

# Onshore Renewable Energy

## Equity and Community Engagement



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<https://www.epri.com/environment-and-sustainability/quality-and-environmental-justice>



EPRI

# About

# Us



## Nonprofit

Chartered to serve the public benefit, with guidance from an independent advisory council.



## Thought Leadership

Systematically and imaginatively looking ahead to identify issues, technology gaps, and broader needs that can be addressed by the electricity sector.



## Independent

Objective, scientific research leading to progress in reliability, efficiency, affordability, health, safety, and the environment.



## Scientific and Industry Expertise

Provide expertise in technical disciplines that bring answers and solutions to electricity generation, transmission, distribution, and end use.

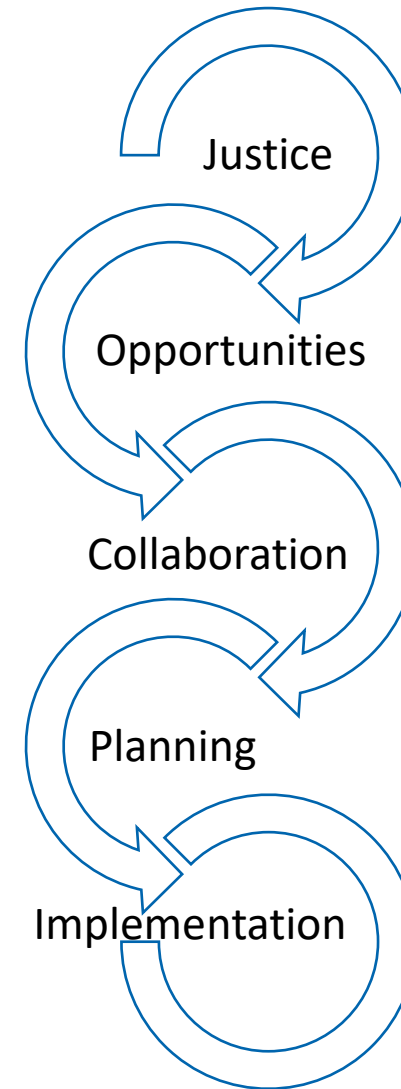


## Collaborative Value

Bring together our members and diverse scientific and technical sectors to shape and drive research and development in the electricity sector.

# Background

- Disadvantaged communities can benefit from the clean energy transition
- Equitably distributing decarbonization costs and benefits requires deliberate planning and program implementation
- Public and private sector decision-making will directly impact equity and environmental justice.
- Ensuring distributive and procedural justice is important to a beneficial transition
- New analytical tools and demonstration projects can deliver early benefits



There are few times when industry evolution has converged in tandem with a societal need





# Renewable (wind and solar)

## IMPACTS



Noise and other disruption from construction



Incompatible industrial land use and visual intrusion depressing property values



Disproportionate benefit of clean energy dispatched to other communities



Altered stormwater runoff impacting fenceline communities



Impacts to sacred or culturally significant resources or lands



Competition for agriculture lands



Public concern over noise from wind turbines



Potential impact on wildlife and ecosystems surrounding or within the site



Potential impacts from decommissioning, waste disposal, and redevelopment

<https://www.epri.com/research/products/0000000030020271>

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# Renewable (wind and solar)

## OPPORTUNITIES



Greenspace and access designed for the community's needs



Internships, apprenticeships, and jobs for underrepresented groups



Proactive community involvement in siting and development



Access to low-cost clean energy



Community ownership or compensation



Increased resilience in vulnerable communities

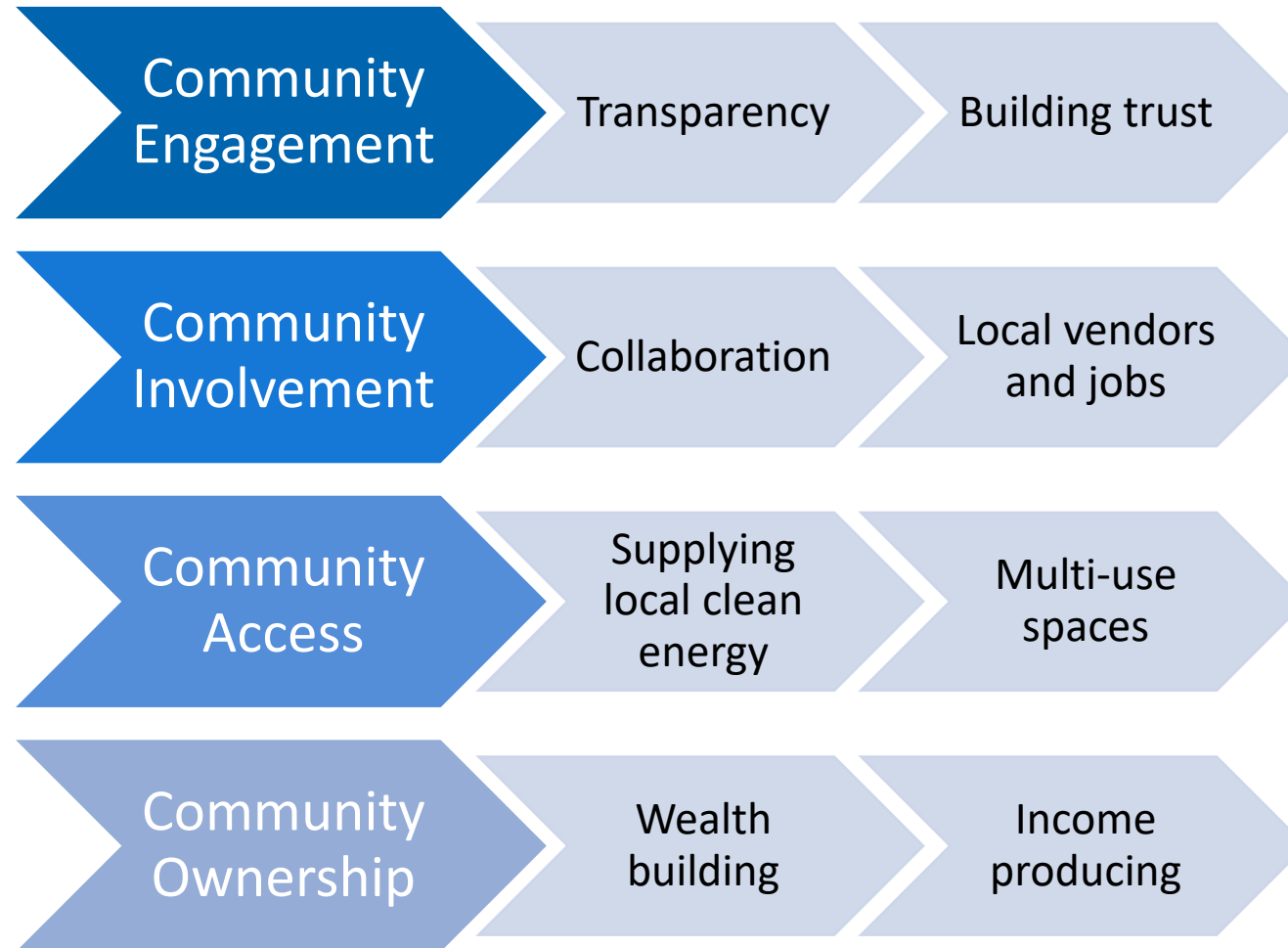


Enable efficient land use through co-location/  
multi-use



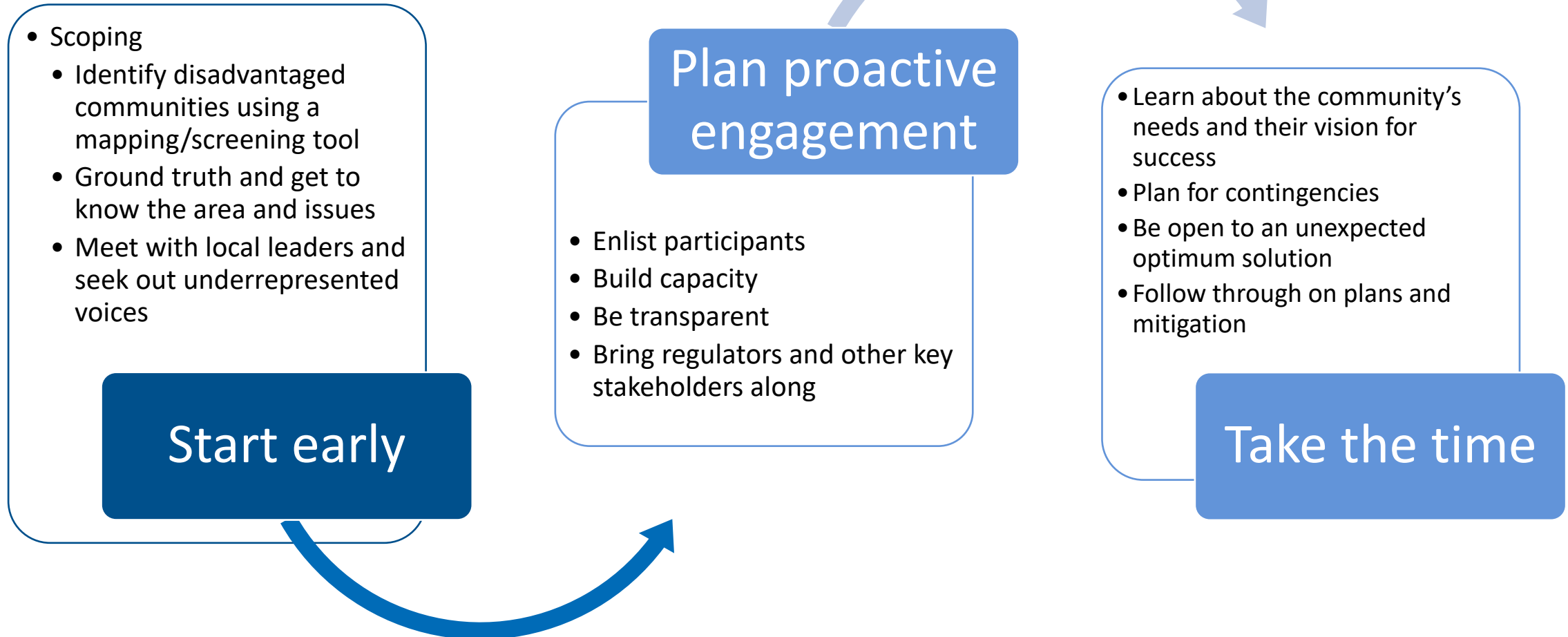
Design for agrivoltaics

# Advancing Acceptance



Do not assume what communities want to gain from the engagement process or the greater project

# Meaningful Involvement



Stakeholder engagement from informing to involving

# Mapping Tools

CDC

- Social Vulnerability Index determines the social vulnerability to help identify, map, and plan for communities that will most likely need support before, during, and after a public health emergency.

CEQ

- Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool maps climate change, energy, health, housing, legacy pollution, transportation, water and wastewater, and workforce development indicators to identify overburdened and underserved communities.

DOE

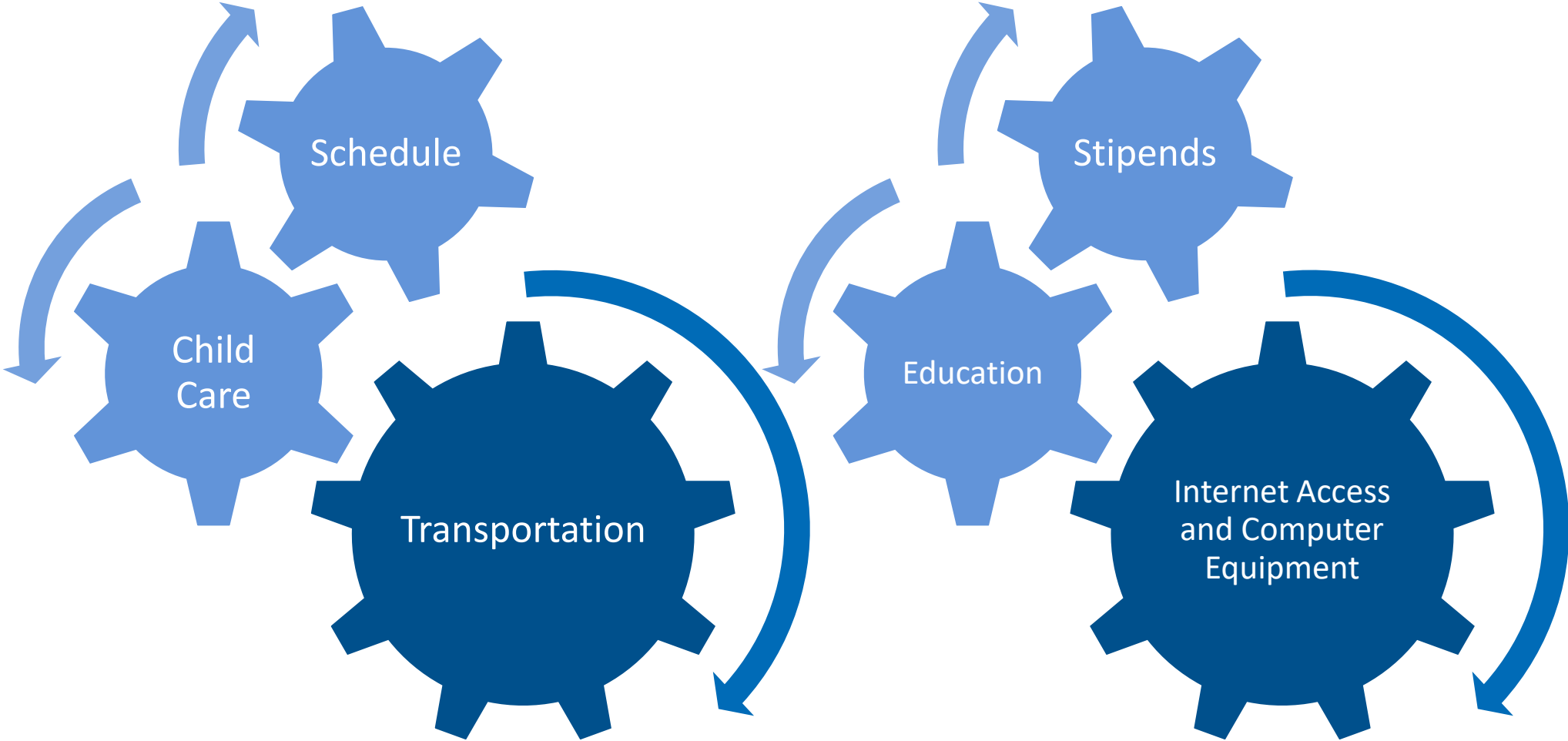
- Disadvantaged Communities Reporter reports on census tracts categorized as disadvantaged based on cumulative burden using thirty-six indicators that reflect fossil dependence, energy burden, environmental and climate hazards, and socio-economic vulnerabilities.

EPA

- EJScreen displays environmental and demographic socioeconomic indicators and combines environmental and demographic indicators into EJ indexes.



# Engagement – Capacity Building



Passive Approaches May Not Yield Desired Results



# TOGETHER...SHAPING THE FUTURE OF ENERGY®

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