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*Serving the Governors of 19 States and 3 US-Flag Pacific Islands*



### Western Renewable Energy Zones project launched; kickoff meeting May 28th

The Western Governors' Association has launched a new initiative – the **Western Renewable Energy Zones** project – aimed at bringing more renewable resources online within the Western Interconnection as quickly as possible.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend the kickoff meeting of the WREZ Steering Committee on May 28 from 1 – 5 p.m. at the Sheraton City Center in Salt Lake City. Steering Committee members include governors, Canadian premiers and public utility commissioners, or their representatives. Federal officials from the U.S. Departments of Energy, Interior, and Agriculture, as well as the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, will serve as ex officio members.

The goal of the [project](#) is to identify renewable energy zones based on common transmission needs, developable potential, timeframes, and the cost of development. Conceptual transmission plans to priority zones will be prepared to facilitate the environmentally sensitive development of the most cost-effective renewable resources. All feasible renewable resource technologies will be evaluated.

A Technical Committee comprising representatives from the states and provinces will coordinate stakeholder participation and the development of reports for the Steering Committee to consider. Stakeholder work groups will be created to: 1) develop criteria and perform the technical analysis for zones; 2) address environmental, land use and permitting issues; and 3) consider modeling options related to generation and transmission development and coordinate stakeholder involvement.

Anyone interested in attending the meeting and/or participating on a work group may do so by going to:  
<http://www.regonline.com/Checkin.asp?EventId=616661>.

Questions about the meeting may be e-mailed to the project manager, Rich Halvey, at [rhalvey@westgov.org](mailto:rhalvey@westgov.org).

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The Western Governors' Association is an independent, nonprofit organization representing the governors of 19 states and three U.S.-Flag islands in the Pacific. Through their Association, the Western governors identify and address key policy and governance issues in natural resources, the environment, human services, economic development, international relations and public management.