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# Memo

**Date: 12/4/24**

**To: ETAC**

**From: Carla Vita, Director Energy Transition**

## RE: ETO Updates

### Updates

* Mobilizing Climate-Aligned and Community-Led Capital. DEED led with the financial support of the McKnight Foundation to bring RMI (Rocky Mountain Institute) to MN to educate interested impacted communities, counties, PIIC and others. We invited Initiative Foundations, Regional Development Commissions, IRRR, Blandin, Great Plains Institute, other non-profits, many State Agencies and CDFIs. Goal is to educate on Federal Funding current and proposed, State funding opportunities, brain-storming to enhance bringing funds/projects/opportunities to MN and/or impacted communities. For more information, please let Vita know or reach out to Lowney, Hallock, Fleming, Felber, Fergus Falls, and others.

On-going meetings will occur with those attending from impacted communities, counties, PIIC and teammates. The meetings will help trouble-shoot, find and develop resources and have presenters for us to learn from locally and nationally.

* Itasca Just Transition Meetings

ETO Director, DEED Workforce Strategy Consultant and EQB have attended all the meetings and some of the townhalls. Vita has also been attending, advising and assisting IEDC on the February 2025 event from all the Itasca Just Transition meetings.

* Becker Incubator meetings

ETO Director and DEED Business Development Manager Heyer have been attending. A business incubator is a project that Becker is exploring, among many others, to assist in the economic diversification of their power plant closure.

* Newsletter set monthly
* Check-ins: Impacted communities, counties, PIIC, Coalition of Utility Cities, Federal partners, State partners, non-profits and more. The impacted community/county/PIIC check-ins include DEED Business Development, Workforce Strategies, ETO Grants and Director, and the Environmental Quality Board staff assigned to impacted communities. The meetings have produced great brain-storming and individualized 1:1 assistance for the community. Information from the convenings, webinars, and other check-ins assist in the work performed at these meetings.
* Attended the MN Power IRP meetings and Xcel Energy Quarterly meeting for SHERCO and King.
* ETO Strategic Plan & Implementation meetings occur frequently with BD Executive Director and ETO staff. We achieved all 1/4ly goals to this point, and have been meeting and working on goals that the Strategic Planning Group planned for 2025 already.
* REE – staff attended the meeting. July newsletter has info on the meeting.
* BRECC – West Virginia & Webinars– Staff participated in the learning. In West Virginia we learned about the impact of tourism on economic diversification, redevelopment of former schools to housing to meet some housing needs, non-profit work to train recovering opioid addicts to careers and assist on stabilizing their personal lives, working on best practices for the NACO conference in February.
* National Just Transition Meeting. Lots of education on the important of Story-telling. Work on how to story-tell to educate on the work and needs of transition communities. Education on funding options, and great networking with other locations in the US that are also working on transition.
* Presentations: Arizona State Just Transition Summit
* Education: Attended and education on ETO at the State Fair.