MGA

America's Smartland

Midwestern Governors Association

Framework Development Workshop

7 October 2025

CONVERGE STRATEGIES

Recap, Outcomes, & Next Steps

Agenda

CONVERGE STRATEGIES

01	RTO Perspectives And Interdependencies Panels Recap
02	Energy Risk & Criticality Recap
03	Restoration Prioritization Recap
04	Interdependency Planning Recap
05	Design & Integration Recap
06	Next Steps
07	Appendix A: Workshop Slides
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Effort Milestones | Past, Present, and Future

CONVERGE STRATEGIES

	Data Collection & Interviews	Convene Advisory Group	Project Workshops	Framework Testing I	Framework Testing II
	Winter 2024	*Spring 2024*	*Summer-Fall 2024*	*Fall-Winter 2025*	*Winter-Summer 2026*
Objectives	Conduct a landscape analysis of energy security and emergency operations programs.	Scope and design framework concepts with input from the Advisory Group.	Facilitate stakeholder conversations and uncover priorities. Develop first drafts of framework.	Test first two modules. Discuss outlines for Interdependency Planning and Design & Integration.	Incorporate feedback from subsequent Advisory Group meetings and workshops to finalize remaining modules.
Outputs	• Advisory Group List • Report about state energy resilience practices	• 5 framework concepts to discuss at the workshop	• Post-workshop report • Initial framework draft of first 3 modules	• Revise first 2 framework modules • Draft outline of remaining 2 modules	• Finalized framework

Modular Framework

1. **Executive Summary & User Guide**
2. **Energy Risk & Criticality**
3. **Restoration Prioritization**
4. **Inter-dependency Planning**
5. **Design & Integration**

Key Updates

At the workshop, the group reviewed the draft modules for *Executive Summary & User Guide*, *Energy Risk & Criticality*, and *Restoration Prioritization*. Additionally, the group provided feedback on *Interdependency Planning* and *Design & Integration*, which will be used to inform their first-draft formats. This slide deck covers significant comments, questions, and feedback on module updates made by the group during discussion.

RTO Perspectives And Interdependencies Panels Recap

RTO Perspectives On Load Growth Panel

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Summary - "We must be proactive concerning grid challenges"

During this panel, attendants stressed the importance of proactively maintaining the grid. For example, there is a clear economic cost of not improving grid infrastructure that must be well-understood by state energy stakeholders, utilities, and customers (e.g., rates either increase to finance improvements, or endure constant power quality issues). However, there are other issues which complicate both the state's and utility's ability to address grid challenges.

Recap

1. RTOs want to help state commissions and other energy stakeholders understand their planning processes, and incorporate feedback on state needs.
2. The uncertain policy space stemming from federal government actions means that utilities/RTOs want to quickly build infrastructure but are restricted by cost pressures, which slow progress.
3. The RTOs oversee very different types of utility markets (SPP- vertically integrated, no capacity market; MISO- vertically integrated) which impact their ability to navigate an uncertain policy space and build out infrastructure.

Key Questions

1. How can state energy stakeholders and RTOs discuss and deconflict understandings in policy priorities and customer priorities?
2. How can utilities reconcile their technical challenges with emergency management principles (e.g., a feeder is constantly overloaded and turned off due to its age, leaving customers on the line to suffer from repeated power outages)?
3. How can we be more proactive about identifying and mitigating grid challenges before events?

Interdependencies Panel

Summary - "We must strengthen cross-sector communication"

This panel focused on the need to improve coordination between the energy sector and other critical lifelines. Participants noted that coordination during emergencies was described as a largely informal process that depended on interpersonal/business relationships in the state. Overall, there was a clear emphasis on the need for improved communications between state energy stakeholders and integration of emergency management principles into energy planning.

Recap

1. Transportation and communications are key components of interdependency planning.
2. Some utilities don't want to determine what a critical load is for communities, because they're more concerned about preserving the bulk electric system.
3. Coordination with other critical sectors or dependencies in emergencies tends to be organic and sometimes are dependent on interpersonal relationships.

Key Questions

1. How can state energy stakeholders communicate essential information and priorities to utilities and RTOs?
2. How are emergency management principles and priorities incorporated in utility planning? Vice versa?

Energy Risk & Criticality Recap

Energy Risk & Criticality

CONVERGE STRATEGIES

Summary - "There are unaddressed factors impacting state risk assessments"

The discussion emphasized the need to clarify terms within the module and the importance of data-driven analysis to strengthen state planning goals. More specifically, participants wanted to refine definitions of 'risk' and 'redundancy' that aid analysis of critical assets using utility-held data. Participants also highlighted the possibility of integrating cybersecurity considerations, as this vulnerability can be a major component of an asset's risk and/or criticality.

Recap

1. 'Redundancy' should be interpreted as assets which are 'like for like' (e.g., a trauma center hospital in Town A is demolished to build a trauma center in Town B).
2. The subject of 'risk' generally refers to the citizens and businesses within the state.
3. Information regarding the Dimensions of Risk should come from ISOs/RTOs, utilities, etc.
4. Outcomes from this modules should be used to influence energy requirements from the state, such as percent of supply or asset types.

Open Questions

1. In what ways can cybersecurity challenges be accounted for in this module?
2. How can this module be used to analyze individual assets?
3. Should this module address the ability to structurally address issues, such as 'moving' power from point A to B?

Restoration Prioritization Recap

Restoration Prioritization

Summary – "How to turn plans into actions"

This module should be centered on creating a structured planning tool that bridges the gap between preparation and real-time response during emergencies. Participants stated there are three key characteristics that should be emphasized in this module: collaboration between the state and energy organizations; adaptability to use the tool for policy-making and planning; and communication during emergencies.

Recap

1. Prioritization lists are operationalized through open dialogue with utilities.
2. There's a level of optionality built into the module to account for the operating environment.
3. This module can inform the creation of a handbook used during emergencies that communicates the state's plans and needs.
4. The module can be used as a planning tool to determine state priorities and help communicate these to the appropriate stakeholders.

Open Questions

1. Would it be more beneficial to work through prioritization tiers in real-time during an emergency, or should states have this (partially) completed to use as a instruction manual during emergencies?
2. Should a lever for 'stakeholders' be included?
3. Is it appropriate for a public communications strategy in this?

Interdependency Planning Recap

Interdependency Planning

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Summary - "Improved plans must consider communication needs and capabilities"

The discussion underscored that reliable communications (structural and interpersonal) is the foundation of effective cross-sector coordination. With this, the module will undergo a few major changes. Participants want to include engagement parameters to improve how state offices gather feedback from partners. The module will also center around four core interdependencies and will define 'risk' through time-based thresholds to help states better assess cross-sector vulnerabilities.

Recap

1. Communications must be addressed; otherwise, we can't address the infrastructure component. You need to prioritize infrastructure that enables communications. This also makes knowing 'who to talk to' important.
2. It would be helpful to determine 'engagement questions' by sector, to ensure state offices are soliciting the proper feedback from external partners.
3. There are four key interdependencies: communication, energy, transportation, and safety and security.
4. Risk thresholds based on time frame/duration are more valuable than impact, because impacts can vary substantially depending on their context.

Module Updates

1. Make risk thresholds time-based.
2. The module will address four interdependencies, based on the FEMA Community Lifelines: communication, energy, transportation, and safety and security.
3. Create a list of sector-specific dependency questions.

Design & Integration Recap

Design & Integration

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Summary – "There's a challenge in aligning state policy and grid design"

The energy security strategy selected by states, and this module itself, are not about recommending a design standard, but about leveraging and understanding the design implications of the strategy. Participants focused on the disconnect between state policies, utility practices, and design standards and brainstormed what they need to address this issue. Overall, it was noted that numerous things can create inefficiencies, including inconsistent policy, disparate utility requirements, and unclear state roles.

Recap

1. Design criteria is mostly driven by informal state policy (i,e., social policies, carbon standards). However, energy goals are not design criteria.
2. Not all utilities in a state have to follow the same design standards.
3. States have inefficiencies related to design planning, such as an unclear role in energy security, stakeholder influence, and misunderstanding impacts to certain sectors.
4. Utilities have inefficiencies related to design planning, such as slow approval processes, adapting to state policies, and not considering the value of resilience.
5. States prefer value of its strategy over the investment, but utilities feel the opposite.

Module Updates

1. Outline how each Energy Security Strategy influences grid design criteria, or how it can be used to do so.
2. Ensure ideas presented in the module help state offices improve operations and maximize their influence, within their authority (i.e., utilizing existing legislative directives).

Next Steps

Next Steps

EEPIC Office Hours

✎ **Objective.** Discuss Energy Risk & Criticality and Restoration Prioritization (Q&A, Feedback)

⏱ **Dates.** Wednesday, November 5, 2025: 3 - 4 PM CT

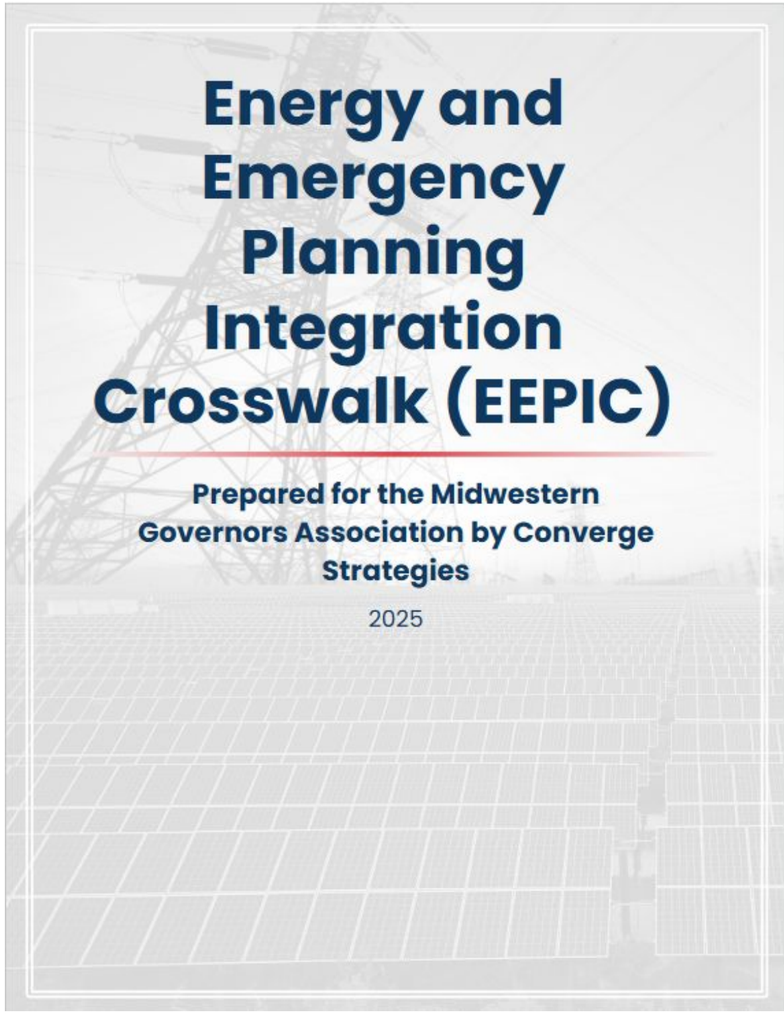
Wednesday, November 12, 2025: 3 - 4 PM CT

These sessions will be on Zoom.

EEPIC Working Group Call

✎ **Objective.** Discuss outlines for Interdependency Planning and Design & Integration.

⏱ **Date.** Wednesday, December 10, 2025: 3 - 4 PM CT



Appendix A: Workshop Slides

Agenda

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01	Workshop Objectives	05	Restoration Prioritization Module Review
02	Panel Discussion: RTO Perspectives on Load Growth	06	Panel Discussion: Interdependencies
03	Executive Summary/User Guide Module Review	07	Interdependency Planning Module Exploration
04	Energy Risk & Criticality Module Review	08	Design & Integration Module Exploration

Workshop Agenda

Tuesday 7 October	
Time	**Description**
9:00 - 9:10 AM	Welcome/Introductions
9:10 - 10:00 AM	Panel Discussion: RTO Perspectives on Load Growth
10:00 - 10:10 AM	Break
10:10 - 11:25 AM	Review of Draft Framework Sections: User Guide, Energy Risk & Criticality, and Restoration Prioritization
11:25 - 11:50 AM	Lunch
11:50 AM - 12:40 PM	Lunch Panel Discussion: Interdependencies
12:40 - 2:10 PM	Interdependency Planning Module Exploration
2:10 - 2:20 PM	Break
2:20 - 3:50 PM	Design & Integration Module Exploration
3:50 - 4:00 PM	Conclusion/Next Steps
4:00 PM	Adjourn

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Workshop Objectives

CONTINUE DEVELOPING THE FRAMEWORKS

1. Executive Summary
2. Energy Risk & Criticality
3. Restoration Prioritization
4. Interdependency Planning
5. Design & Integration

TEST FRAMEWORKS

Work through a series of decision-making exercises and scenarios to determine how best to support energy resilience, equity, and economic development.

BUILD TRUST

Improve interregional resource integration and planning. Build a shared understanding of existing and future energy infrastructure capabilities, requirements, and gaps.

Housekeeping + Introductions

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Ground Rules

Be Present. Please try not to check your email or cell.

Be Respectful. Respect the timer, additional participants, and the team. Chatham House Rules applies!

Make Space. We encourage participation of the full group.

Think BIG. Ask clarifying questions and collaborate creatively.

Off Recording. We're taking notes for the framework, but there's no audio or visual recording.

Panel Discussion: RTO Perspectives on Load Growth

Panel Discussion: RTO Perspectives on Load Growth

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Senior Director - Strategic Communications

MISO

DEREK WINGFIELD

Manager, Communications and Stakeholder Affairs

SPP

Draft Framework Modules Discussions

Modules for Energy and Emergency Planning and Coordination Framework (EEPIC)

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1. Executive Summary & User Guide
2. Energy Risk & Criticality
3. Restoration Prioritization
4. Inter-dependency Planning
5. Design & Integration

Executive Summary/ User Guide Module

Energy Risk & Criticality Module

Restoration Prioritization Module

Panel Discussion: Interdependencies

Panel Discussion: Interdependencies

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Interdependency Planning Module Exploration

Overview

Challenge

Not everything can be critical. Interdependency planning helps regions develop robust emergency response plans as energy is crucial to other critical lifelines (e.g., natural gas, water, communications, transportation). Understanding the interaction between critical lifelines is key to achieving resilience. This framework will help users establish requirements within their organization and suggest methods for interdependency mapping with external partners and systems.

STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4
Energy Strategy Crosswalk	**Critical Lifelines Alignment**	**Resourcing Priorities**	**Lifeline Interdependencies**
Determine the primary driver of your energy security strategy (diversification, economic, and resilience) to guide the interdependency mapping process.	Consider which Critical Lifelines your state needs to protect, based on your chosen energy security strategy.	Determine which infrastructure components, plans/policies, or resources are need to protect your chosen Critical Lifelines.	Determine how potential disruptive events impact your Critical Lifelines, based on your chosen energy security strategy.

Step 1: Energy Strategy Crosswalk

What does your state prioritize?

Diversification

Diversification emphasizes how a balanced mix of energy resources can support the security and operations of Critical Lifelines and their cross-sector interactions.

Economic

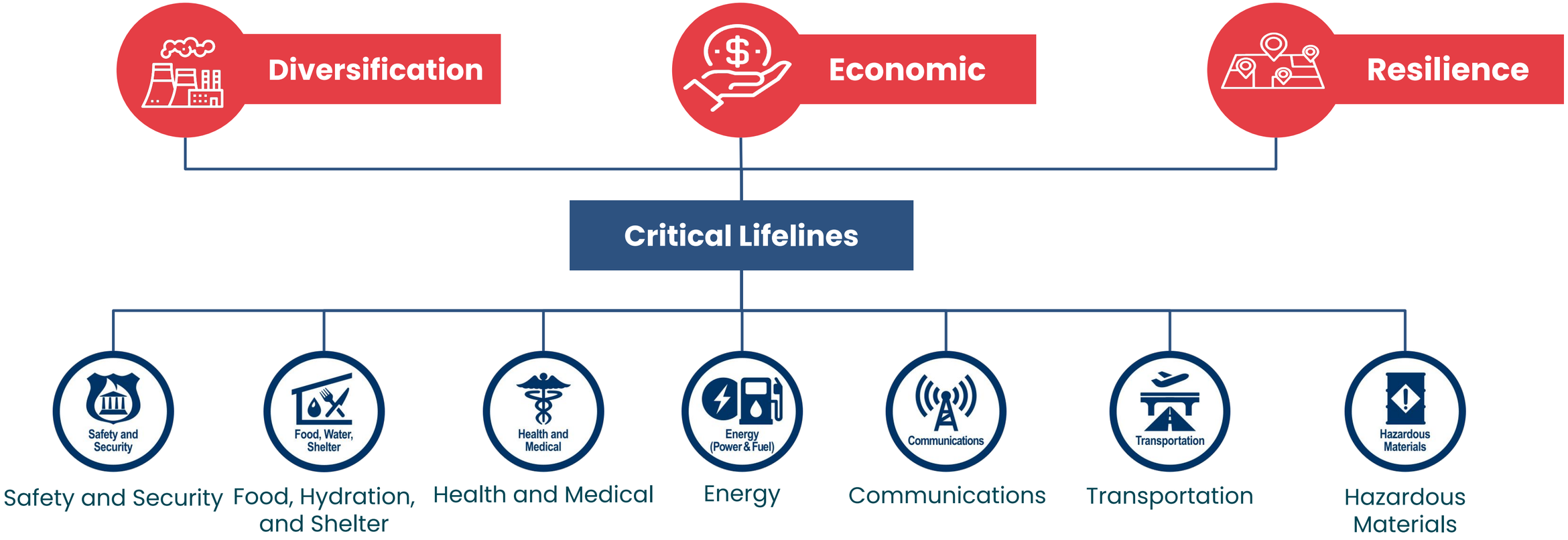
The nexus between energy security and economic stability can inform interdependency planning by evaluating how investment or policy decisions can strengthen both grid reliability and economic resilience.

Resilience

Resilience in interdependency planning focuses on the ability for Critical Lifelines, solely and cross-sector, to sustain operations during disruptions and restore services to their full capacity during crises.

Step 2: Critical Lifelines Alignment

What interdependency risks do you face based on your chosen energy security strategy?



Applying Strategies to Lifelines: Evaluating Interdependency Risks

Step 3: Resourcing Priorities

What infrastructure components, plans, policies, or resources are needed to protect the chosen Critical Lifelines?

Energy Security Strategy	Critical Lifelines	Resourcing Priorities
Diversification	3-4 Critical Lifelines	What do we need in order to protect these Lifelines?
Economic		What do we need in order to protect these Lifelines?
Resilience		What do we need in order to protect these Lifelines?

Concept Posters: Addressing Lifeline Interdependencies

Step 4: Lifeline Interdependencies

4

Interdependency Planning

How do various disruptions to critical lifelines impact the power grid and how does the chosen energy security strategy shape our response?

Energy Security Strategy	Critical Lifelines	Severity of Grid Impact Events		
Diversification	3-4 Critical Lifelines	Low	Medium	High
Economic		Low	Medium	High
Resilience		Low	Medium	High

Design & Integration Module Exploration

Discussion:

What state-specific design criteria exists in your state today?

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Discussion:

How is infrastructure design addressed (or not) in your SESP?

Overview

Challenge

Clearly defined priorities drive infrastructure investment. Design and integration refers to the ability of the infrastructure planning process to align between state policy, regulatory requirements, utility design, and ISO/RTO priorities. This can shape properly scaled T&D infrastructure design and performance requirements. The framework will provide guidelines for building uniform infrastructure design criteria that consider multiple organizational priorities and processes.

STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4
Energy Strategy Crosswalk	**State Tools Analysis**	**Utility Tools Analysis**	**Communicating Standards**
Determine the primary driver of your energy security strategy (diversification, economic, and resilience) to guide the integration planning process.	Consider how the state's ability to influence grid design (legislation, policy, or regulation) is impacted by the chosen energy security strategy.	Consider how utilities' grid planning efforts and frameworks (reliability standards, codes, and infrastructure planning) can be influenced by the chosen energy security strategy.	Analyze the ways in which the chosen energy security strategy is influencing state and utility grid design and planning efforts. Determine ways the state can prioritize and communicate its objectives.

Step 1: Energy Strategy Crosswalk

What does your state prioritize?

Diversification

Diversification principles in integrated plans ensures that transmission and distribution systems are designed to accommodate multiple resource types while maintaining reliability.

Economic

The economic perspective aligns infrastructure investments with cost-effectiveness of energy technologies, affordability of energy use, and other economic priorities (e.g., business or production growth, job production, etc.).

Resilience

Resilience in integrated plans ensures that the system is structurally adaptable, can withstand shocks, minimizes cascading impacts of outages and their severity, and improve grid recovery timeframes.

Discussion:

Are these the right levers?

Discussion:

What inefficiencies exist in these processes and activities?

Discussion:

Which processes and activities lack guidance for utilities to apply a strategy?

Solutions Matrix:
Aligning State and Utility Actions Around Common Strategy

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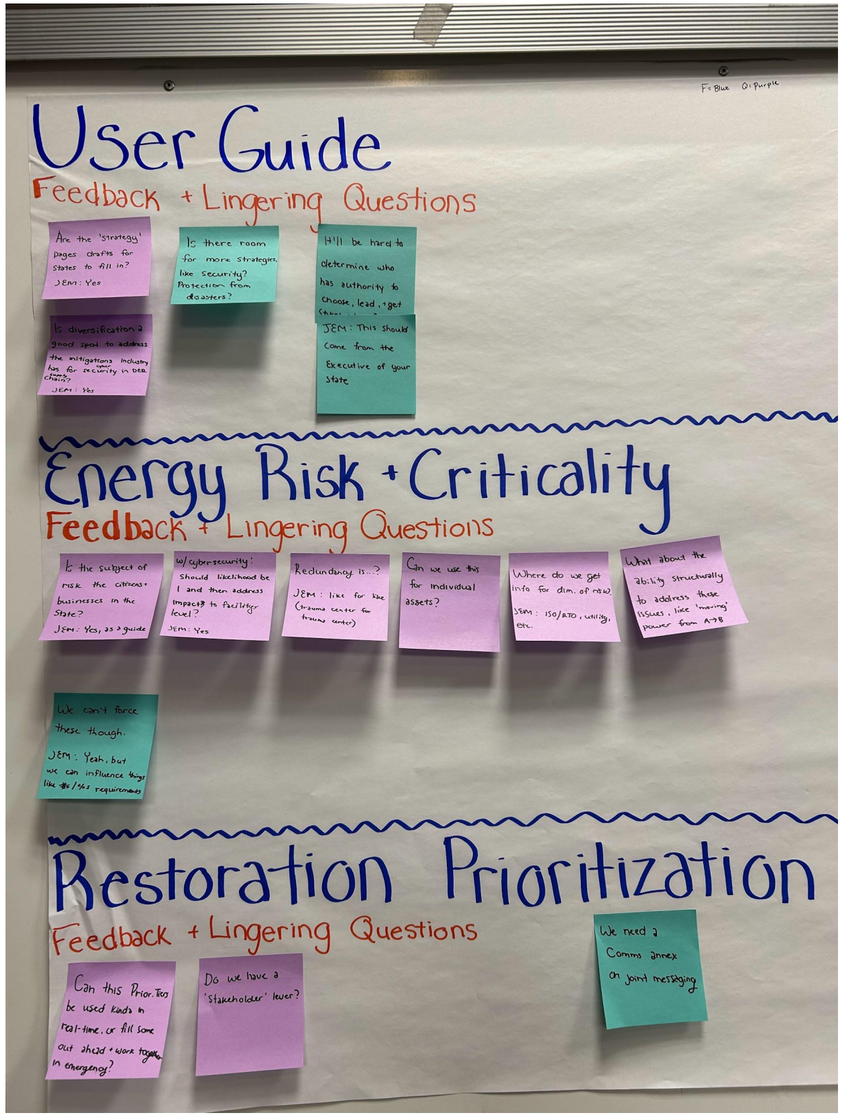
Appendix B:
Flip Chart Photos

Flip Chart Photos



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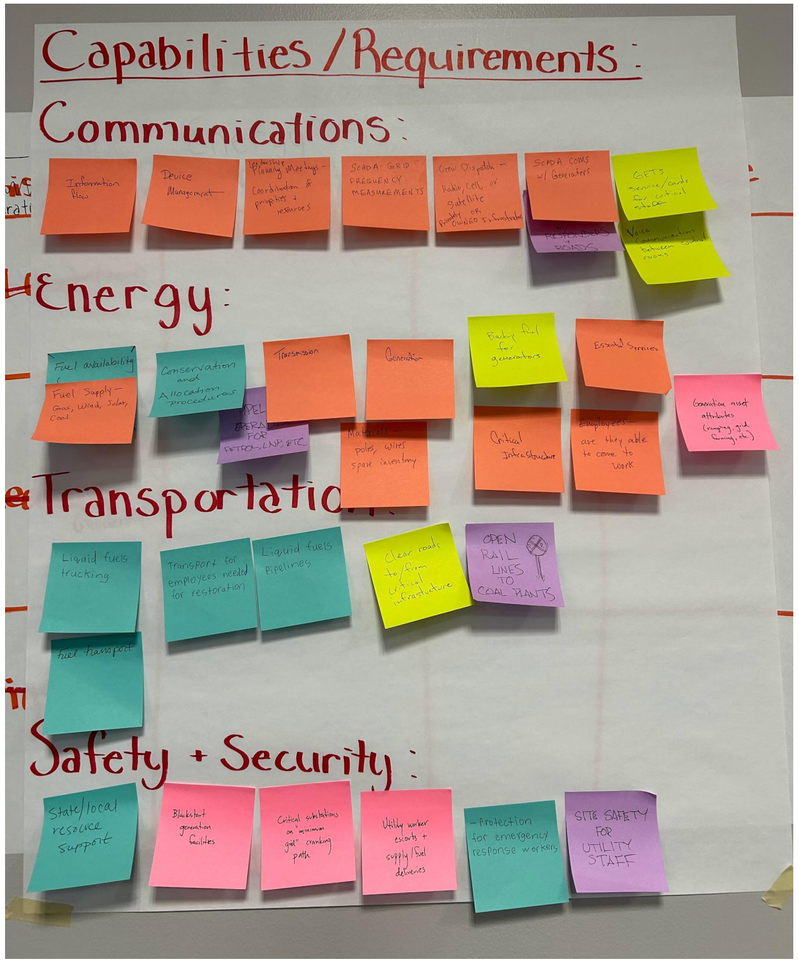

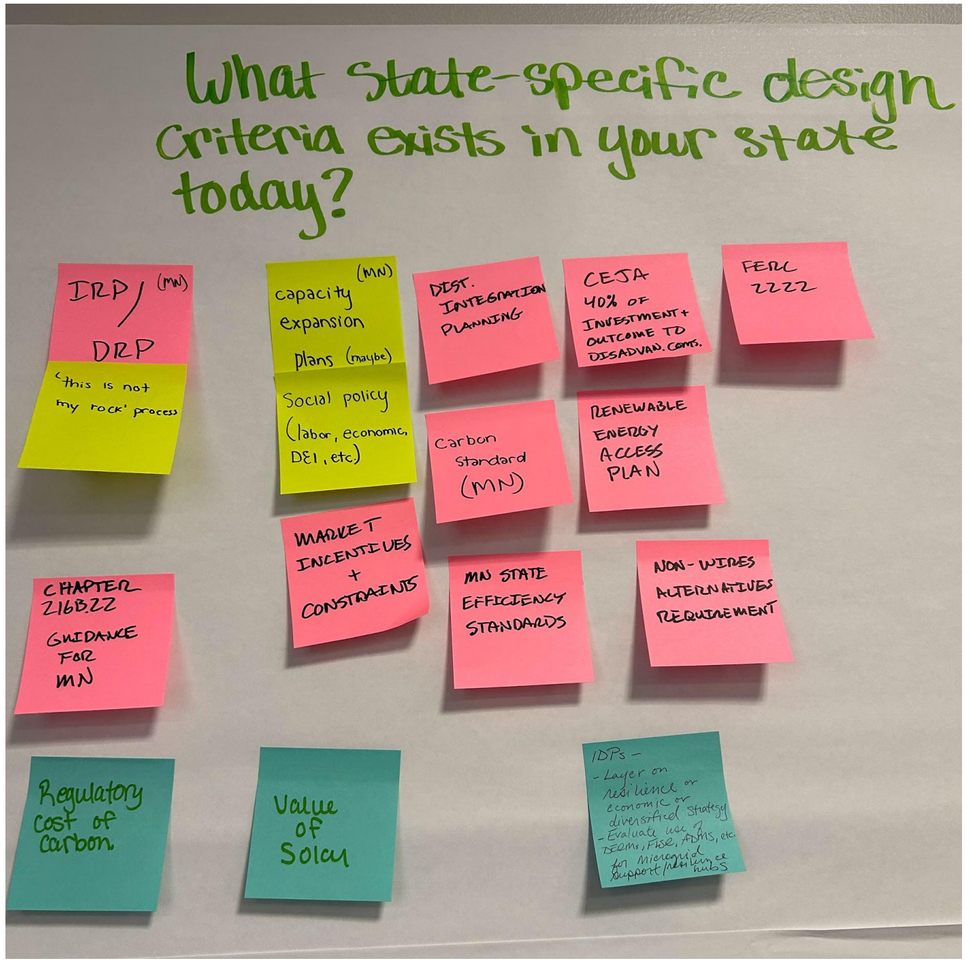

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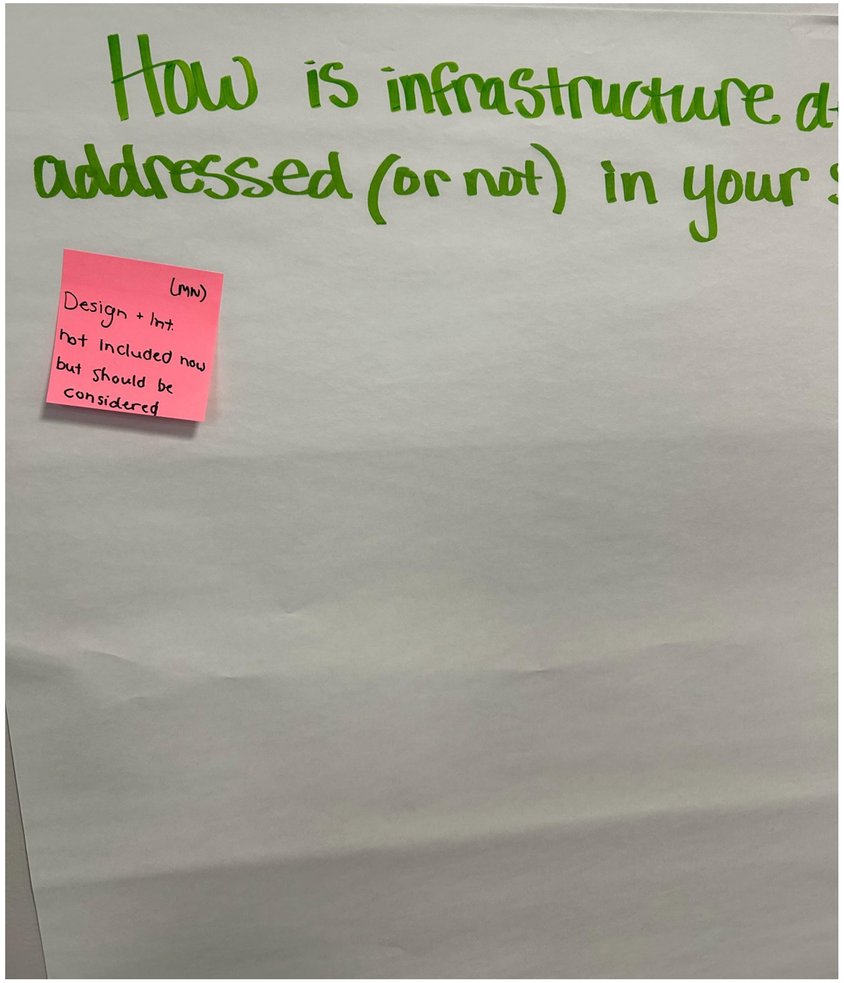

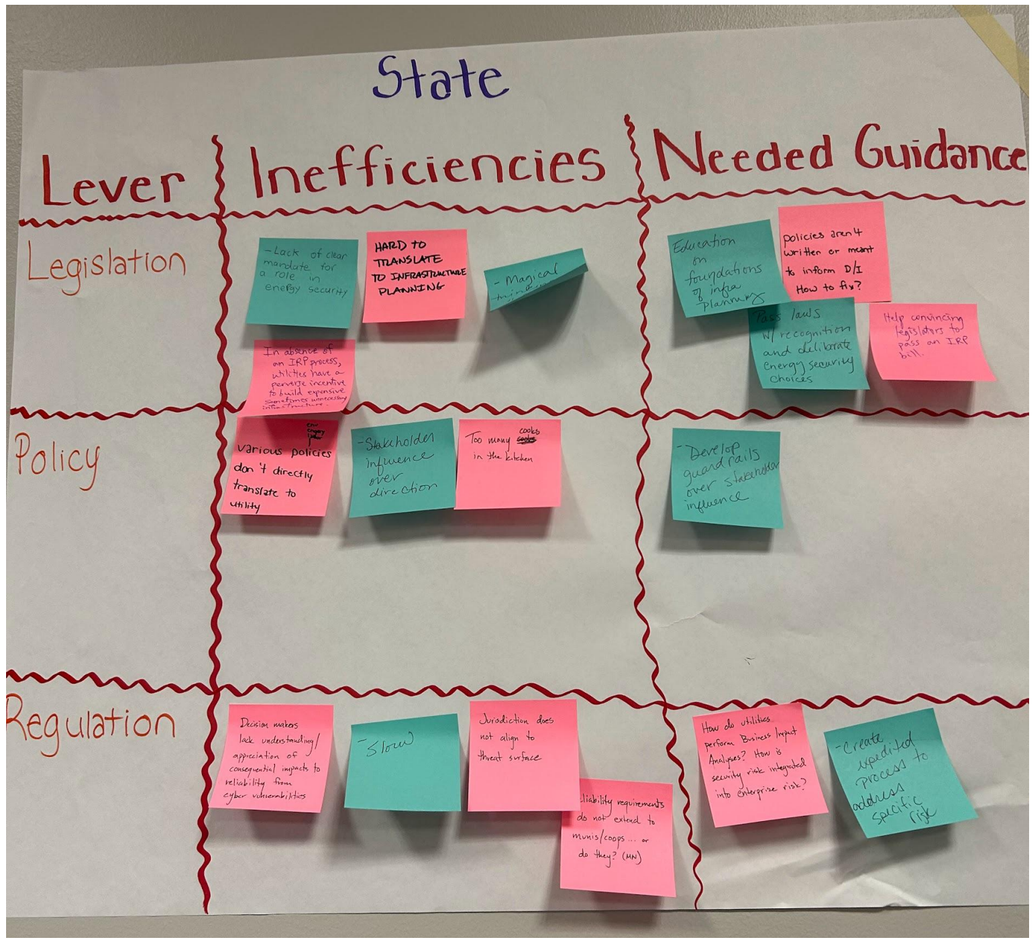

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