



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

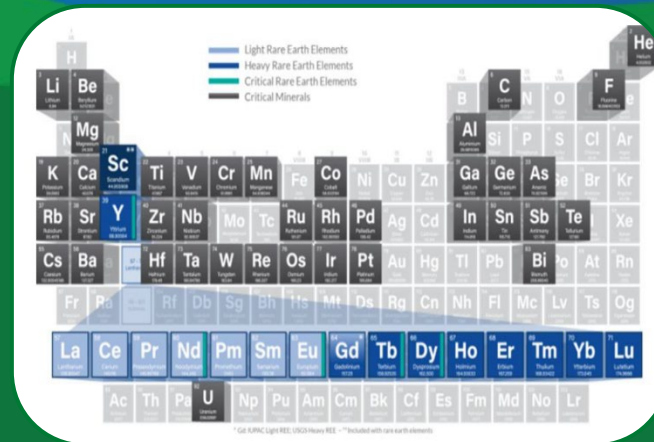
Fossil Energy and
Carbon Management

A Community Benefits Plan Framework for Critical Mineral Projects

Natenna Dobson

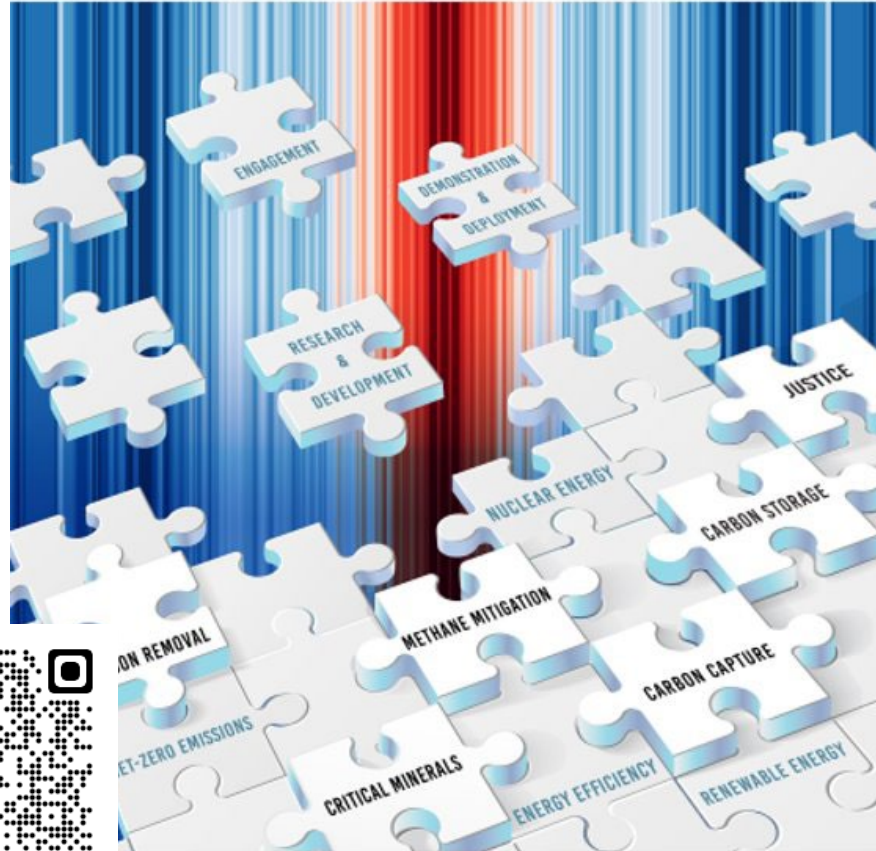
Fossil Energy and Carbon Management, Office of Resource Sustainability

May 2024



STRATEGIC VISION

The Role of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management in Achieving Net-Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions



Planning for Societal Considerations & Impacts in FECM Projects

Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management

Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management » Resources »
Planning for Societal Considerations & Impacts in FECM Projects

The projects that build the clean energy economy will create new infrastructure that holds the potential to drive new regional economic development, technological innovation, and high-wage employment for communities across the United States as we work to make progress on the nation's climate goals. At the same time, it is critical to understand and address the societal considerations and impacts of these projects at local, regional, and global levels.

Apply to Become an SCI Reviewer!

Projects funded by the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management will develop the following plans to address societal considerations and impacts, ensuring projects center on engagement and are sustainable and equitable:

- Community, Tribal, and Stakeholder Engagement
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility
- Justice40
- Quality Jobs

Learn more about each of these project plan areas below.



What is a Community Benefits Plan?

New requirement for all Bipartisan Infrastructure Law/Inflation Reduction Act-funded funding opportunity announcements. CBPs are reviewed by subject matter experts and count for 20% of an applicant's final score.

If the project is selected:

- DOE will incorporate the **CBP** into the award and the recipient will be **required to implement** the **CBP** as proposed.
- During the life of the award, DOE will **evaluate** the recipient's progress.



Do *all* projects now require a CBP?

No. The CBP requirement applies only to opportunities funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act.

However, all FECM projects must incorporate Societal Considerations and Impacts (SCI). A CBP is one way to do this.

If a CBP is not required, FECM SCI guidance and requirements will apply.

The screenshot shows the website header for the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management. The navigation menu includes 'ABOUT US', 'MISSION', 'SCIENCE & INNOVATION', 'RESOURCES', and 'SERVICES'. The 'RESOURCES' menu is expanded, showing a dropdown arrow. The main content area features a green header with the title 'Planning for Societal Considerations & Impacts in FECM Projects' and the subtitle 'Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management'. Below the header, there is a breadcrumb trail: 'Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management > Resources > Planning for Societal Considerations & Impacts in FECM Projects'. The main text discusses the importance of societal considerations and impacts for clean energy projects, stating that they create new infrastructure and economic development. It also lists four key areas for project plans: Community, Tribal, and Stakeholder Engagement; Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility; Justice40; and Quality Jobs. A call to action button says 'Apply to Become a Reviewer'. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner of the page.

Four priorities

1. Community and Labor Engagement
2. Workforce Development
3. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility
4. Justice40 Implementation



SMART milestones and adequately resourced

Specific, Measurable,
Achievable, Relevant, and
Time-bound

Dedicated personnel and
budget to ensure successful
implementation



What if my project is early technology readiness level (TRL)?

Flexible CBP framework recognizes that DOE projects have different phases and TRLs, including:

- Bench-scale R&D
- R&D that may advance to commercialization, but is currently in the feasibility and analysis phase
- Demonstration & Deployment

Guidance for R&D projects that may advance to commercialization in future phases

- Research, analysis, and assessment of potential impacts
- Early engagement with diverse stakeholder groups
- Two-way engagement

The screenshot shows a webpage from the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management. The page title is "Planning for Societal Considerations & Impacts in FECM Projects". The page content includes a navigation menu with "ABOUT US", "MISSION", "SCIENCE & INNOVATION", "RESOURCES", and "SERVICES". The "RESOURCES" menu is expanded, showing the current page. The main content area features a green header with the title and a sub-header "Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management". Below this, there is a breadcrumb trail: "Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management > Resources > Planning for Societal Considerations & Impacts in FECM Projects". The main text describes the importance of addressing societal considerations and impacts for clean energy projects. A call-to-action box on the right says "Apply to Become a Reviewer!". Below the text, there is a list of project plan areas: "Community, Tribal, and Stakeholder Engagement", "Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility", "Justice40", and "Quality Jobs". A QR code is located in the bottom right corner of the page.



One-Way Engagement → Two-Way Engagement

Format	Project leaders “inform” or “educate” the public with a presentation and Q&A session.	➔	Project leaders and communities have a collaborative dialogue with listening and learning on both sides. Project leaders and communities both choose topics, make presentations, and ask and answer questions.
Goal of engagement	Secure acceptance from a community	➔	Identify “ win-win ” options for the project and communities
Defining success	Success = community understanding of how the project works and its limitations.	➔	Success = mutual understanding of everyone’s priorities, concerns, and limitations.
Defining impacts and benefits	Project leaders determine who may be impacted and how the community may benefit	➔	Project leaders and communities work together to identify potential impacts and desired benefits
Designing a project	Project leaders assume communities aren’t interested in data or research, just site impacts and benefits	➔	Project leaders and communities talk about site impacts and benefits and also look for opportunities to produce data and research together that benefit everyone

Types of challenges noted during reviews

- Do not reflect an understanding of local context, history
- Only include an institutional DEIA plan not specific to project
- DEIA plan focuses on early career stage only, not leadership
- Narrow focus on certain stakeholder types
- Rely on one-way information sharing
- Inadequate resources dedicated to implementation
- Commitments to DEIA and benefits lack specificity and accountability

Community Benefits Plan Resources

Planning for Societal Considerations and Impacts in
FECM Projects



About Community Benefits Plans + Template



Community Benefit Agreements



Questions?

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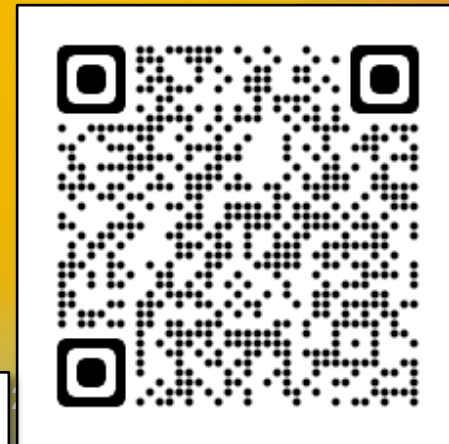
Program Manager

Natenna.dobson@hq.doe.gov

Emily Brooks, PhD

Engagement Advisor

Emily.brooks@hq.doe.gov



Apply to review FECM projects! →



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