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Community Benefit Plan Guidance for Research & Development

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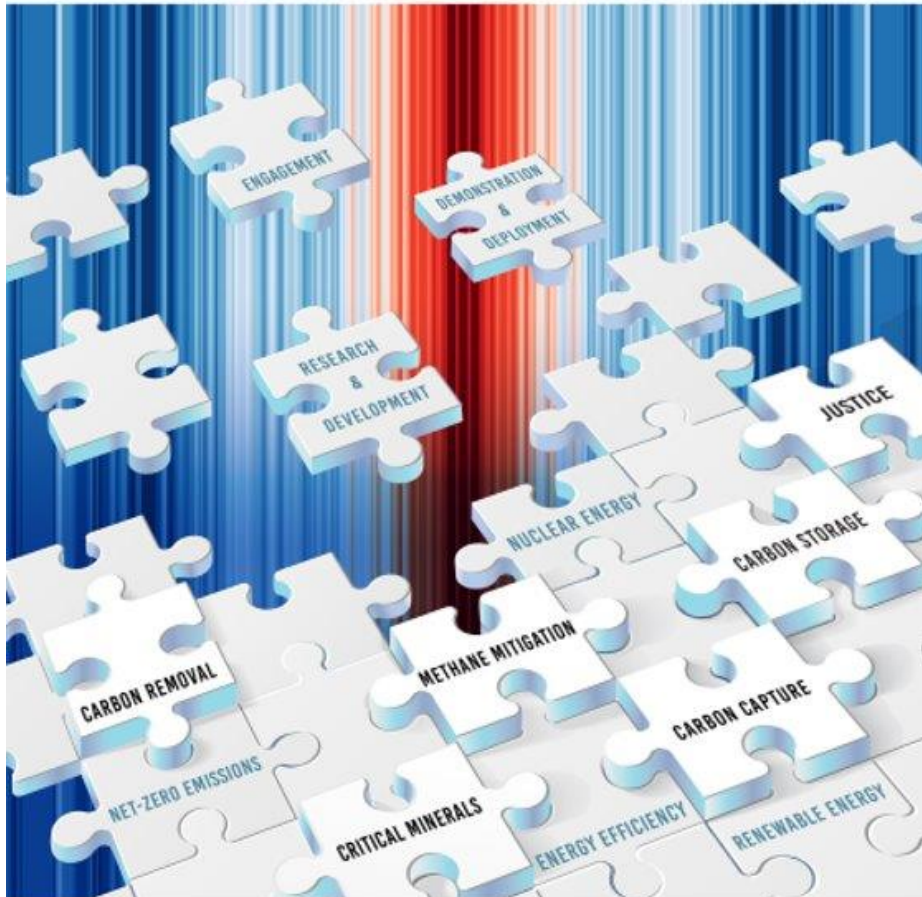


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Fossil Energy and
Carbon Management

STRATEGIC VISION

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



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"FECM prioritizes the **meaningful participation** of communities, with special focus on disadvantaged communities; a just distribution of benefits; and emphasis on remediating legacy harms while also mitigating new impacts. These principles will be at the center of funding decisions."



What is in Community Benefit Plans?

- Community and labor engagement
- Good jobs and workforce continuity
- Diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility
- Justice 40 implementation



What if my project is early ‘technology readiness level’?

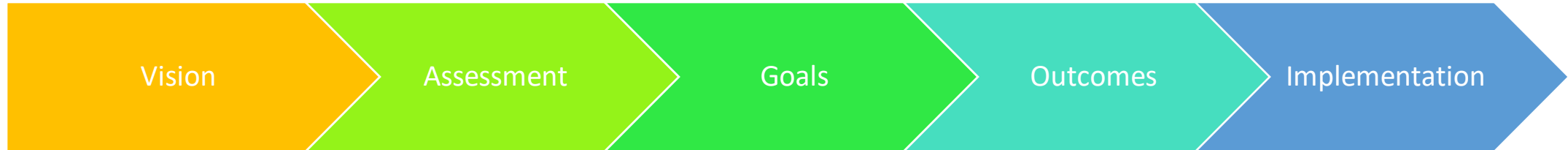
Flexible framework recognizing that DOE projects have different phases and TRLs, including:

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

*Refer to FOA for specific application requirements



Plans are action-oriented



Example Plan:

Vision: *We affirm we care about justice / engagement / DEIA*

Assessment: *We mapped or assessed underserved communities / stakeholders / DEIA*

Goals: *From our assessment, we know X is lacking, so we want to improve in X*

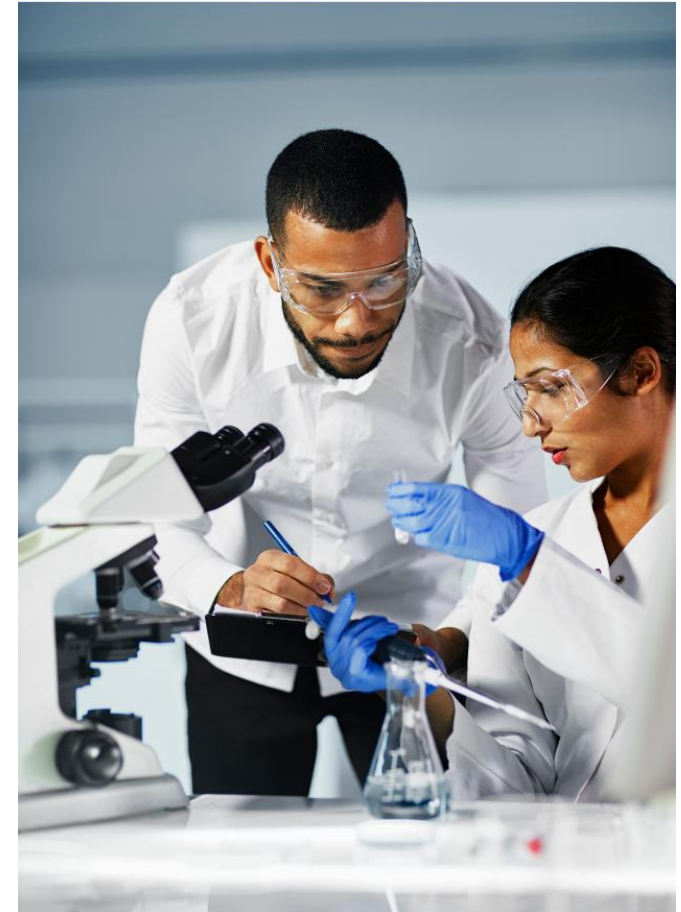
Outcomes: *We know we have succeeded when Y (specific target) is reached*

Implementation: *To achieve Y, [specific actor] has to do Z [in specific timeframe]*



'Bench-scale' R&D projects emphasize:

- Energy Equity
- Workforce
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility
 - Initial DEIA Assessment
 - Plan that addresses:
 - Organizational and cultural change
 - Hiring workforce development
 - Engagement and outreach practices





SMART milestones and adequately resourced

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

Dedicated personnel and
budget to ensure successful
implementation





Bench-scale example: Goal > Outcome > Implementation

You are a PI applying for funding to test a bench-scale CO₂ capture process

Analysis of past outreach activities show that findings have been reported exclusively to academic audiences or specialized peer-review journals.

Goal: Disseminating research to a more diverse audience

Outcome: Developing one relationship with a minority-serving institution (MSI) within the next year and sharing your results and expertise with them

Implementation strategy: Contacting a specific number of departments or programs within the nearest MSI to see if they would be interested in sponsoring a research visit to lab for their students to learn about the research and careers in the field



Research and development that may advance to commercialization, but is currently in the feasibility and analysis phase

- Research, analysis, and assessment across priorities
- Early engagement to support relationship building with community and labor stakeholders
- Articulate a process for future engagement activities and agreements



Feasibility and analysis example: Goal > Outcome > Implementation

Your project team is applying for funding for a geologic carbon storage complex feasibility assessment.

Goal: To understand workforce implications of the project if it were to advance to commercialization in future phases.

Outcome: Complete a workforce assessment to understand opportunities, needs, and potential partners.

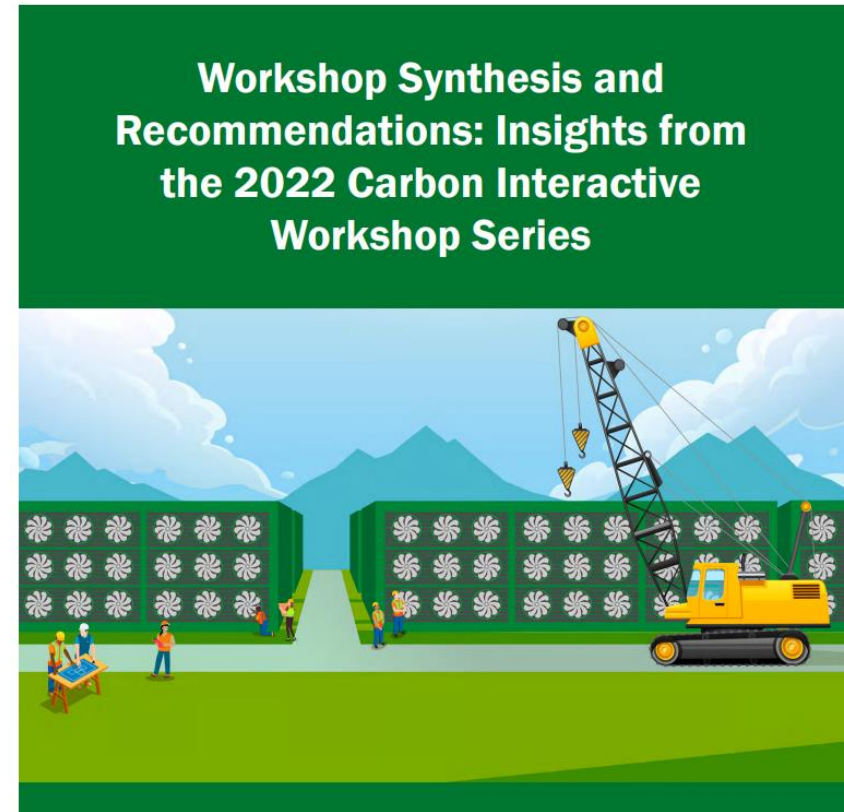
Implementation strategy: Member of the team leads process to collect and analyze data to assess current workforce and identify needs for future phases.



Opportunity to integrate meaningful participation early in the process



Posted questions from community members at Carbon Management Dialogue in Houston, TX on Nov. 17, 2023



March 2023



Resources for plan development

- Planning for Societal Considerations and Impacts in FECM Projects
 - <https://www.energy.gov/fecm/planning-societal-considerations-impacts-fecm-projects>
- About Community Benefit Plans + Template
 - <https://www.energy.gov/infrastructure/about-community-benefits-plans>
- Community Benefit Agreements
 - <https://www.energy.gov/justice/community-benefit-agreement-cba-toolkit>

The screenshot shows the website header with navigation links: ABOUT US, MISSION, SCIENCE & INNOVATION, RESOURCES, and SERVICES. The 'RESOURCES' link is selected, and a dropdown menu is visible. 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, the page content includes 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 societal considerations and impacts for clean energy projects. A call-to-action box on the right says 'Apply to Become an SCI Reviewer!'. A list of project plan areas is provided: Community, Tribal, and Stakeholder Engagement; Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility; Justice40; and Quality Jobs. A link to learn more about each area is also present.



Thank you!

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