

*“We also have allies beyond the EJ community putting the Principles in citations in their briefs and their comments. That’s been pretty cool—it’s not just a document on the shelf collecting dust. People are reading it. People are looking at it.”*

— SHANA LAZEROW  
Legal Dept. Co-Director, Communities for a Better Environment

# SHARED CAPACITY BUILDING TOWARDS CONSENSUS ACTION

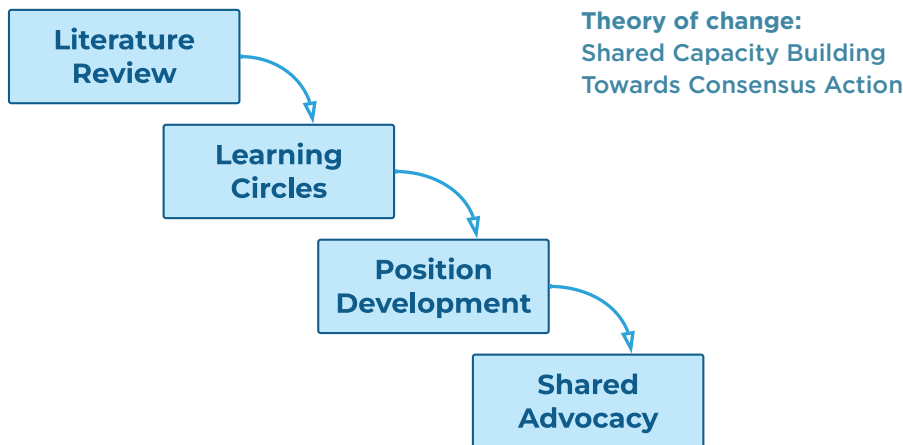
## OVERVIEW

In 2022 Gridworks added a new theory of change to our toolkit—supporting shared capacity building towards consensus action. Our efforts in this space have focused on two projects:

- **The Oregon Clean Grid Collaborative** (contracted by Renewable Northwest and Oregon Environmental Council), established to bring advocates together for shared learning to advance grid decarbonization goals.
- **The Equity & Hydrogen Initiative** (a partnership with Communities for a Better Environment), established to bring California environmental justice groups together for shared learning and action around an emerging energy technology.

For both projects, Gridworks launched our efforts with the publication of a literature review, consolidating up-to-date research on the discussion topics to guide and ground participants through their discussions. Read the Oregon Clean Grid Collaborative’s literature review [here](#) and the Equity & Hydrogen Initiative’s literature review [here](#).

Afterwards, Gridworks created space for learning and cooperation among participants. We organized and facilitated learning-focused sessions with industry experts, guided small group discussions, and facilitated identification of shared values. Participants gained the tools and knowledge to engage in productive dialogue about technical and political issues in local, state, regional, and federal venues, and both groups developed a set of shared principles to pursue advocacy efforts together and with like minded partners.



## PROJECT APPROACHES

The **Oregon Clean Grid Collaborative** kicked-off in Portland in August of 2023, with the gathering of more than 20 representatives from 15 advocacy organizations led by Renewable Northwest and the Oregon Environmental Council.

- **Collaborative learnings.** OCGC dedicated more than 40 hours over 10 meetings to dive into shared learning about grid operations through a mix of in-person gatherings and remote webinars. Learnings featured guest industry expert speakers who engaged directly with the collaborative's questions and discussion.
- **Advocacy development.** After this period of shared learning and education, the collaborative shifted to collectively defining shared values and principles, identification of engagement forums, and developing advocacy strategies focused on state, regional, and federal forums.

The **Equity & Hydrogen Initiative** spent March-September 2023 working with 16 participants across 10 environmental justice organizations in California. The Initiative aimed to explore the risks and benefits of hydrogen as a component of a climate-resilient energy system. The group met bi-weekly for five months for a series of "learning circles" and "consensus development workshops."

- **Learning circles** provided participants the opportunity to learn from 10 speakers with expertise across the hydrogen lifecycle (from production to storage and delivery to end use).
- **Consensus development workshops** created a space for participants to discuss what they had learned and associated implications for the communities they represent, with the goal of identifying shared advocacy positions.

## OUTCOMES



### The Oregon Clean Grid Collaborative's Clean Grid Summit in September 2024

The **Oregon Clean Grid Collaborative** now has members from more than 12 organizations, supporting four working groups that cover markets and transmission advocacy at the

state legislative and administrative agency level as well as in regional and federal venues. The group has developed a campaign plan, hosted legislative events, advocated for state bills within the 2024 legislative session, and is jointly tracking BPA's day-ahead market affiliation decision. In September of 2024, to celebrate one year of work, the collaborative hosted its first annual Clean Grid Summit. The summit brought together more than 120 community leaders, industry experts, tribal representatives, advocates, utilities, and state and federal government officials to discuss Oregon's path towards achieving a clean, reliable, and affordable energy future.

**The Equity & Hydrogen Initiative** published the [Equity Principles for Hydrogen](#) in October 2023. In 2024, the participants formed five working groups to socialize the Equity Principles with potential ally groups such as environmental NGOs, ratepayer advocates, organized labor, transportation advocates, and Native-led organizations.

Participants have since

- discussed the principles with 57 representatives across 34 organizations;
- identified 7 partnership opportunities; and
- collected 5 endorsements from supporting organizations.



Equity & Hydrogen in-person gathering in October 2024

The group met in-person in October 2024 to discuss strategy to uplift the Equity Principles within hydrogen conversations and to identify priority advocacy opportunities in the year ahead. The Equity Principles have provided the EJ organizations with a framework for advocacy at the local, state and federal levels concerning individual projects, regulatory proceedings and legislation. The process also enabled the EJ organizations to become experts themselves, which they are sharing with legislators and community members. They will continue to amplify the Equity Principles through the development of bills in the next legislative session and deeper community outreach in 2025.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact [info@gridworks](mailto:info@gridworks) to learn more about the Oregon Clean Grid Collaborative and the Equity & Hydrogen Initiative.

## ABOUT GRIDWORKS

*Gridworks facilitates difficult discussions and collaboration between policymakers, decarbonization advocates, energy providers and utility operators. We work with these groups to determine the best approach to meet decarbonization goals. Our work has eased the shift toward clean energy in the Western U.S. We're expanding to further our mission and invite you to work with us to navigate your clean energy challenges.*

Learn more at [gridworks.org](https://gridworks.org).