



Overview

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) wants to ensure that its investments in decarbonization are sustainable and successful. To help achieve this, DOE's Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management requires funding opportunity applicants to develop Societal Considerations and Impacts (SCI) plans that are used as part of the project selection criteria. These SCI plans consist of four main parts:

- Community and Stakeholder Engagement
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA)
- Environmental Justice and the Justice40 Initiative
- Quality Jobs

Purpose

The aim of these plans is to help applicants move from **vision** through **assessment** to **implementation**.

Many project teams at early phases of research and development may begin planning with affirmations of their values and aspirations for doing better with diversity, inclusion, engagement, and environmental justice. DOE requests teams also conduct rigorous assessment of the status quo social implications of their projects, and assess how they can engage with, benefit, and minimize harms to communities. The assessment leads to goals, as well as quantifiable outcomes, i.e. what it will look like when the goals are achieved. DOE then requests teams develop implementation strategies with concrete milestones, timelines, and resources that will outline the steps needed to reach the outcomes at each phase in the project.

SCI Planning Phases



For detailed SCI plan guidance documents and other informational resources, visit the [Justice & Engagement: Planning for Societal Considerations & Impacts in FECM Projects webpage](#).

Plan Components at a Glance

Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan

- An **analysis** of impacted communities, and communities and stakeholders to engage
- **Engagement methods** and **timeline**, including statements on **two-way engagement** and how engagement will influence the project direction and **project agreements**, such as any plans to develop a Community Benefits Agreement
- **Resource summary** of staff, capabilities, and budget to implement the plan, and plans for **evaluating** engagement

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Plan

- **Background** with assessment of DEIA in the project team
- **Milestones and timelines** for actions the applicant will take to meet DEIA goals
- **Resource summary** of staff, capabilities, and budget to implement the plan

Justice40 Initiative Plan

- An **energy and environmental justice assessment** of impacted communities; where and to whom benefits flow; where and to whom harms or disbenefits flow; and information gaps
- An **implementation strategy** for actions to maximize benefit and minimize or mitigate harms, with milestones and the timelines and resources needed

Quality Jobs / Economic Revitalization

- **Strategies** for attracting, training, and retaining a skilled workforce
- How applicants will offer **workforce opportunities** for underrepresented groups and members of disadvantaged communities