engagement Boards and Materials*



Seven engagement boards and three handouts were distributed at the Scoping Events. These included the following:

- Seven printed engagement boards
- Scoping Fact Sheets
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Sheets
- Scoping Comment Forms
- Sign-in Sheet

### Board 1: Learn More

The purpose of the 'Learn More' board was to draw attendees to the table and provide an opportunity for individuals to learn more about the Clean Energy Siting and Permitting project. This board created an opportunity for individuals to visit the project website whether they passed by or stopped to talk with the project team. The QR code

on the website directed people to the project website with resources and an opportunity to sign up for updates.

## Board 2: Project Overview

This board provided participants with information on what the CESP project is, what the project goals are, and specified that the project does not mean that energy projects will automatically be permitted in the county. This board was intended as the starting point for those first learning of the project or want to know more about the project goals.

## Board 3: Project Schedule and Process

A high-level overview of the project steps was provided along with the overall project schedule to show how and when the project is being completed. The project schedule displayed the full project timeline, the current project phase, and next steps for the project afterwards until June 2027.




## Board 4: Energy Uses

To hear input from the public, the energy uses board asked participants to express their interests in the five energy types being studied as a part of the CESP project. The five energy uses being large-scale solar, large-scale wind, battery energy storage systems, geothermal, and small modular reactors. Attendees were provided with sticker dots that they could place on any of the five energy types displayed. To place a dot meant that they were interested in that energy type. Participants could place a dot on more than one energy type.

## Board 5: Environmental Factors

Multiple elements of the environments are to be included as a part of the Environmental Impact Statement. These fifteen environmental factors were displayed to inform participants of the study being conducted. This board intended to be a starting point for discussions if participants had specific environmental concerns in mind after seeing the energy uses.

## Board 6: What is Scoping?

This board detailed the scoping phase of the environmental impact statement. The board provided information on what type of feedback the County is interested in, how to

provide comment, what happens after the comment period ends, and where to learn more. The scoping board intended to communicate to participants that the county wants public feedback to help shape project studies and considerations.

## Board 7: Provide Feedback

The final board posed five scoping questions to attendees, asking for questions and concerns surrounding the project. Each question held designated space for public feedback as part of the scoping process. It was intended that participants would add sticky notes to this board; however most participants engaged in discussions with the project staff instead of utilizing the board.

## Scoping Fact Sheet

The Scoping Fact Sheet provided additional information on the Environmental Impact Statement process and the scoping comment period.

## Sign-In Sheet

The sign-in sheet was provided at both events for individuals to become parties of record and receive notices as the CESP project progresses.

## Scoping Comment Forms

Scoping comment forms created an opportunity for interested parties to provide written comment after meeting with the project team. These forms were provided as take home materials with instructions on how to mail the forms back in or ways to provide online comments.

## Project FAQs

Printed copies of FAQs relating to the CESP project were provided as part of the printed handouts at the event. The FAQ document included questions regarding the project and energy uses being studied. It is intended that this document will continuously be updated as the project progresses and additional questions are asked

## *Engagement Activity*

Attendees were asked to place a sticker dot under the energy type/s that they are most interested in, whether that be concern or intrigue. The five energy types (solar, wind, battery energy storage systems (BESS) geothermal, and small modular reactors (SMR), were displayed as options on the boards. These uses were determined by the Board of County Commissioners to study in Kittitas County.



## *Engagement Results*

Results from both the Farmers Market and the Dru Bru Open House event were collected on the same activity board. Based on the results from the image below, it is evident that participants showed interest across a range of energy types.

Overall, geothermal energy received the highest concentration of stickers (24), displaying high public interest.

Large scale solar (18) and wind (18) as well as battery energy storage systems (18) also attracted substantial interest from the attendees. Although small modular reactors drew the least interest (15), the energy type still drew notable attention. Overall, the results shown in Figure 1 below highlight an interest in a diverse energy portfolio from Kittitas County participants.

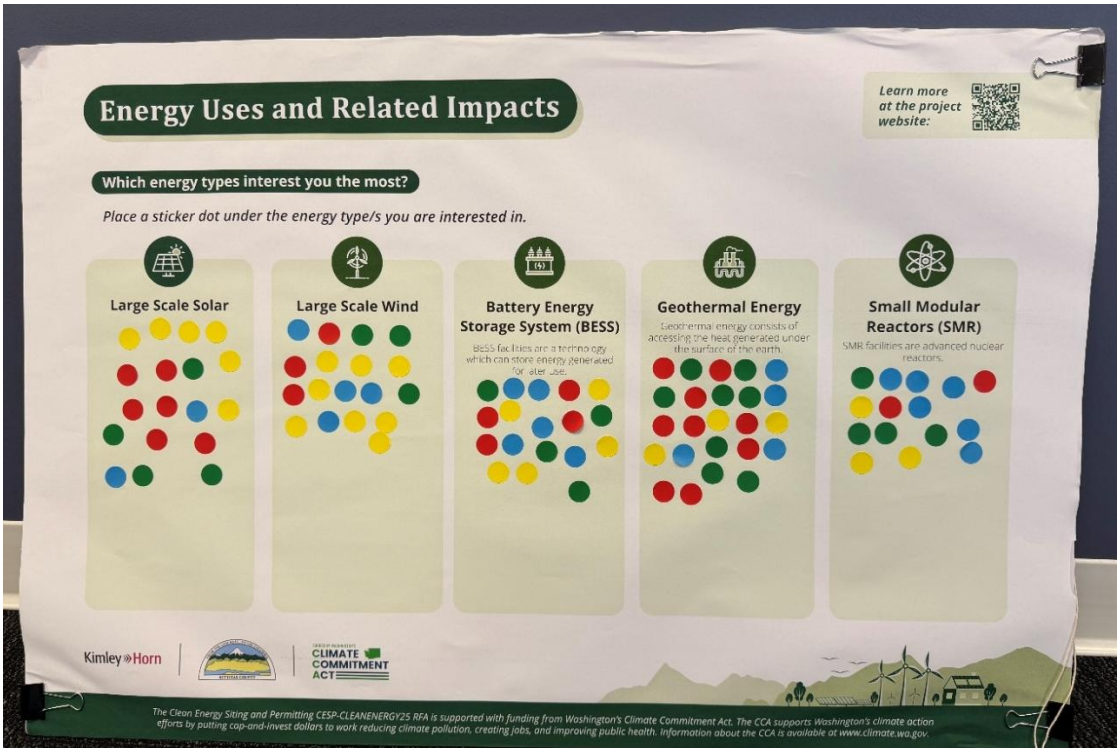
Sticker Results from Ellensburg Farmers Market:

- Solar – 12
- Wind – 12
- Battery Energy Storage Systems - 12
- Geothermal Energy - 17
- Small Modular Reactors - 13

Sticker Results from Cle Elum Open House

- Solar - 6
- Wind – 6
- Battery Energy Storage Systems - 6
- Geothermal Energy - 7
- Small Modular Reactors - 2

*Figure 1 Energy Use Engagement Activity – May 2nd*




Results are from the Scoping Engagement events in Kittitas County on May 2nd, 2026.

# List of Appendices

**Appendix A Scoping Event Engagement Boards**

**Appendix B Scoping Fact Sheet**

**Appendix C CESP Project FAQs**

**Appendix D Scoping Comment Form**

# *Appendix A Scoping Event Engagement Boards*

# Learn More About

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

***Learn more and sign up for updates***

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# 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:**

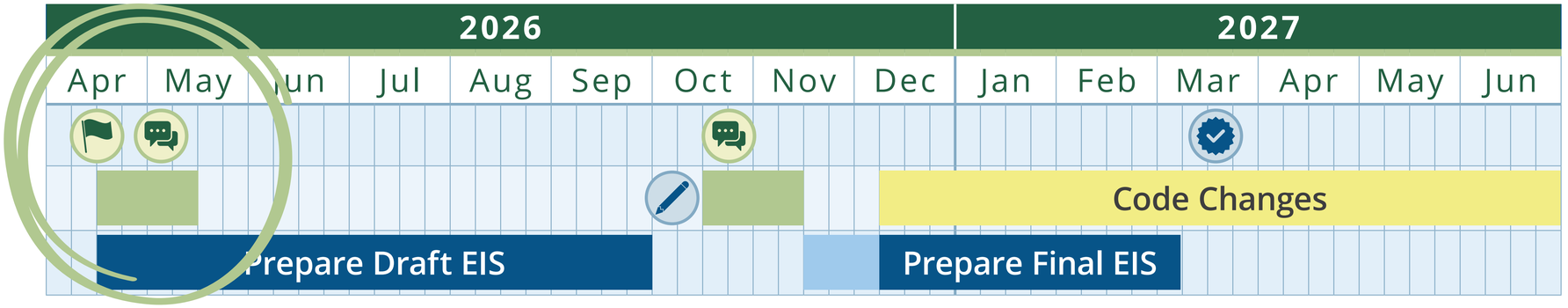
**Complete an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** to evaluate appropriate locations, impacts, and mitigations for different energy uses

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




- Issue Scoping Notice
- Open Houses/Scoping Events
- Issue Draft EIS
- Issue Final EIS
- 30 Day Comment Periods
- Select a Preferred Alternative
- Code Development & Adoption

***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).

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# 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-sitting 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?**

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## *Appendix B Scoping Fact Sheet*

KITTITAS COUNTY

# Clean Energy Siting and Permitting Project

## *Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Scoping Fact Sheet*

## What is a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)?

A Programmatic EIS under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) **evaluates the environmental effects of broad, planning-level proposals, rather than site-specific projects**.

The purpose is to provide detailed comparisons of planning alternatives, assess cumulative effects, and develop broad mitigation strategies in a clear and concise Final EIS. The process through which the EIS is developed will include time for the public and interested parties to comment on proposed policies, programs, and alternative scenarios.

Site-specific projects will be separately evaluated under SEPA and County code. Additional opportunities for public involvement will also be available at the project level.

For more information, see Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 197-11-400.

## Why is the County preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)?

An EIS is used when decisions involve multiple projects, long-term implementation, or large geographic areas that potentially have significant adverse impacts on the environment.

**The County has determined that the energy uses under consideration have the potential for significant impacts on the environment**. As such, the County is preparing an EIS to assess alternative energy uses, suitable and appropriate locations for each use, potential impacts, and appropriate mitigation measures.

## What is the process for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)?

This project will study the potential impacts of different energy uses and ways to mitigate potential impacts. **The EIS process includes the following steps:**

**Scoping** identifies the range of options and elements of environment to study*

Analysis of current conditions and **potential impacts** from the range of options

**Draft EIS** (DEIS) issued shares study findings*

**Final EIS** (FEIS) revised after public comment period

**Includes a public comment period.*

It is anticipated that after the DEIS is issued, a Preferred Alternative will be selected from the range provided in the alternatives for inclusion in the FEIS to aid in County decision making processes.



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## What is meant by "Scoping" and "Alternatives"?

**"Scoping"** is an opportunity for the public to provide early input on what environmental topics the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should focus on. It is particularly important for the County to know what energy uses and impacts are of greatest interest to the community.

**"Alternatives"** are the approaches that the County is considering as it relates to the energy uses for siting and permitting energy in the County. Alternatives represent a range of options that can highlight the potential significant adverse impacts of different choices. The alternatives are broad enough so that the final preferred scenario included in the siting and permitting changes falls somewhere within the range of alternatives studied.

## What impacts, or "elements of the environment", are being considered?

The natural, built, and social environment topics proposed for study in the EIS include those listed below.



Earth Resources



Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases



Water Resources



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



Energy and Natural Resources



Environmental Health and Safety



Environmental Justice, Impacted Communities, and Overburdened Communities



Tribal Rights, Interests, and Resources



Noise and Vibration



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



Visual Quality



Recreation



Historic and Cultural Resources



Transportation



Public Services and Utilities

Each Alternative would be evaluated with these topics.
A full list of potential SEPA topics can be found in WAC 197-11-444.

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# What Alternatives are being considered?

The County anticipates studying three Alternatives in the draft EIS as described below:

## *Alternative #1*

**No Action Alternative**, as required under SEPA, assumes that energy development for solar, wind, battery energy storage systems (BESS), geothermal, and small modular reactors (SMR) **would occur within Kittitas County based on the current development regulations with no changes**. The current Kittitas County Code (KCC) sections relating to energy development are KCC Chapter 17.61 Utilities, KCC Chapter 17.61A Wind Farm Resource Overlay Zone, KCC Chapter 17.61B Small Wind Energy Systems, and KCC Chapter 17.61C Solar Power Production Facilities. The processes and development code standards currently established in Kittitas County would be carried forward and any uses not permitted could be done through the permitting process established by the Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC).

## *Alternative #2*

**Re-evaluates locations suitable and appropriate for utility scale solar and wind along with current permitting procedures.** Current overlay locations (KCC 17.61C.030 Solar Power Production Facilities Overlay Map and KCC 17.61A Wind Farm Overlay Zone) may be modified based on findings. Additionally, significant environmental impacts associated with **battery energy storage systems (BESS) will be assessed** to determine suitable and appropriate locations in Kittitas County for BESS facilities. Where deemed appropriate, county permitting processes for utility scale solar, wind, and BESS may be modified to streamline the local permitting pathway and provide clear development standards with known mitigation measures.

## *Alternative #3*

**Evaluates significant environmental impacts for geothermal energy facilities and small modular reactor facilities.** The impacts associated with geothermal energy and small modular reactors will be assessed to determine suitable and appropriate locations in Kittitas County for geothermal energy facilities and small modular reactor facilities. Where deemed appropriate, county permitting processes may be modified to streamline the local permitting pathway and provide clear development standards with known mitigation measures.

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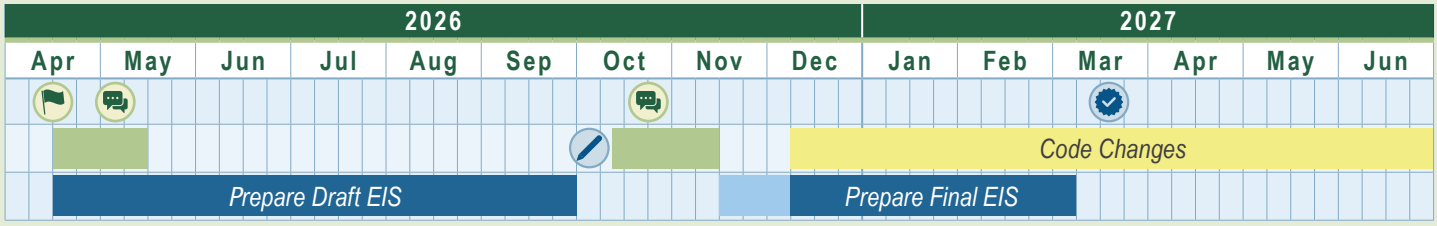
# What is the anticipated schedule?

**The County is due to complete the final energy siting and permitting process changes by June 2027.** The draft EIS assists the planning process and the decisions made to plan for energy siting. The schedule below shows the project schedule.

PROJECT STEPS

- Evaluate initial list of energy uses to study
- Analyze siting locations, environmental impacts, and mitigation
- BOCC selects initial options for siting energy uses
- Develop draft code consistent with BOCC direction
- Public meetings, hearings, and adoption of new code

EIS & CODE DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE




- *Issue Scoping Notice*
- *Open Houses*
- *Issue Draft EIS*
- *Issue Final EIS*
- *30 Day Comment Periods*
- *Select a Preferred Alternative*
- *Code Development & Adoption*

**Last Updated April 7, 2026**

This scoping period and the draft EIS comment period provide key public comment opportunities.

## How can I provide input during the scoping period?

The County will collect public input on what factors the EIS should consider from **April 16th to May 18th**.

After the end of the scoping comment period, the County will review and summarize the comments received, sharing what was heard. The comments provided will be considered as part of the scope of the EIS.

Please note that this comment period is to identify elements to study in the EIS.

A 30-day comment period will also be held when the draft EIS is published (anticipated for October 2026)

### Online Comments

may be emailed to cleanenergy@co.kittitas.wa.us with "EIS Scoping Comment" in the subject line.

### Written Comments

may be submitted by mail to:

**Reference:** Clean Energy Siting and Permitting Scoping Comment

**To:** Kittitas County Community Development Services

**Address:** 411 N Ruby ST, Suite 2 Ellensburg WA 98926

## How can I learn more and receive updates?

To learn more about the Clean Energy Siting and Permitting Project and EIS, visit **co.kittitas.wa.us/cds/cesp.aspx** for continued updates.

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# *Appendix C CESP Project FAQs*

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

## What is the Clean Energy Siting and Permitting (CESP) Project?

Kittitas County is reviewing and updating its local permitting process for energy technologies by completing a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) to evaluate suitable areas and mitigation measures for different potential energy uses.

## What is the purpose of the Clean Energy Siting and Permitting (CESP) Project?

The purpose of the CESP Project is to:

- Determine what energy types are most suitable for the County to permit,
- Retain local control of permitting in Kittitas County for identified energy uses,
- Study the impacts of varying energy uses and mitigation for those impacts,
- Develop and/or modify County code, where appropriate, so project applicants and the public understand:
    - Where uses may be appropriate,
    - What studies and information are necessary to evaluate applications, and
    - The types of mitigation which may be appropriate for energy projects that are proposed in Kittitas County.
- Where energy use may be appropriate, create a streamlined permitting process.

## What type(s) of energy facilities are being studied?

The Clean Energy Siting and Permitting (CESP) Project is studying the environmental impacts for the following energy types and related uses:

- Large-scale solar,
- Large-scale wind,
- Geothermal energy,
- Battery energy storage systems (BESS), and
- Small modular reactors (SMRs).

These energy uses were selected by Kittitas County and confirmed by the Board of County Commissioners to address both established and emerging technologies for a reflective and proactive approach.

## Doesn't the County already permit these energy types?

Some of them, yes.

Kittitas County has permitting processes and pre-identified areas for solar and wind energy facilities, while specific permitting processes for battery energy storage systems (BESS) and geothermal energy have not been developed. Small modular reactors (SMRs) using nuclear fission would be permitted through appropriate state and federal processes.

This project both assesses the existing energy permitting processes in the county and may expand the energy uses the County permits to include emerging technologies of geothermal energy, SMRs, and BESS. This study considers appropriate energy locations, related impacts, and potential measures to reduce impacts. By assessing and streamlining the permitting process, the project aims to reduce hurdles in areas where a project may be appropriately sited and create a more efficient and predictable environment for energy development.

## Does this project mean the energy types will be developed in Kittitas County?

No. This project is a proactive measure to strengthen local permitting and provide clarity in development processes - including locations, application requirements, and mitigation measures for these uses - if the County is approached by parties interested in developing these energy uses.

## If Kittitas County does not provide a permitting pathway for energy projects, is there a possibility that they still may be built?

Yes. If Kittitas County does not provide a permitting pathway for varying energy projects, they may still be permitted by the Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) permitting process.

Therefore, if Kittitas County does not create proactive codes which identify appropriate locations for possible future projects and mitigation to address possible project impacts, a project may still be permitted and built. The PEIS is focused on providing permit pathways that not only provide predictability to applicants, but also keep permitting decisions local, so the community has a stronger voice.

## How else would this project help the Kittitas County community?

Through an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process, this project will study the potential impacts of different energy uses and ways to mitigate those potential impacts.

If a future applicant decides to permit an energy project through the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) permitting process instead of permitting through Kittitas County, the County can utilize previous environmental analysis completed during this project to advocate for mitigation measures on behalf of the community.

## Will the result of this project be new code and development standards which will automatically allow uses in certain areas?

The result of this project may include the development of new and modified codes. These codes will more thoroughly outline where uses may be sited if code requirements are met, the standards, studies, and other information which must be provided as part of an application, and the types of mitigation which should be evaluated within an application.

Each application submitted under new codes will then be individually evaluated for compliance with Kittitas County code and under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). Future applications will also include opportunities for public noticing, commenting, and appeals.

## The County is completing a SEPA Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as part of this project. What does that mean?

A Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) evaluates the environmental effects of broad, planning-level proposals, rather than site-specific projects. It is used when decisions involve multiple projects, long-term implementation, or large geographic areas. The Programmatic EIS provides enough detail to compare planning alternatives, assess cumulative effects, and develop broad mitigation strategies.

Site-specific projects will then be separately evaluated under SEPA and County code. Separate opportunities for public involvement are also provided at the project level.

## I like/dislike the idea of certain energy facilities being built in Kittitas County; how can I share my input?

There will be opportunities throughout the project to provide input related to the specific energy uses being studied.

The project team would appreciate helpful feedback and comments on:

- Concerns related to potential environmental impacts in Kittitas County to adequately "scope" the study;
- Locations of interest or concern within Kittitas County;
- Mitigation methods to reduce potential impacts;
- Potential community benefits communities would like to see;

It is important to remember that where Kittitas County does not provide a permitting pathway for energy projects, they may still be permitted by the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) permitting process.

Therefore, helping shape where uses may be appropriate and appropriate types of mitigation to require for future applications will be very helpful in creating a streamlined code, which assists in keeping local permitting decisions local.

## How can I participate in this process?

Kittitas County has created a website for this project (https://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/cds/cesp.aspx). The website outlines the project goals, schedule, and opportunities for you to get involved. It will host important project information during comment periods and offers a location for you to sign up to get notified to receive notice for public events, meetings, and public hearings.

## How can I stay updated about this project?

Signing up for newsletters using the QR code will keep you updated as project developments occur during the project.

Kittitas County has a project website that provides information on project related events, documents, project schedule, and ongoing project updates for the duration of the project. The County will collaborate with local jurisdictions, community groups, and more through social media to share information and event notifications.

**Visit the project website at the QR code above**

# Energy Use and Permitting

## How are energy projects permitted in Kittitas County?

There are two different agencies which may permit energy projects:

1. Kittitas County
2. Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC).

Developers can choose the specific permitting process for their project; each has tradeoffs and considerations associated with it. The Department of Ecology provides a comparison of the permitting pathways (https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/2406001.pdf).

Providing local permitting options which are streamlined, efficient, and mitigate project impacts should result in more projects being submitted to the County vs. the EFSEC process.

## When energy uses are permitted through EFSEC, what does that mean?

The Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) process is done with the EFSEC Council making a final recommendation to the governor for approval. **The EFSEC process can bypass local County regulations**. Additionally, EFSEC has jurisdictional authority over nuclear fission energy facilities, including certain small modular reactors (SMRs).

You can learn more about EFSEC here: https://efsec.wa.gov/.

## What types of clean energy uses are permitted in the county currently?

Kittitas County currently permits the following clean energy uses:

- Solar energy systems, ranging from residential solar panels to utility-scale solar farms (KCC 17.61C);
- Wind energy projects, with both small-scale turbines and major wind farms already operational (KCC 17.61A and KCC 17.61B); and
- Geothermal energy, as a “special utility facility” (KCC 17.61.020(6)).

Battery energy storage systems (BESS) are not specifically addressed in current code and may be treated as facilities associated with energy generation facilities or as standalone facilities using other County processes under KCC 17.61.

Small modular reactors using nuclear fission would be subject to the Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) process and include a land use consistency hearing.

A summary of the selected energy uses and local permitting pathways are provided below.

| Energy Use | Specific local permitting standards? | Current Local Permitting Pathway | Potential Changes After Environmental Review |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Large Scale Solar** | Yes | Includes locations, requirements, development standards, and decommissioning standards. | May modify locations, requirements, mitigation, ongoing certification, and/or decommissioning measures. |
| **Large Scale Wind** | Yes | Includes requirements and pre-identified areas for locating projects. | May modify locations, requirements, mitigation, ongoing certification, and/or decommissioning measures. |
| **Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)** | No | It may be permitted under County general utility requirements or through the EFSEC process. | May add requirements for BESS as a standalone and accessory use, including locations, requirements, and mitigation measures. |
| **Geothermal Energy** | No | It may be permitted under County general utility requirements or through the EFSEC process. | May add requirements for geothermal facilities such as locations, requirements, and mitigation measures. |
| **Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)** | No | SMRs using nuclear fission are required to use the EFSEC process. Future SMRs using nuclear fusion may use local government or EFSEC permitting pathways. | May add requirements for SMRs. Future SMRs using nuclear fission will still be permitted through EFSEC. |

## What do large scale solar facilities include?

Large scale solar facilities, sometimes referred to as “utility-scale” or “solar farms”, refer to technologies that absorb energy from the sun. Photovoltaic (PV) solar systems consist of absorbing solar panels, while older technologies include concentrating or reflecting solar energy. Large scale PV systems differ from rooftop solar panels or solar microgrid facilities by both the scale of the energy generated and where the energy generated goes. Large scale solar facilities typically require an onsite collection and substation system and interconnect with the transmission grid.

To learn more about solar energy, visit the following resources:

How Does Solar Work? | Department of Energy

## What do large scale wind facilities include?

Large scale wind facilities, sometimes referred to as “utility-scale” or “wind farms”, refer to facilities that generate electricity from the wind using turbines and energy from the wind. The large-scale wind facilities require coordination with several agencies regarding use of airspace and can be a collection of wind turbines arranged on the same or a series of adjacent properties. Similar to large scale solar facilities, they need an onsite collection and substation system.

To learn more about wind energy, visit the following resources:

Wind Energy Basics | Department of Energy

## What is a “Battery Energy Storage System” (BESS)?

Some energy facilities, such as solar and wind, cannot generate electricity constantly. Similarly, electrical grids do not always need energy at the same time as energy is generated. BESS facilities are technology which can store energy generated for later use.

To learn more about BESS, visit the following resources:

Solar Integration: Solar Energy and Storage Basics | Department of Energy

Battery Energy Storage Systems Are Here: Is Your Community Ready? | Feature | PNNL

## What is geothermal energy?

Geothermal energy consists of accessing the heat generated under the surface of the earth. To utilize geothermal energy for electricity generation, three elements are

needed: heat, fluid, and permeability (small paths in soils for fluid movement). A variety of systems, conventional and emerging technologies, use geothermal heat to produce steam or hot liquid that then spin turbines.

To learn more about geothermal energy, visit the following resources:

Geothermal Basics | Department of Energy

Geothermal Electricity Generation | Department of Energy

## What is a "Small Modular Reactor" (SMR)?

Small Modular Reactor (SMR) facilities are advanced nuclear reactors. These facilities are smaller than conventional nuclear power facilities and are modular, meaning they can be factory assembled and transported for installation.

To learn more about this type of energy facility, visit the following resources:

Advanced Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) | Department of Energy

What are Small Modular Reactors | International Atomic Energy Agency

Siting of small modular reactors (SMRs) | EFSEC

*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.*

## *Appendix D Scoping Comment Form*

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

## Scoping Comment Form

## Personal Information:

**Name:**_____

**Email:**_____

**Address:**_____

**City:** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

The scoping comment period for the CESP Project is from April 16th, 2026, to May 18th, 2026. Written comments on the EIS can be submitted any time prior to 5:00pm on May 18th, 2026.

Online comments may be emailed to cleanenergy@co.kittitas.wa.us with "EIS Scoping Comment" in the subject line.

Please send written comments to the following address:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Reference:** | Clean Energy Siting and Permitting EIS Scoping Comment |
| **To:** | Kittitas County Community Development Services |
| **Address:** | 411 N Ruby ST, Suite 2<br>Ellensburg WA 98926 |

## Designated Comment Space:

Visit the project website at
https://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/cds/comp-plan/cesp.aspx