

# Focus on: Siting low-carbon energy projects

## Purpose

Ecology is studying how to improve siting as well as environmental review and permitting processes for low-carbon energy projects in Washington. The study will gather input to develop recommendations for improving permitting and siting processes for these clean energy projects while considering how to reduce impacts to the environment, tribes, and highly impacted communities. Ecology will use the study to develop recommendations for a report to the Washington Legislature. Clean energy projects can help the state achieve future greenhouse gas limits required under state law. The study will:

- Help contribute to low-carbon economic development and support good in-state jobs.
- Reduce potential adverse impacts to the environment and local communities.
- Preserve tribal consultation and treaty rights.

## Engagement and consultation

Ecology is working in partnership with the state Department of Commerce and coordinating with other state agencies and the Governor's Office.

To get input on the study, the department will engage a variety of groups including tribes, business and industry, environmental organizations, ports, environmental justice entities, labor organizations, local governments, and the public. Ecology and its partners will deploy numerous tools and methods to gather input and feedback including:

- An advisory board with representative stakeholders and tribal representatives
- Government-to-government consultation
- Tribal information sessions and forums
- An interagency team
- Public informational meetings

## Study focus

The study is concentrated on clean energy projects that can help achieve greenhouse gas emission limits required under state law. Such projects may include:

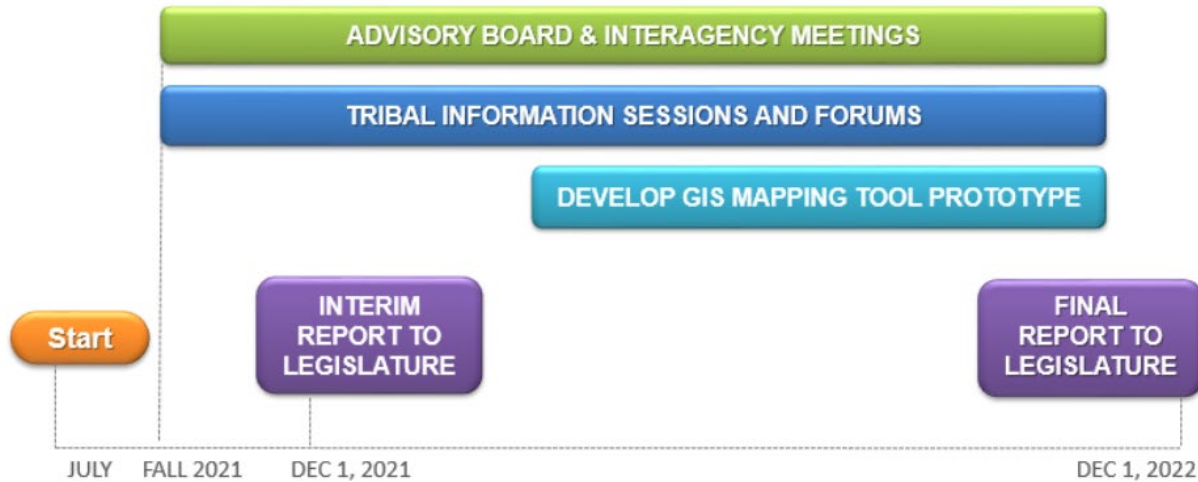
- Bio-refineries and refineries producing alternative fuels
- Solar and wind farms
- Solar and energy storage major component manufacturers, including electric vehicle batteries
- Pumped storage hydropower and battery energy storage facilities
- Green hydrogen facilities
- Offshore energy facilities (e.g., wind, tidal)

The study will help identify **systemic** issues related to:

- Siting projects
- Environmental review and permitting processes
- Tribal treaty rights and cultural resources processes
- Consideration of highly-impacted communities

## Timeline

Ecology has developed a timeline outlining when major actions are likely to occur. This multi-faceted approach will provide a variety of opportunities to gather input from interested parties throughout the process.



## Legislative Reports

**The Dec. 1, 2021, interim report will include:**

- Information about parties involved
- Approach to develop the siting study
- Overview of other siting work in Washington state

**The Dec. 1, 2022, final report will:**

- Provide recommendations to improve siting and permitting processes
- Identify additional studies or actions needed in the future

## Related Information

- Additional information available on the [Low-Carbon Energy Project Siting Improvement Study webpage](#)
- [Provide input or feedback](#) for the study
- [Review input and feedback](#)
- [Sign up for email list](#) to get updates on the study



Diane Butorac  
 diane.butorac@ecy.wa.gov  
 360-407-6573



To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6573 or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.