



Breakout 2: Large-Scale Renewables

Community Engagement and Value Propositions

Kendra Kostek
Senior Advisor on Siting and Permitting



EERE Programs

State Technical Assistance Program:

- The program is offered in conjunction with Berkeley, PNNL, and NREL.
- The goal of the program is to provide high-impact TA and resources at scales and intervals that are responsive to public utility commissions and SEOs. 3 support options: help desk, expert match, and deep dive.

C2C (Clean energy to Communities):

- C2C connects local governments, Tribes, electric utilities, and community-based organizations with national lab experts and customized, cutting-edge analysis to achieve clean energy systems that are reflective of local & regional priorities.
- 3 support options: expert match, peer to peer, and in depth.

RSTEP (Renewable energy Siting through Technical Engagement and Planning):

- R-STEP program expands the decision-making capacity and expertise of state and local governments around large-scale renewable energy planning, siting, and permitting.
- 12 collaboratives announced this year.

SEEDS (Solar Energy Evolution and Diffusion Studies):

- \$9.5 million for social science research that generates actionable insights to improve large-scale solar siting processes and outcomes for host communities as well as the solar industry and other stakeholders.
- 4 projects selected in June.

R-STEP: Stakeholder Engagement Informed Program

Scope

- Feedback from over half SEOs
- Siting is local; host communities can determine siting/planning of large-scale facilities
 - Federal, state, and local agencies play varying roles
 - Local governments have formal (~40 states) or informal siting authority in every state
- Opposition from host communities challenging to address; trust dynamics play a key role
 - Trusted conveyors of information (SEO, extension, CBOs) can improve local dynamics
- State and local governments may lack the necessary staffing capacity (expertise and resources)
 - Capacity will be further stretched as the size and number of proposed renewable energy projects increase

EERE Role

To improve large-scale renewable energy planning, siting processes, and outcomes for host communities, local governments, and renewable energy developers.

1. Provide **funding** for capacity expansion at state level
2. Provide **technical assistance** to institutionalize expertise
3. **Disseminate** achievement and **convene** interested stakeholders

Contact Info

Contact info:

Kendra Kostek

Kendra.Kostek@ee.doe.gov