

**Iowa Energy Plan – Economic Development and Energy Careers Working Group
Second Meeting, April 5, 2016**

**Iowa Economic Development Authority
2nd Floor, Main Conference Room
200 East Grand Avenue, Des Moines**

Meeting Objectives

- To **dive deeper** into the conversation and continue to **develop current challenges and areas of opportunity** and organize them by topic area.
- To **share expertise** around topic areas area and frame the issues associated with that topic.
- To **gather more information** and facts on issues and opportunities.

Agenda

10:00 AM	Introductions
10:05 AM	Working Group Approach and Meeting Objective
10:15 AM	Recap of Meeting #1 and Follow-up Items
10:35 AM	Facilitated Discussion
11:55 AM	Next Steps
12:00 PM	Adjourn

WORKING GROUP MEETING #2 – TOPICS AND QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Economic Development and Energy Careers

TOPIC: Attracting and Retaining Business

- How do we attract and retain businesses? What do businesses look for? What makes them select other states or select Iowa? Is this different for small business and large industry?
- What are the industries that we should focus on attracting to Iowa? (Mentioned in kick-off meeting: energy efficiency, renewable energy, data centers, energy storage, and supply chain manufacturing for the energy sector.)
- What is preventing growth in these industries and what can we do to break down the barriers?

TOPIC: Energy Affordability and Equity for Individuals

- Are particular populations more vulnerable to increases or volatility in energy costs?
- What are the challenges that these populations face? How can we alleviate these challenges?
- Are the costs of energy resources (electricity, natural gas, LPG etc.) a concern? For regulated resources, does the ratemaking process provide opportunities to address cost concerns? What can be done for unregulated resources?

TOPIC: Reducing Energy Costs for Businesses

- How can we reduce energy costs for companies doing business in Iowa? Energy efficiency was one opportunity mentioned during the kick-off meeting.
- What are the benefits and implications of distributed energy generation and use?
- What are the best approaches for flattening the energy load? How can we share this information with businesses?

TOPIC: Career-Path Education and Training Needs

- How do we attract individuals to the energy sector and train them?
- How do we align education and training to meet workforce needs?
- What are the education and training priorities? At the K-8 or high school level? For community college? For universities? For private industry?
- Is there a need to have certification programs for certain industries?

TOPIC: Providing Public Education

- What do we need to educate the public on? What are the priorities?
- How can we accomplish this? Who should be responsible for education?

- How do we ensure that information is accurate and unbiased?

TOPIC: Research and Development

- Should Iowa focus on specific R&D topics or areas? Which ones?
- Do certain technologies show promise for the state?
- How can we foster coordination and collaboration across National Labs and universities?

TOPIC: Financing and Capital Needs

- How can communities finance energy efficiency and distributed generation?
- What programs or options can we create to assist communities? What is available currently and what works?
- What are the financing structures that work in the energy industry today? What could work for Iowa?

TOPIC: Rural Economic Development

- What are potential job opportunities for rural areas? Distributed generation – particularly solar energy – and energy efficiency were mentioned in the working group kickoff meeting. What can we do specifically?
- Can we tap into local communities for capital such as investments in industrial parks and incubators?
- What are the most promising technologies and industries that can bring about economic development in rural areas?

TOPIC: Energy Trade Imbalance

- How much energy are we losing through transmission? How could reducing transmission loss improve Iowa's energy trade balance?
- How much additional energy generation is possible in Iowa, particularly from renewable resources (wind, solar, biomass, biogas, etc.)? What kinds of policies or incentives are necessary to support in-state generation from these resources?