A Progressive Take on Permitting Reform: Principles and Policies to Unleash a Faster, More Equitable Green Transition
Why are we talking about permitting right now?
What is lumped into the “permitting reform” conversation?
(and is it really about permits)

Breaking down the categories of approvals for energy projects.
Different kinds of infrastructures face different obstacles (some related to permitting, others not)

What issues do discussions on permitting reform include?

- Electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure
- Carbon pollution/fossil fuel infrastructure
- Renewable energy siting and interconnection
- Extraction of energy transition metals
Where are projects getting slowed down?

New energy projects are typically **not** slowed by environmental review, but other factors.
Case Study: Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan
The permitting reform conversation lacks clarity.

How do we shift the conversation to the forces that actually slow energy transition?

- **Align actions with 1.5 degree targets.**

  Current proposals for permitting reform require us to take “the bad with the good” and accept some fossil fuels if we can get renewables. We say that changes should align with the Paris Climate Goals.

- **Make environmental laws stronger.**

  The transition will have impact on the environment, especially with increasing storms and droughts. We say that changes should consider long term impacts of new infrastructure.

- **Design with communities in mind.**

  Some permitting reform advocates think communities get in the way. But even without fossil fuel pollution, there are still community impacts. We say the new energy system should be reparative and make up for past harms.
Policies to Initiate the Green Transition

Enable more coordination and planning

- Utilize long-range land-use planning
- Increase transparency and accountability for transmission interconnection
- Increase capacity of permitting agencies
- Increase material and energy efficiency
- Support distributed energy resources
- Update the 1872 General Mining Act
Policies to Initiate the Green Transition

Enhance community participation and consent.

● Strengthen the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other bedrock environmental laws
● Respect tribal sovereignty
● Apply cumulative impact analysis
● Provide community benefit
Policies to Initiate the Green Transition

Empower the Transition.

- Stop all new fossil fuel permits
- Protect communities from fossil fuel pollution
- Set emission reduction targets
Case Study: Lithium Valley Commission
Case Study: Willow Project
Case Study: Ten West Link