

Leveraging Community Benefit Frameworks Workshop

17 - 23 May 2024

Poll results

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- What were your takeaways and reflections from Day 1?

Survey (1/3)

069

Why did you come to the workshop today?

Knowledge building



Networking opportunities



Speaker lineup



My boss made me



Survey (2/3)

069

How familiar are you with the topic of community benefit frameworks?

I'm an expert



I have some solid background



I have some basic knowledge



I'm completely green



Survey (3/3)

031

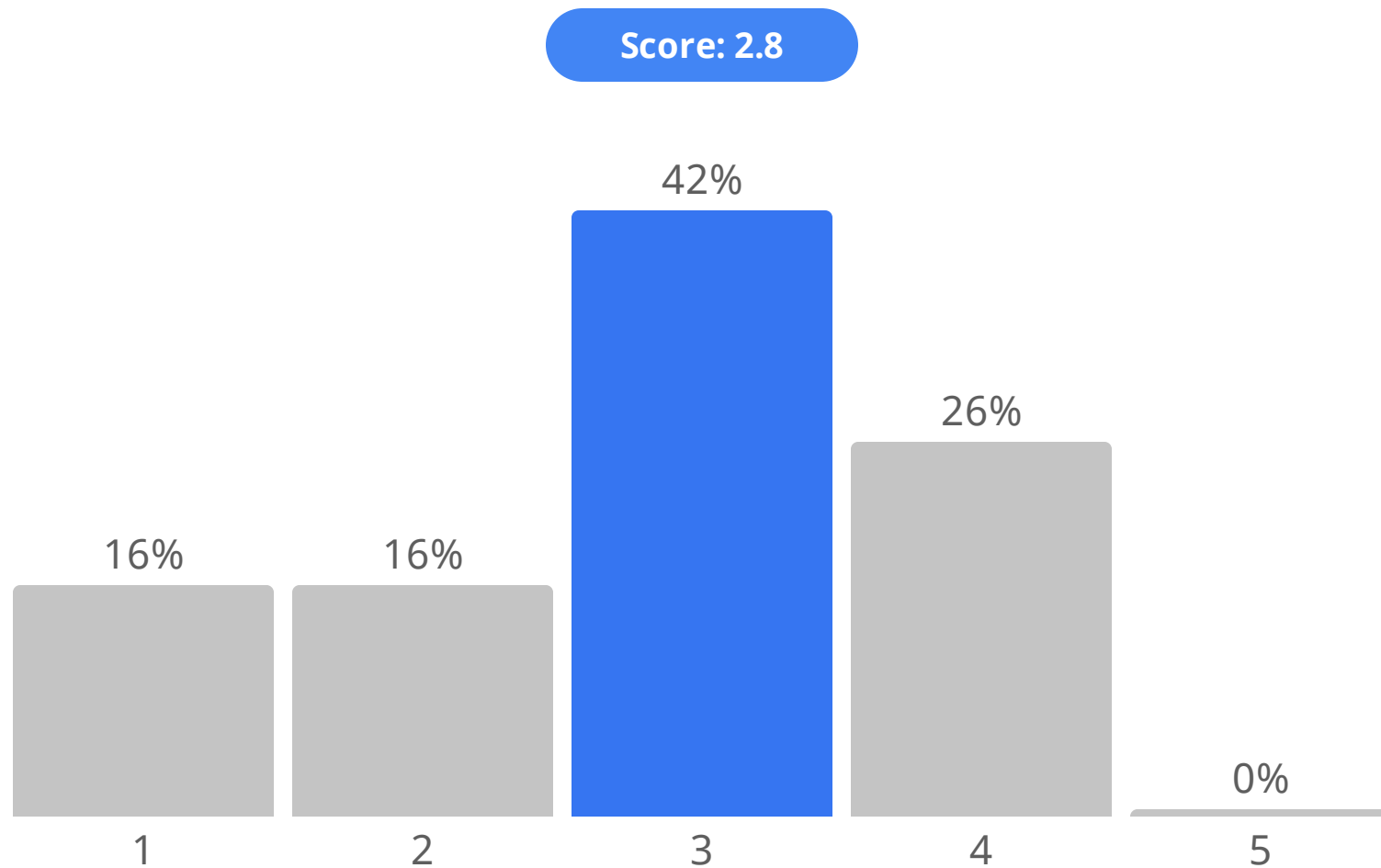
What would you like to see added to your community?

Conservation education Global focus on pollution
I cant hear this meeting Justice Participatory decision making
Solar power, climate resilienc Union apprentices Health
Renewable energy, microgrids knowledge cbp Respect
Green space

Capacity for advanced planning

Growth expansive green transit Walkable small businesses Capacity
Processes for co-creation a zoom link versus Vimeo I am not sure how to answer.
Moderated Community Forums Support for CBP negotiations
Good jobs No Greenwashing/ Endowments

On a scale of 1 - 5, how clear is the DOE CBP strategy to you?



Survey (2/3)

017

What is a critical barrier to successful Community Benefits Plans?



Survey (3/3)

016

How can DOE improve the Community Benefits Plan process? (1/5)

- Making them accessible to the public to view
- Automate parts of it our hire technical assistance providers
- providing more examples of good plans.
- Make transparent companies who are actively applying for grants and loans for early intervention (rather than waiting for an award/conditional commitment announcement); require companies to commit to negotiating a community benefits agreement including labor organizations (not just PLAs for construction jobs!!!), enviro groups, tribes, and other relevant local community organizations— the groups can take it from there on enforcement if the basic framework is provided
- Reducing barriers to making

Survey (3/3)

016

How can DOE improve the Community Benefits Plan process? (2/5)

them happen by addressing resource gaps and other competing requirements.

- building community capacity to engage meaningfully (become acquainted with technical aspect, civic engagement b/c they haven't been, etc.) accountability and continued engagement from beginning, middle,

to end community having a way to flag bad projects or when projects aren't meeting their commitments. need a connection between community and DOE

- Ensure that CBOs and other nonprofits are also included in CBA trainings and are knowledgeable in how to guide communities in the cba/cbp process.
- Require risk (health and other) assessment and transparency

Survey (3/3)

016

How can DOE improve the Community Benefits Plan process? (3/5)

- More information about CBPs submitted should be shared, including specific plans for engagement, which stakeholders are being engaged, what kinds of benefits are proposed, what opportunities/plans to make CBPs binding or transform into binding community benefit frameworks exist, and what modes for enforcement/oversight are included in the CBP, etc.
- Pay communities to hire good lawyers to negotiate agreements, fund opposition to hubs, develop long term enforcement plan for agreements and fund enforcement
- Training
- Create an enforcement arm (I volunteer as tribute to assist) to ensure paramount transparency, accountability, equity, and justice are centered in every phase of these projects, from ideation to implementation.

Survey (3/3)

016

How can DOE improve the Community Benefits Plan process? (4/5)

- Stronger language on what is an acceptable CBA vs an unacceptable CBA. The language currently used is 'effective CBA' vs. 'ineffective CBA'. I would like to see a clearly defined scenario in which a rejected CBA stops the project from happening. If such a scenario doesn't exist, then I feel this conversation is about checking boxes
- of surface level community participation and not actually gathering and incorporating feedback from Community to center their needs.
- Return to a mixed use portfolio of quantitative, and more importantly qualitative metrics for improvement. Reduce the moving target nature of it as well
- The process, as it stands, is applicant/awardee-driven. It needs to center community first.

Survey (3/3)

016

How can DOE improve the Community Benefits Plan process?

(5/5)

- Allowing for flexibility in the budget for community benefits as the community needs may change from the proposal stage through completion of the project.

Survey (1/3)

005

Why should Community Benefits Plans matter to communities and developers?

(1/3)

- Better Q: Why should DOE & EPA care about CBA's? Because you are tasked with protecting our natural resources, our public health, and stop abusers from exploiting our communities. People can care all day everyday,
but if we don't have mechanisms of accountability from our government agencies, then community needs will always pale in comparison to the money behind these industries can throw to drown out/buy out community opposition.
- The Town of Duck Hill, MS owns its natural gas pipeline and being forced to

Survey (1/3)

005

Why should Community Benefits Plans matter to communities and developers? (2/3)

sale from Atmos. We need to begin planning for the inevitable takeover thinking about CBAs.

- For communities its likely their only way to hold developers accountable, guarantee benefits flow to impacted communities, and that there is a plan for the full lifetime and decommissioning of any

projects. For developers, it would be nice if it mattered because it is the right thing to do, but ultimately it should matter because they are legally bound to their commitments.

- CBP's should not be framed as needing to "matter". They should be contingent; a project should not move forward without an enforceable

Survey (1/3)

005

Why should Community Benefits Plans matter to communities and developers?

(3/3)

agreement. Additionally, labor and community have convergent needs but are inherently different and labor and community benefits should not be considered interchangeable

- They'll only matter if they work.

Who should be at the table during the negotiation of Community Benefits Plans?

People who will make it work.

memembers
based
right
orgnizations
trusted
legala
community
incling partners labor
impacted expertise
Residents

Survey (3/3)

005

What could help build trust between communities and developers during negotiation processes?

(1/2)

- Identify the points of leverage where the community can say no, can make more demands, and have our agencies be advocates for the public not just a 3rd party observers. DOE and other agencies must step up to be able to help hold these projects accountable and policies that protect the public.
- It's not necessarily trust but rather trustworthiness and the framework of the negotiations.
- Third party facilitation, real funding and capacity building for communities to participate in negotiation on equal footing
- Empowering the community and requiring consent from impacted fenceline communities in order to move forward with any project. As it stands, this process empowers the industry and is being used as a tool to to show outreach irrespective of equitable, tangible public input.

Survey (3/3)

005

What could help build trust between communities and developers during negotiation processes?

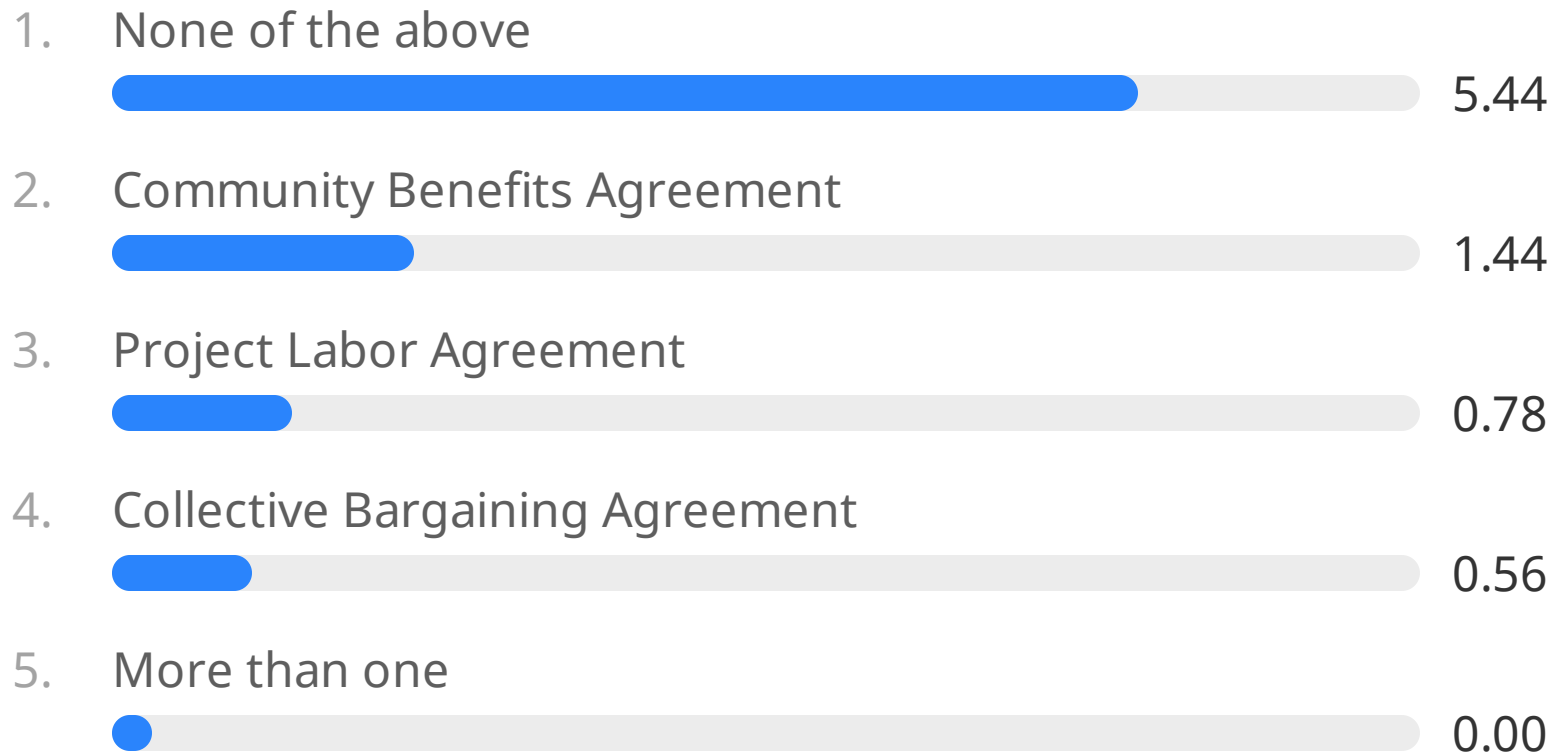
(2/2)

- Delivering benefits, minimizing harms.

Survey (1/2)

009

**Which type of community benefits frameworks
do you have experience with?**
(1/2)



Survey (1/2)

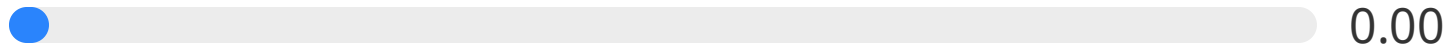
009

**Which type of community benefits frameworks
do you have experience with?**
(2/2)

5. Community Workforce Agreement



5. Tribal Agreement



Survey (2/2)

003

How important is legal representation? And how can more communities access it?

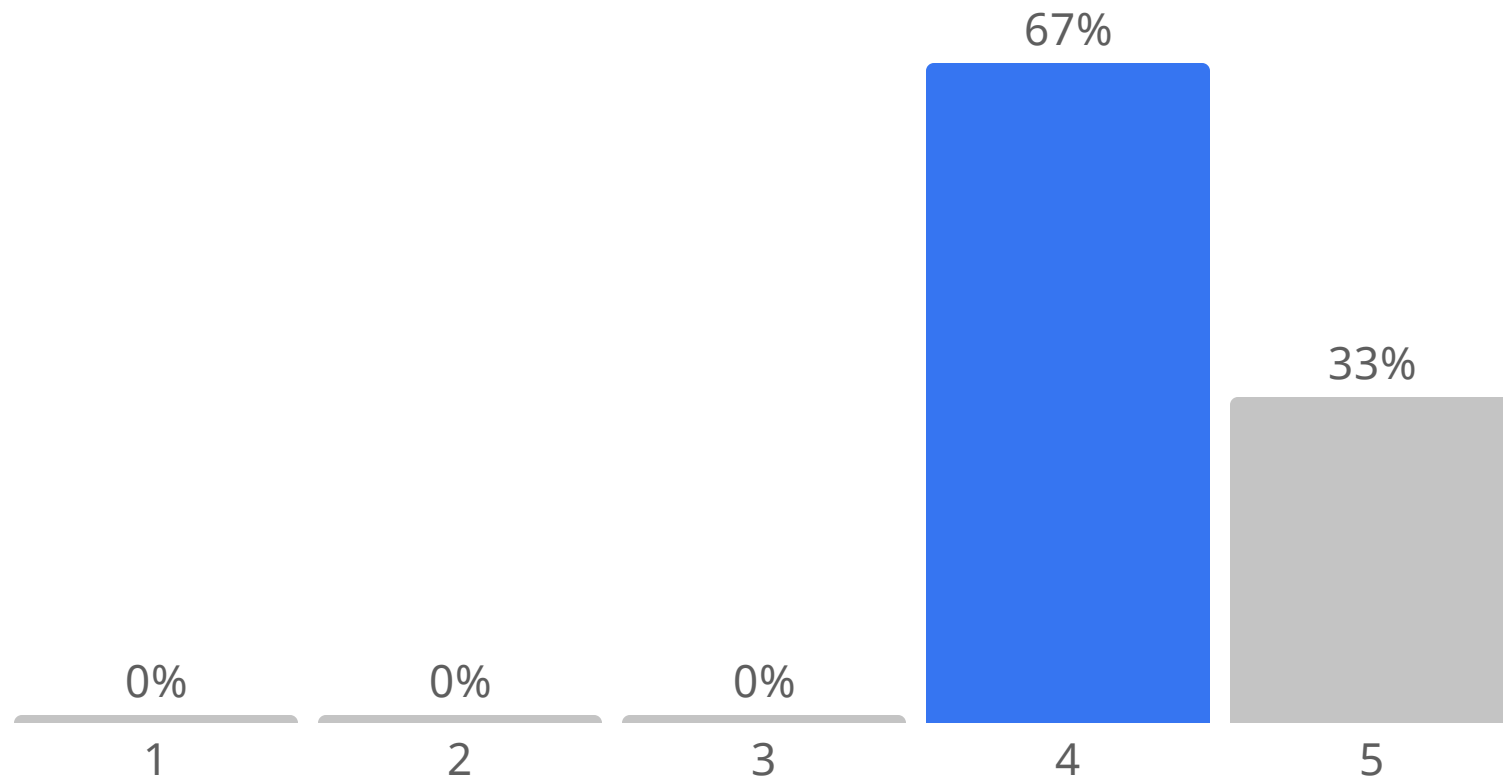
- Very important
- Really curious the answer to this question. It seems to me to be absolutely essential.
- It is very important and federal, state and local agencies must make sure that community has access to redress to enforce legally binding agreements

Survey (1/2)

003

On a scale of 1 – 5, how much has your understanding of community benefit frameworks improved?

Score: 4.3



Survey (2/2)

002

Which story or lesson from this session stood out to you most?

- That there are very very few good or exemplary CBA's or CBP's from the Community perspective. The Copper mining case study was told exclusively from the perspective of the mining company and only skirted the question of the litigation so we can't objectively say that it was a success.
- I really appreciated this session for bringing together many participants, it allowed for a particularly rich dialogue.

Survey (1/4)

007

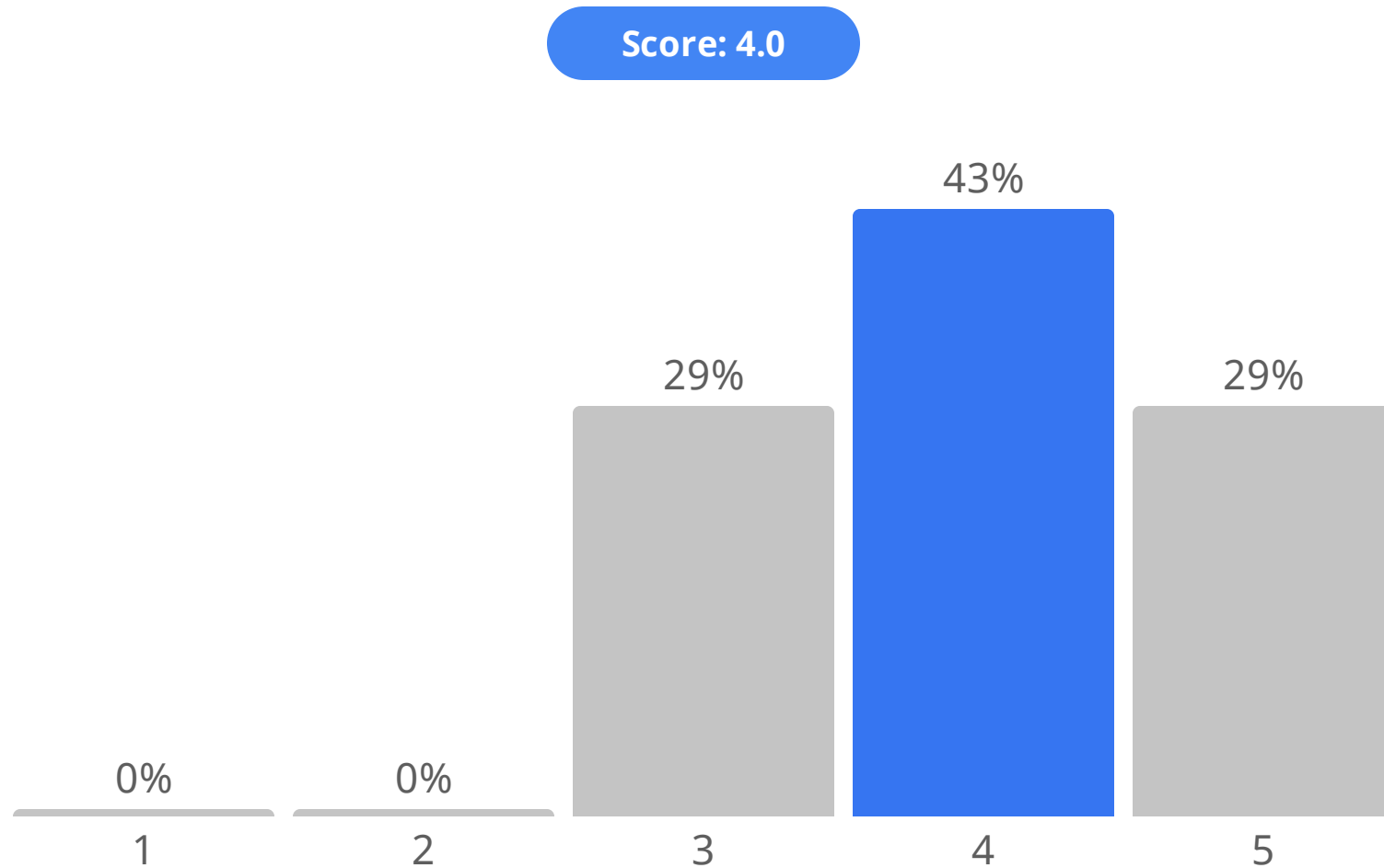
What theme did you hear throughout this workshop?

Community Capacity
capacity and consent
involvement
Transparency
TRUST COMMUNITY

Survey (2/4)

007

On a scale of 1 – 5 (with 5 being best), how much has your understanding of community benefit frameworks improved?



Survey (3/4)

006

What is a key takeaway you can't wait to share with your colleagues and communities?

- Communities can have multiple cbas for different groups in a community.
- CBPs and CBAs will only deliver if communities have the capacity to meaningfully engage. And only if government, business, finance, philanthropy, and finance increase their community focused capacities.
- How to get help in accessing development information before its too late
- The opportunity to ally with communities (as nurses) in energy project related community benefit.
- That there are people at agencies that believe in equity and want to do the hard work of strengthening civic and community org infrastructure.
- We are not alone in experiencing these obstacles but per are on the right track

Survey (4/4)

005

From where you sit, in what way can connection and capacity be built for federal and community actors to work for community benefits?

(1/2)

- Through cbos and other nonprofits who are working to support society in multiple ways such as through science. Certain groups may be able to support communities with education of the community benefits process and in pre-negotiation agreements.
- Bypass appropriate state governments, especially those interested in rejoining the confederacy
- Support development and dissemination of models for community benefit - funding. Amplify concept of informed consent by community for energy projects.
- We need more folks that can play a coordinating role btw the

Survey (4/4)

005

From where you sit, in what way can connection and capacity be built for federal and community actors to work for community benefits?

(2/2)

state, company and grassroots
organization in EVERY region that
has projects going on. A
coordinating role that centers equity
and does some level setting and
history for companies coming to a
new area.

- More transparency and enforcing a
standard vs recommendations

Survey (1/2)

008

What is a role for community-based organizations during community engagement efforts?

Consolidate concerns
They should lead the engagement as trusted
partners in the community
elicit
community voice
Intermediary
Communication

Survey (2/2)

007

What do communities need before they enter negotiations? (1/2)

- Agenda and a purpose and the needs of the community
 - Understanding of what the other parties will be doing. Decisions about what the community wants and expects from the other parties.
 - Curiosity
 - Trust and an equitable position
 - They need the DOE to use its power to create formalized processes that protect
- the community. DOE should be ensuring transparency, due process, equity and accountability. The idea that community must be the bottom line for all meaningful engagement is unreasonable and sets up unrealistic expectations for community groups to fail or be weak.
- critical insight and information, training and support in negotiation

Survey (2/2)

007

What do communities need before they enter negotiations? (2/2)

- Support in understanding all the ways their lives will be impacted and the possible benefits. Support in sharing their stories with stakeholders, elected officials, and the media. And they need political education to understand the role of racial capitalism and its extractive nature.

Survey (1/2)

004

What kind of resources or support do communities need to build capacity?

DOE baseline due process
financial tools for owner
stable longterm funding
General opperating suppor

Survey (2/2)

004

How can long-term trust be built through community benefit frameworks?

- simply engaging early and often
- If current Community Benefits do not allow for a community to reject a project and say, "No". Then that needs to be included on the list of ways to build trust. Too much of the focus is emphasized on how to appeal to industry vs ensuring the protection and growth of the public interest.
- Companies and government agencies need to LISTEN to community groups
- as experts on needs. These same stakeholders need to negotiate in good faith with the community and not use their political and economic power to punish communities but make it possible for them to prosper with them. It has to be grounded in equity and justice not just profit and power. Equity and justice is good for the country as a whole!
- Being a good partner and sharing ownership

What were your takeaways and reflections from Day 1?

(1/4)

0 1 3

- CBAs have a long way to go before they are truly representing the will of community. Most people acknowledge the lack of enforcement, engagement, due-process and other variables that help community better negotiate.
- The common challenges faced by communities across the country was striking. And yet the absence of best practices that are shareable across communities was likewise striking.
- The importance of community preparation, resources and organization to meet CB as an opportunity (and possibility for allyship from academia, health professionals...etc.)
- Also the need for ongoing communities of practice to share experiences, strategies, stories, and insights - across regions and across the country
- I feel like we spent no time talking about how the DOE work is compartmentalism's form Justice 40 or Environmental

What were your takeaways and reflections from Day 1?

(2/4)

0 1 3

- Justice work more about industrial strategy with some good pr if done poorly and harm reduction mechanisms if done correctly.
- The importance of supporting communities in developing their own PRINCIPLES and coalitions and plans, as an overall strategy for engaging with developers and government on these massive projects - and doing this both locally and as multi-locale coalitions.
- Capacity Building is key. Empower, educate!
- Making CBPs and CBAs really work for communities will be challenging. The focus for me will be on finding ways to support community capacity.
- This event really demystified many aspects of community benefits in a space where I feel we are working toward shared goals.
- A lot to think about to prepare what's needed
- My key takeaway message from Day 1 is

What were your takeaways and reflections from Day 1?

(3/4)

0 1 3

that local elected representative play an essential role in developing Community Benefits Plans and Agreements. Community residents benefit the most when they elect officials that truly represent their needs. In reflection of Day, I would like to suggest new venues for awareness and education. It would be neat if the DOE, for example, built some sort of interactive website where concerned citizens may discover what and

how different cities and towns are implementing federally-funded energy infrastructure projects. Each project could include descriptions for the challenges, actions, and practical results. It would be wonderful to see how projects intersect with each other. My regards.

- "Anticipatory",...
- There are many times when conditions put in a CDA are what is already legally required.
- I wasn't able to attend the entire session but what I

What were your takeaways and reflections from Day 1?

(4/4)

0 1 3

was able to attend the sharing on CBAs proved very helpful to inform our approach on a NEPA challenge we're facing with the USACE. I'd like the contact info of the presenter.