



CREATING GOOD JOBS, A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT, AND A FAIR AND THRIVING ECONOMY

BlueGreen Alliance Federal Siting and Permitting Reform Principles

The principles below reflect the commitment of the BlueGreen Alliance (BGA) partners to advance proactive and timely permitting and siting solutions at the federal level that strengthen grid reliability, meet rising clean energy and industrial demand, protect long-term affordability for ratepayers, and accelerate the deployment of clean manufacturing and energy, while maintaining strong environmental protections.

Protect Clean Energy Projects from Arbitrary Disruption

The permitting process should not be used to arbitrarily obstruct clean energy deployment. Once projects have gone through the permitting process and earned approval, that approval should not be subject to political interference or unwarranted reversals.

1. **Principle:** Reform must protect lawfully permitted clean energy developments from arbitrary permit revocations, stop-work orders, and other politically motivated disruptions.
2. **Principle:** Reform must reduce risk for responsible clean energy deployment, both by providing financial mechanisms to de-risk investments into viable projects and by ensuring adequate capacity and expertise at federal agencies to complete timely reviews.
3. **Principle:** Reform must prohibit federal solar or wind energy moratoria, or similarly restrictive land-use policies, that pre-emptively block the responsible deployment of clean energy and related infrastructure, while preserving meaningful community input and environmental protections. Projects should be evaluated on their individual merits rather than subject to broad restrictions on specific technologies.

Utilize Data and Technology to Modernize the Permitting System

When project information is fragmented, inaccessible, or outdated, confusion and delays follow. Modernized data systems could provide clear, real-time visibility into requirements, responsibilities, and project status.

4. **Principle:** Reform must ensure timely public access to permitting information, including agency procedures, review status, major milestones, and other key analyses as available, so communities and project sponsors can track progress in real time.
5. **Principle:** Reform must modernize environmental reviews through digitization, interoperable data standards between agencies and across levels of government, and other tools that improve coordination and support timely, well-informed decisions.

6. **Principle:** Reform must promote the creation of an integrated, user-friendly permitting portal that helps applicants navigate federal, state, Tribal, and local requirements in one place and reduces fragmentation between jurisdictions.

Identify and Promote Process Efficiencies

Efficiency and thoroughness are not conflicting values. Comprehensive and detailed reviews remain essential to protecting communities and the environment, but delays are driven by administrative fragmentation, unclear timelines, and insufficient staffing. Reviews can move faster through process efficiencies such as smarter sequencing, earlier coordination, and stronger agency capacity.

7. **Principle:** Reform must provide clarity early by empowering a single, lead agency to coordinate interagency reviews, establish a transparent review schedule and a dashboard to track project status, in order to provide applicants and the public with a clear point of accountability.
8. **Principle:** Reform must make appropriate use of programmatic and tiered reviews, which proactively review and analyze broader impacts when suitable, and complete reviews of site-specific impacts when needed.
9. **Principle:** Reform must consolidate timelines by directing agencies to conduct their respective reviews for clean energy projects concurrently and in coordination with the Environmental Assessment (EA) and Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) processes, as feasible to reduce unnecessary duplication and delay.
10. **Principle:** Reform must identify opportunities to avoid siting disputes by encouraging clean energy project developers—through cleanup funding, technical assistance, and prioritization in the permitting process—to utilize unused, disturbed, or contaminated lands, such as brownfields, retired mines, and closed landfills, without displacing or deterring the prospects of reindustrialization.
11. **Principle:** Reform must build and sustain capacity at federal agencies to conduct permitting, including staffing, technical expertise, and project management resources, to ensure complete and detailed reviews are conducted as speedily as possible, and to enable the other reforms named in this document.

Support Meaningful Community Engagement

Effective siting and permitting depends on public engagement that builds trust and ensures meaningful participation to deliver outcomes that are fast, fair, and final. Projects are more durable and successful when communities—especially low-income, Tribal, and other frontline communities—have a meaningful opportunity to shape decisions early.

12. **Principle:** Reform must ensure agencies have dedicated, senior-level staff capacity that can guide stakeholders through the participation process and help ensure engagement is timely, credible, and inclusive.

13. **Principle:** Reform must provide funding for technical assistance to help enable communities and project sponsors alike to participate effectively, understand requirements and deadlines, and engage in meaningful consultation throughout the permitting process.
14. **Principle:** Reform should incentivize projects that demonstrate clear and impactful commitments to workers and communities, including project labor agreements, community benefits agreements, commitments to environmental protection, and other enforceable agreements to ensure that the gains from the project are widely shared.
15. **Principle:** Reform must build adequate capacity among state, Tribal, and local agencies by providing the requisite agencies with financial support to reach and sustain adequate staffing levels to conduct community outreach and coordination.

Build a Better, Cleaner, and More Reliable Transmission Grid

Transmission is essential to delivering reliable, affordable clean energy and meeting national energy needs, yet current planning, interconnection, and siting processes are failing to deliver transmission at the pace required. Proactive regional planning and stronger federal coordination are necessary to accelerate transmission buildout.

16. **Principle:** Reform must utilize Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) authority to advance interregional transmission planning at the scale needed to move power across regions, reduce congestion, and ensure clean energy can reliably reach load centers when and where it is most needed.
17. **Principle:** Reform must give FERC siting authority over major interstate transmission lines above 345 kV , while preserving meaningful environmental review and opportunities for community engagement.
18. **Principle:** Reform must modernize and standardize the generator interconnection processes to address the ineffectiveness of current procedures, such as deploying new technology to help expedite interconnection studies.
19. **Principle:** Reform must support the development of durable domestic supply chains by establishing procedures to standardize the interoperability of equipment for transmission networks.
20. **Principle:** Reform must incentivize cost-effective upgrades to existing transmission infrastructure, including grid-enhancing technologies, advanced conductors, substation improvements, and other advanced transmission technologies, to increase grid capacity, reduce congestion, and accommodate new clean energy generation and industrial users.