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"Building Partnerships – Building Communities"

Kittitas County:
Milestone C

Clean Energy Siting and Permitting
Reporting Period:

- ***Deliverable C.1*** – June 16, 2026 – October 12, 2026

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Deliverable C.1 Community Engagement Progress Report

Engagement Objectives

- Engagement goals, as outlined in the Public Engagement Plan v3.0, include:
- Informing the public, stakeholders, agencies, and Tribes about the project scope and process.
- Consulting on community concerns, preferred energy types, siting considerations, and potential impacts/mitigations.
- Involving key parties to help shape alternatives, the Draft EIS, and development code recommendations.
- The approach emphasizes proactive, multi-channel outreach using Inform, Consult, and Involve strategies to reach diverse audiences, including elected officials, local districts, federal/state agencies, Tribes (Yakama Nation, Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation), agricultural groups, environmental organizations, utilities, and impacted communities.

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.

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Engagement Activities Completed to Date

Since the project kickoff meeting on February 24, 2026:

- Finalized and distributed the Project Charter v3.0 and Public Engagement Plan v3.0 for internal review and alignment.
- Conducted initial internal coordination to confirm roles, SharePoint access, and communication protocols (biweekly check-in meetings established).
- Began development of core informational materials, including a project FAQ sheet and scoping fact sheet.
- Coordinated with Kittitas County staff on website hosting (County-managed landing page with Kimley-Horn-provided ArcGIS Story Map).
    - Kittitas County Community Development Services | Clean Energy
    - Kittitas County Clean Energy Siting and Permitting (CESP)
- Identified and began outreach planning for key stakeholder groups listed in the Engagement Plan.
- Early messaging has focused on project transparency: explaining the programmatic EIS process, the exploratory nature of studying multiple energy technologies, and opportunities for public input without pre-approving specific projects.
- Completed joint briefing with the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and Planning Commission scheduled for April 14, 2026.
- Previously report engagement events:
    - Scoping Notice issuance, comment period (April 16, 2026 – May 18, 2026)
    - Ellensburg Farmers Market (Downtown Ellensburg)
        - Date: May 2, 2026
        - Time: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
        - Format: Mobile event / informational booth at the popular weekly market (Saturdays, May– October). Expected high foot traffic from residents, families, and visitors.
    - Dru Bru Taproom (1015 E 2nd St., Cle Elum, WA)
        - Date: May 2, 2026
        - Time: 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM
        - Format: Similar informational setup at this family-friendly brewery/restaurant in the heart of Cle Elum. This afternoon timing targets local residents, workers, and evening patrons in the Upper County area.
    - Easton Memorial Day Celebration (Easton Townsite)
        - Date: May 23, 2026
        - Time: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
        - Format: Informational booth during street fair. Expect high foot traffic from

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residents, families, and visitors.

- Deliverable C.1 completed engagement activity:
  - Stakeholder and Tribal Meetings
    - Date: July 21 – July 24, 2026
    - Format: Video Conferencing

Date	Participant Group	Attendees
July 21, 2026	Staff of Yakama Nation	Yakama Nation Fisheries and Cultural Resources representatives (2 people attended)
July 21, 2026	General Stakeholders	Local governments, agencies, military representatives, chambers of commerce, county departments, EFSEC, public works, public health, and other community stakeholders (15 people attended)
July 21, 2026	Utility Stakeholders (BPA)	Bonneville Power Administration representatives (2 people attended)
July 21, 2026	Utility Stakeholders (PSE)	Puget Sound Energy representatives (3 people attended)
July 21, 2026	Staff of Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation	Tribal staff and Traditional Territories Program representatives (2 people attended)
July 23, 2026	Environmental Groups	Conservation organizations, environmental nonprofits, Audubon representatives, and habitat advocates (5 people attended)
July 23, 2026	State and Resource Agencies (WDFW, Ecology, DNR)	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Ecology, and Department of Natural Resources staff (7 people attended)
July 23, 2026	Central Washington University (CWU)	CWU facilities, geology, and sustainability staff (3 people attended)
July 23, 2026	Fire Districts and Emergency Response Agencies	County fire districts, fire marshals, fire chiefs, and DNR representatives (6 people attended)
July 23, 2026	Staff of Snoqualmie Indian Tribe	Tribal cultural resource staff (1 people attended)
July 24, 2026	Agricultural Stakeholders	Kittitas County Conservation District, Farm Bureau, agricultural producers, cattlemen's organizations, and USDA representatives (2 people attended)

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Planned Engagement Activities and Schedule

Engagement is ongoing and aligned with major project phases (per the Engagement Plan and high-level schedule). Task to be completed for Deliverable D include:

- *Draft EIS Phase (October–November 2026)*:
    - Draft EIS Open House and comment period.
- *Development Code Phase (2026–2027)*:
    - Public briefings, hearings, and final adoption proceedings.
- Ongoing tools include the project website/Story Map, printed materials (flyers, mailers with QR codes), e-newsletters, and social media amplification in coordination with the County and local partners.

These events align with the Engagement Plan's strategy for informational tabling at community events (April–September 2026) to reach broader audiences, reduce barriers (casual settings, no formal meeting required), and gather diverse input. Materials will be translated as appropriate, and feedback will be documented to inform scoping comments and the Draft EIS.

Next Steps and Anticipated Engagement

- Track and summarize all input (comments, conversations) for inclusion in engagement summary reports.
- The team will continue monitoring participation barriers (e.g., scheduling conflicts, diverse opinions) and applying mitigations such as clear messaging, flexible formats, and targeted outreach.

Findings

Thirteen stakeholder and tribal meetings were held between July 21 and July 24. Stakeholders and tribal members provided input on the draft SEPA alternatives. Key themes include agriculture, shrub-steppe and wildlife habitat preservation, protection and respect of cultural and tribal resources, water resource allocation, and public safety and emergency response considerations. Discussions will help ensure that the draft EIS and SEPA alternatives reflect local and state priorities.

This progress report satisfies Attachment B, Deliverable C.1 by documenting community and Tribal engagement completed between June 16, 2026, and October 1, 2026, and the engagement scheduled through DEIS issuance.

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