

Community Engagement Tips for EV Infrastructure Deployment

This help sheet provides tips for conducting community engagement to support electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure planning and deployment. This document is a tool and an informative resource to be used in conjunction with other guidance. It is not intended to set policy or establish or replace any standards under state or federal law applicable to public notice or community engagement.

Integrating Equity in the Clean Transportation Transition

The Joint Office United Support for Transportation (JUST) Lab Consortium conducts actionable research on integrating equity into federally funded EV infrastructure deployment efforts.

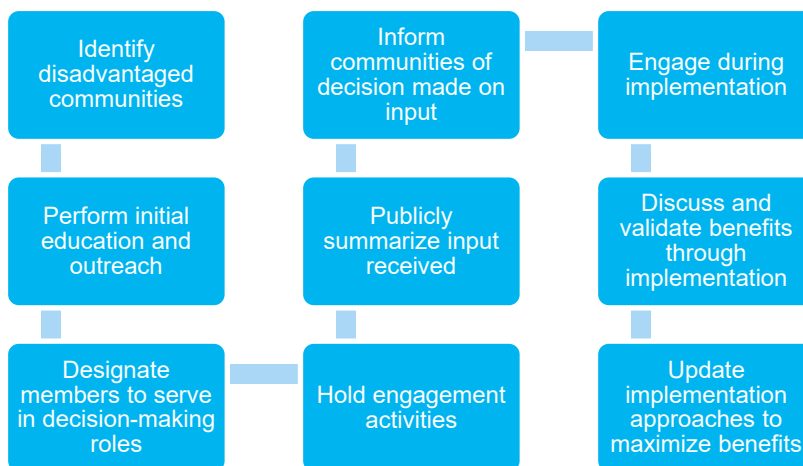
For more information on the JUST Lab Consortium, please visit [DriveElectric.gov/just-lab-consortium](https://driveelectric.gov/just-lab-consortium).

An overarching consideration is that engagement for deploying EV infrastructure should not assume that EVs are the primary or exclusive solution of interest for community mobility needs, and should include information about opportunities for broader access to EVs (e.g., purchase incentives, EV car-sharing). Ideally, engagement about EV infrastructure will also include opportunities for community input that can inform more holistic investments in a safe transportation system with access to multiple modes that meet everyone's needs.

Demonstrating Meaningful and Ongoing Community Engagement

To develop meaningful and ongoing engagement strategies while implementing and deploying EV infrastructure, it is important to conduct background research by asking a few questions:

- **Developing goals:** What are the goals of your community engagement strategy with disadvantaged communities (DACs) regarding EV infrastructure planning and implementation? How will you document and respond to non-EV-related input?
- **Determining roles:** How will you include members of DACs in the development of a meaningful, ongoing community engagement strategy? What opportunities will be created for stakeholders to participate as leaders or decision-makers through the engagement process?
- **Implementing strategies:** How will you operationalize community engagement? Will you need to hire additional assistance? How much of your budget will you spend on community engagement efforts? Can you leverage other existing efforts?
- **Establishing a process:** What does your community engagement process look like over time? How will quality engagement be maintained consistently?



Potential process for designing, implementing, and tracking community engagement

When establishing this process, suggested steps (see figure above) include:

- Identify disadvantaged communities.
- Perform initial education and outreach.
- Designate members to serve in decision-making roles.
- Hold engagement activities.
- Publicly summarize the input that was received.
- Inform communities of how the input influenced decisions.
- Continue engagement during implementation.
- Discuss and validate benefits with the community throughout implementation.
- Update implementation approaches to maximize benefits based on feedback.

Elements of this process can be repeated as part of a feedback loop, as shown in the figure. Additional considerations for key steps in this process include:

- 1) **Identifying DACs:** How did you identify communities and organizations that could provide meaningful representation of DACs in your state? Examples of mapping tools include the [Electric Vehicle Charging Justice40 Map](#) and the White House Council on Environmental Quality [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool](#).
- 2) **Providing foundational information:** How did you provide foundational information to members of DACs so they are equipped to provide feedback on decisions (e.g.,

- outreach and education on EV charging basics, existing and planned public EV charger locations, potential community benefits and impacts, access to EVs)? What additional benefits from EV infrastructure projects might be enabled by this investment (e.g., 120V outlets, lighting, sidewalk upgrades, seating)?
- 3) **Reflecting back:** How did you or how do you plan to publicly summarize the primary benefits of and concerns related to the deployment of EV charging infrastructure that representatives or members of DACs voiced through public engagement efforts? How are you responding to non-EV-related feedback?
 - 4) **Connecting input to decisions:** As decisions are made, how have you or will you communicate progress on development and deployment activities, including those informed by public engagement? Provide details on how engagement outcomes and stakeholder concerns influenced planning efforts.
 - 5) **Communicating and validating benefits:** How will you communicate and validate the benefits to DACs as EV charging investments are deployed?

Documenting Community Engagement Activities

Once you have your community engagement process identified, here are some documentation methods to consider.

- **Describe the representation in engagement efforts:** How were DAC viewpoints centered in the engagement efforts? Were DACs represented by attendees at each engagement or engagement type, or were events held in or near DACs?
- **Describe the types of activities:** Public workshops, transportation fairs, focus groups, charettes, webinars, workshops, listening session, and school or job fairs. The [FAQ document for the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure \(NEVI\) Formula Program](#) includes further examples.
- **Identify location(s) of engagement:** These could include names and addresses of physical locations or virtual platforms.
- **Describe participation:** Include the number of attendees at each engagement activity and provide details on the type of engagement.
- **Provide information on accommodations:** This could include details on accommodations and planning decisions made to increase inclusivity and accessibility of engagement events.
- **Summarize outcomes:** Describe what was learned through the engagement activity and how information from that engagement was used to shape EV charging infrastructure planning and implementation decisions.

Tribal Engagement

Strategies for highlighting engagement activities and identifying opportunities with tribal communities—primarily relevant for state and non-tribal local governments—are described below.

Tribal Engagement Activities

- What engagement activities have been undertaken with tribes?
- How many of the federally or state-recognized tribes in your area have been successfully contacted?
- How many tribal engagement outreach events have been held (e.g., calls, meetings)?
- How has information gathered from tribal engagement impacted the development of EV charging infrastructure planning?
- What other transportation investments have been requested as a result of tribal engagements?
- What workforce training opportunities have been discussed and identified with tribes?
- What discussions did you have with tribes regarding the overarching goals of EV charging infrastructure planning and additional community benefits?
- For states, how have tribes been engaged with Alternative Fuel Corridor (AFC) designations?
 - Describe quantifiably how many AFCs cross tribal lands.
 - Estimate the number of chargers required to meet the 50-mile AFC requirement on tribal lands.
 - Identify the number of state routes that traverse tribal lands.

Opportunities Identified for Tribal Communities

- How does the EV infrastructure planning align with the goals of tribes?
- What discussions did you have with tribes about their transportation electrification or economic goals?
- What opportunities have been identified to include tribal lands in the development of EV charging infrastructure?
- What resources are needed for tribes to accomplish their EV deployment goals?
- What additional resources are needed for tribes to accomplish other transportation goals?

Summarizing Community Engagement Activities – Sample Table

Below is a sample table that could be used to summarize community engagement activities and outcomes.

Communities or Tribes Represented	Attendance [#] and Number of Events [#]	Types of Events [e.g., webinar, workshop, listening session]	Amount [\$] or Percentage [%] of Program Funding Spent on Engagement	Feedback Received [bullet points]	Feedback Summarized Publicly [Y/N; include links]	Feedback Included in Final Plan [bullet points]

Resources

- [Public Involvement Techniques for Transportation Decisionmaking](#) – Federal Highway Administration
- [Virtual Public Involvement](#) – Federal Highway Administration
- [How to Engage Low-Literacy and Limited-English-Proficiency Populations in Transportation Decision-Making](#) – Federal Highway Administration
- [Every Place Counts Leadership Academy Transportation Toolkit](#) – U.S. Department of Transportation
- [Charging Forward: A Toolkit for Planning and Funding Rural Electric Mobility Infrastructure](#) – U.S. Department of Transportation
- [Charging Forward: A Toolkit for Planning and Funding Urban Electric Mobility Infrastructure](#) – U.S. Department of Transportation
- [Promising Practices for Meaningful Public Involvement in Transportation Decision-Making](#) – U.S. Department of Transportation
- [Mobility Equity Framework: How to Make Transportation Work for People](#) – The Greenlining Institute
- [The Spectrum of Community Engagement to Ownership](#) – Facilitating Power

About the JUST Consortium

The Joint Office of Energy and Transportation (Joint Office) established the JUST Lab Consortium to conduct actionable research on integrating equity into federally funded EV infrastructure deployment efforts.

This consortium comprises three U.S. Department of Energy national laboratories—Argonne National Laboratory, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

Providing Technical Assistance with a Focus on Equity

The JUST Lab Consortium provides technical expertise to Joint Office staff and its constituents with a focus on an equitable and clean transportation transition. The JUST Lab Consortium developed this help sheet to assist states, communities, and tribal nations with developing meaningful community engagement processes and activities for EV infrastructure planning.

For more information on the JUST Lab Consortium, please visit [DriveElectric.gov/just-lab-consortium](https://driveelectric.gov/just-lab-consortium). To contact the JUST Lab Consortium, [submit a general inquiry](#) through the Joint Office and reference the “JUST Lab Consortium.”