



QR CODE FOR
MEETING
MATERIALS

CESA National Membership Meeting **Washington, DC – May 15 to May 16, 2023**

DAY ONE – Monday, May 15th
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG)
Meeting Sessions to be held in the Training Center (1st Floor)
777 North Capitol Street NE
Washington, DC 20002

1 PM – 2:15 PM – OPTIONAL GROUP TOUR by RSVP – Smithsonian American Art Museum, 950 Independence Ave SW; use F Street Entrance

12:20 pm - Meet in the lobby at the Kellogg Conference Hotel to travel to the museum with the group by the Red Line Metro to Gallery Place. Please have DC Metro cards purchased in advance. Or meet the group at the museum at 12:50 pm for the docent-led tour, at the F Street Entrance Info desk. Luggage cannot be accommodated at the museum. Meet Deborah, our guide, near the information desk. RSVPs needed to participate.

2:25 PM – Assemble at Kellogg Hotel Lobby to travel MWCOG venue via Metro – Red Line to Union Station. Please have metro cards purchased in advance if possible.

2:45 PM - Arrive at MWCOG offices to go through Security – Please have photo IDs with you.

3:00 PM – MWCOG Offices – Training Center – 1st Floor

Session 1

Welcome

- Betsy Kauffman, CESA Board Chair; Sector Lead - Renewable Energy, Energy Trust of Oregon
- Warren Leon, CESA Executive Director

3:20 PM

Session 2

Introductory Networking Activity

Meeting attendees will have an opportunity to network and learn about their colleagues through informal encounters.

4:20 PM

Session 3

Challenges and Opportunities - PART ONE

Over the course of the two-day meeting, each participating organization will give a five-minute presentation about a challenge or opportunity the organization is facing and addressing. The presentations will be divided into four topical groupings with two groups presenting simultaneously as breakout sessions. There will be about five presentations in each session followed by questions and discussion.

Session 3A: Energy Equity and Community Engagement

- Moderator: Abbe Ramanan, CESA Project Director

Session 3B: Energy Storage

- Moderator: Gabe Epstein, CESA Project Associate

5:30 PM

Session 3 Wrap Up

Return to plenary. Discuss breakout groups' highlights.

5:45 – ADJOURN

Walk to the Monocle Restaurant

6:00 - 8:30 PM

**Group Dinner – The Monocle Restaurant - 107 D St NE
2nd Floor, Federal North and South Rooms**

DAY 2 – TUESDAY, May 16th
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
First Floor Training Center – 1st Floor
777 North Capitol Street NE, Washington, DC 20002

JAMBOARD for Member Input: <https://tinyurl.com/CESA2023Jam>

CESA meeting attendees will be encouraged to add notes and ideas to an online Jamboard to provide input and ideas on the following topics: (1) **Obstacles** to a CESA Member organization’s success, (2) **Opportunities** for collaborative activity among states, and (3) **How** CESA can help (this can include suggestions for webinar topics, needed analysis, regional discussions, multi-state activities, etc.). CESA staff will summarize the ideas on the Jamboard and share them with the Members after the meeting, along with recommendations for how to collectively move forward.

Please have photo IDs and Proof of Covid vaccination with you.

8:25 AM - Meet in hotel lobby to travel to MWCOG via Metro to Union Station.

9:00 AM – MWCOG Office –Training Center – 1st Floor

Session 1

New Federal Tax Credits: What States Should Know and Do

A panel including a preeminent authority on tax structuring in the US from law firm Norton Rose Fulbright and a leading policy expert from FTI Consulting will discuss what states should know and do about the new innovative features of the investment tax credit and production tax credit, i.e., transferability and direct pay. The discussion will include a summary of the challenges and opportunities brought about by these new tax credit features for developers’ and utilities business models, as well as a walk-through of potential project structures, and a Q&A.

Moderator:

- Vero Bourg-Meyer, CESA Project Director

Panelists:

- Keith Martin, Co-Head of Projects, United States, Norton Rose Fulbright
- Shannon Maher Bañaga, Senior Managing Director, FTI Consulting

10:30 AM

Break

10:45 AM

Session 2

Helping Disadvantaged Communities Benefit from Federal Initiatives

The Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law include many provisions designed to benefit disadvantaged communities, low-income households, and people of color. But accessing those benefits will not necessarily be easy and the intended recipients will need help in understanding the opportunities, navigating the federal bureaucracy, and applying for opportunities. The states can play an important role in helping their residents do these things, but how can the states go about that? This session will address that topic.

Moderator:

- Anna Ziai, CESA Project Director

Panelists:

- Ari Gerstman, Program Manager, State Energy Program Transformation and Planning, US Department of Energy
- Yesenia Rivera, Executive Director, Energy Allies

12:00 PM

Lunch

1:00 PM

Session 3

Challenges and Opportunities - PART TWO

Over the course of the two-day meeting, each participating organization will give a five-minute presentation about a challenge or opportunity the organization is facing and addressing. The presentations will be divided into four topical groupings with two groups presenting simultaneously as breakout sessions. There will be about five presentations in each session followed by questions and discussion.

Session 3A: Solar

- Moderator: Matt Ohloff, CESA Project Manager

Session 3B: Jobs/Workforce Development/Offshore Wind

- Moderator, Sam Schacht, CESA Research Associate

2:10 PM

Break

2:25 PM

Session 4

States’ Opportunities to Learn About and Engage with FERC

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Office of Public Participation has been created “to empower, promote, and support public voices” at FERC. Office Acting Director Nicole Sitaraman will discuss what they have learned since the Office was established in 2021, how states can make use of the Office, and advice for states on engaging with FERC.

Moderator:

- Sara Harari, Associate Director, Innovation and Senior Advisor to the CEO, Connecticut Green Bank

Presenter:

- Nicole Sitaraman, Acting Director, FERC Office of Public Participation

3:15 PM

Session 5

Addressing Cost Increases and Supply Chain Problems

A variety of factors have increased the cost of clean energy project development. At the same time, supply chain problems have slowed the development process. This has made it more difficult for states to achieve their near-term clean energy goals. This session will consider what states and the federal government can and should do to address these problems.

Moderator:

- Warren Leon, CESA Executive Director

Panelists:

- MJ Shiao, Vice President, Supply Chain & Manufacturing, American Clean Power
- Jose Zayas, Executive Vice President, Policy and Programs, American Council on Renewable Energy

4:15 PM

Break

4:25 PM

Session 6

Strategies for Overcoming Barriers to Transmission and Interconnection

To get large quantities of renewable energy onto the grid is going to require additional transmission and speedier processes for interconnection. Some of the barriers to transmission and interconnection are beyond the ability of states to influence easily. But what can the states do productively to help overcome these barriers? This session will offer a range of perspectives and ideas on that question.

Moderator:

- Todd Olinsky-Paul, CESA Senior Project Director

Panelists:

- Jeffery Dennis, Deputy Director for Transmission, Grid Deployment Office, US Department of Energy
- Ammar Qusaibaty, Co-Lead, US Department of Energy Interconnection Innovation e-Xchange (i2X)

5:35 PM – Adjourn for Reception; take shuttle bus to reception

6:15 PM – 8:30 PM

Evening: CESA Networking Reception and 20th Anniversary Celebration

American Geophysical Union (AGU) Rooftop Terrace

(NOTE: You must show proof of Covid Vaccination or a recent negative Covid test to enter AGU. Please bring your card or a photo of it on your phone.)

A wide range of individuals from the federal government, NGOs, and the clean energy industry who are based in the DC area will be invited to meet with the CESA Members attending the meeting. The reception will celebrate CESA's 20th Anniversary and include the announcement of the recipient of the first *Lewis M. Milford Clean Energy Champion Award*. The reception will feature a wide selection of food and beverages that will be served as dinner for meeting participants.

8:30 – Shuttle bus back to Hotel
