



Advisory Group Meeting

April Monthly Meeting

8 April 2026



CONVERGE
STRATEGIES

Agenda

01

Workshop Recap

02

**Framework Roadmap &
Guidance Overview**

03

**Framework
Implementation 2027**

04

**Appendix
(Workshop Notes)**

Workshop Recap

Workshop Objectives



GAIN TARGETED FEEDBACK ON FRAMEWORK MODULES

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



VALIDATE PRACTICAL APPLICABILITY

Confirm that the concepts, processes, and examples reflect real-world planning and operational realities.



STRENGTHEN CLARITY AND CONSISTENCY

Ensure key concepts, terminology, and approaches are clearly defined and consistently applied across the four modules.

Key Workshop Takeaways

1

Shift Module Order Within The Framework

Although the framework is designed to be used flexibly with standalone modules, it should be ordered in a way that aligns with real-world operational planning perspectives. The new order will place *Design & Integration* as the first module after the *Executive Summary & User Guide*.

2

Ensuring The Framework's Relevance

The framework helps state officials address complex coordination and planning challenges related to energy and emergency planning. We must build towards making it executable and understandable for them.

3

Providing Implementation Guidance

One of the framework's goals is to improve cross-agency coordination. We must include an implementation plan that helps users more cohesively integrate the framework into operations through proper identification of stakeholders and outlining steps for effective engagement.

Module Updates

Energy Risk & Criticality Feedback

Recap

Some agencies and organizations assess and view risk through a monetary lens.

Utilities use a lot of disparate data to conduct risk assessments, which may be difficult for the state to analyze or obtain.

Utilities' risk assessment methods, outcomes, and perspectives differ from the state, resulting in inconsistent definitions that are difficult to interpret and align.

Module Updates

Adjust language in the “Dimensions of Energy Risk Drivers” to reflect monetary concerns (i.e., economic impacts of prolonged outages)

Clarify that this module is about defining and building a strategy around ‘risk’ as a concept, not necessarily conducting risk assessments.

This strategy is used to both influence stakeholder planning processes based on state needs and better interpret utility risk assessment outcomes.

Restoration Prioritization Feedback

Recap

Gaps in local-level knowledge of critical facilities at the state and utility level limit effective restoration planning.

States require detailed, feeder-level data to understand assets, but because this data changes frequently, they must rely on utilities to identify and communicate priorities.

Utilities and ISO/RTOs are largely policy takers, relying on direction from state and local authorities.

Module Updates

Explain the role of states as policy setters and how to use the module to align utilities with that direction.

Clarify that this module forms state-level criteria for utilities, identifying which customer-types and functions are critical to include in restoration plans

Interdependency Planning Feedback

Recap

This module focuses on understanding how external sector operations and capabilities directly support grid functionality.

The FEMA Critical Lifelines definitions of sectors may differ from traditional planning interpretations.

The first step in improving energy assurance is to understand overall sector operations and vulnerabilities.

Module Updates

Clarify the definition and use of 'energy' throughout the module, because the term doesn't always equate to 'electricity' or 'grid'.

Add additional context to 'Energy Technology' and its relationship to grid operations.

Emphasize identifying critical asset sites (e.g., switching facilities) to strengthen response planning.

Design & Integration Feedback

Recap

Energy Security Strategy goals and infrastructure projects are often weakened due to costs.

Design criteria should reflect state-utility alignment of both current and future risk.

Resource adequacy issues are understood by states, and don't change significantly under the different Energy Security Strategies.

Module Updates

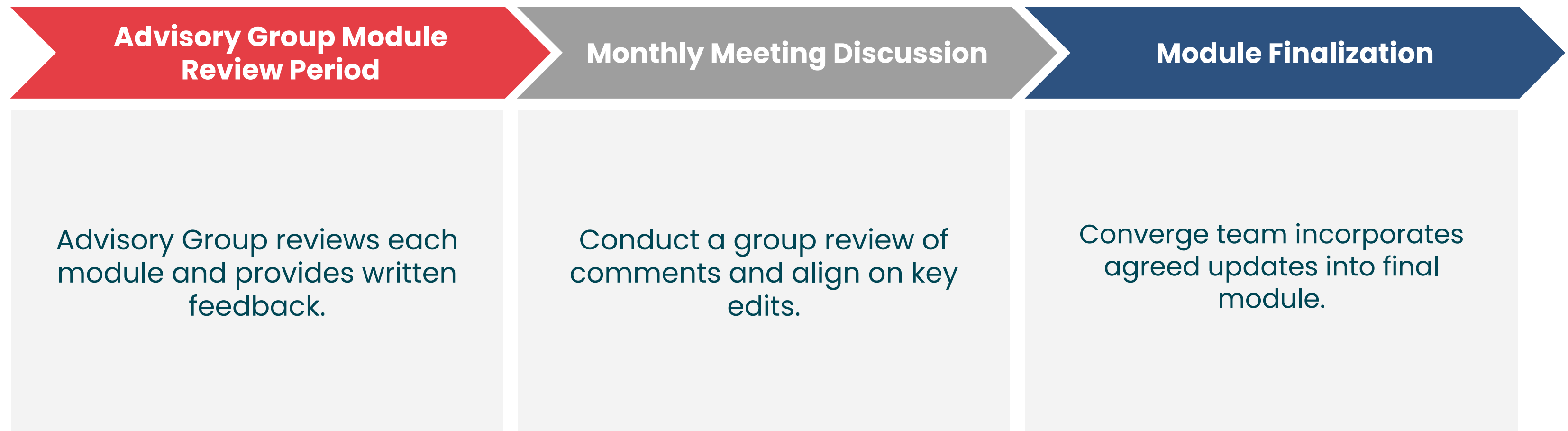
Clarify that states can combine the goals of each Energy Security Strategy, not use one as a sole driver of policy.

Align case studies with specific Energy Security Strategies.

Refine the 'Strategy Approach' using qualitative cost-benefit analysis.

Framework Roadmap & Guidance Overview

Framework Roadmap



Overview: How To Focus Your Feedback



Prioritize Feedback On:



Accuracy. Does this reflect how planning and operations occur? Are key constraints or decision points missing?



Clarity. Is the intent clear to those outside this group? What concepts need clearer explanation or examples?



Applicability. Could this realistically be used by a state official? Where does this break down in practice?



Gaps. What considerations are missing or underrepresented? Are there perspectives or scenarios not captured?



Deprioritize:



Wordsmithing. Minor wording or rewriting sections without a clear conceptual need or to improve understanding.



Organizational Preferences. Focusing on a single state's or organization's process without strengthening the common approach or capability.



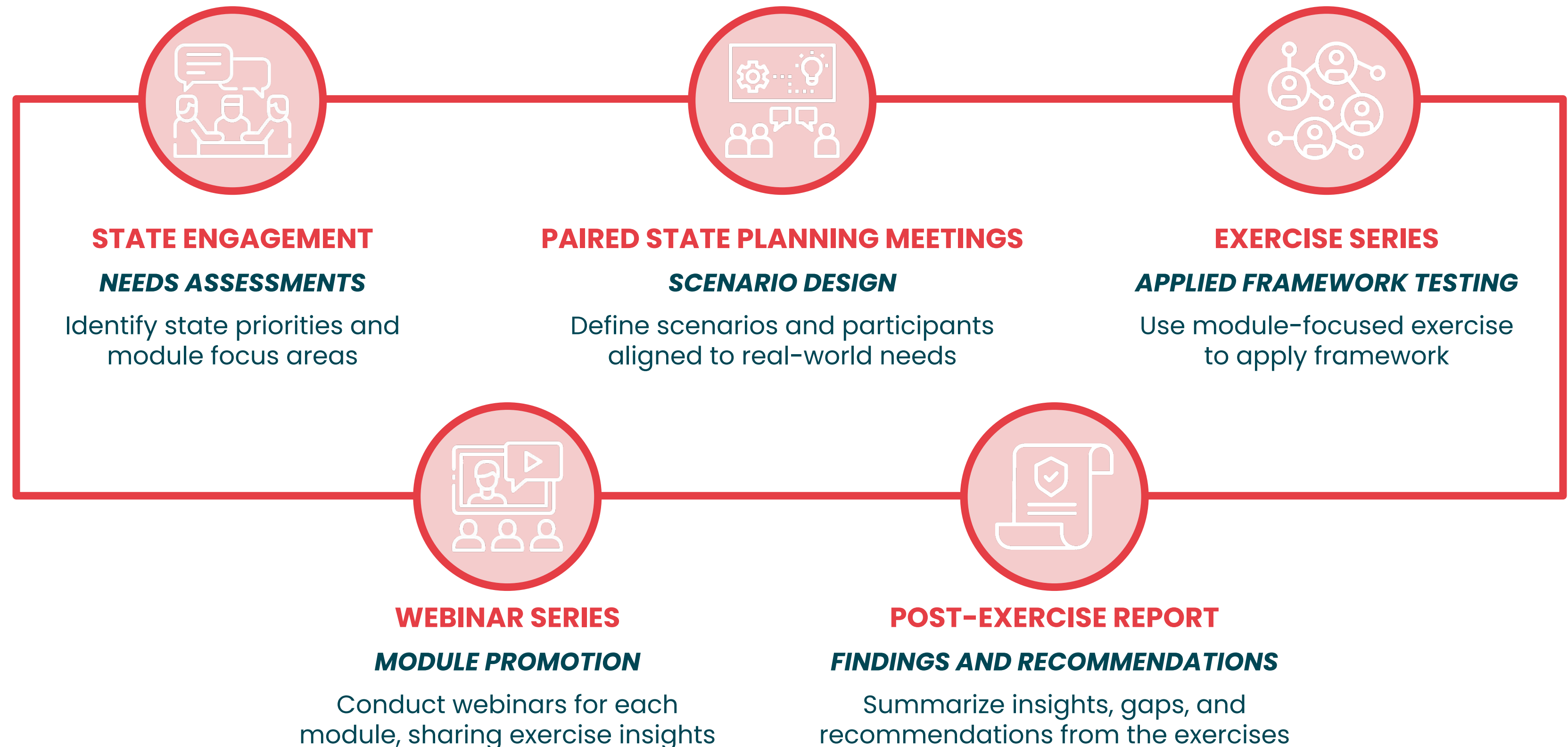
Scope Creep. Adding more depth, granularity, or technical detail than intended to support planning or decision-making.

Framework Roadmap: Timeline

Module	Review Period	Discussion
Energy Risk & Criticality	April 9 – April 20	May Meeting
Restoration Prioritization	April 24 – May 1	May Meeting
Interdependency Planning	May 18 – May 28	June Meeting
Design & Integration	June 11 – June 22	July Meeting

Framework Implementation 2027

Implementing The Framework Through Tabletop Exercises In 2027



Next Steps

Next Steps

Framework Review Period

Energy Risk & Criticality: April 9 – 20

Restoration Prioritization: April 24 – May 1

Monthly Meeting

 Next Meeting: Wednesday May 13, 2026;
3–4 PM CST

Agenda:

- Review key edits for Energy Risk & Criticality and Restoration Prioritization

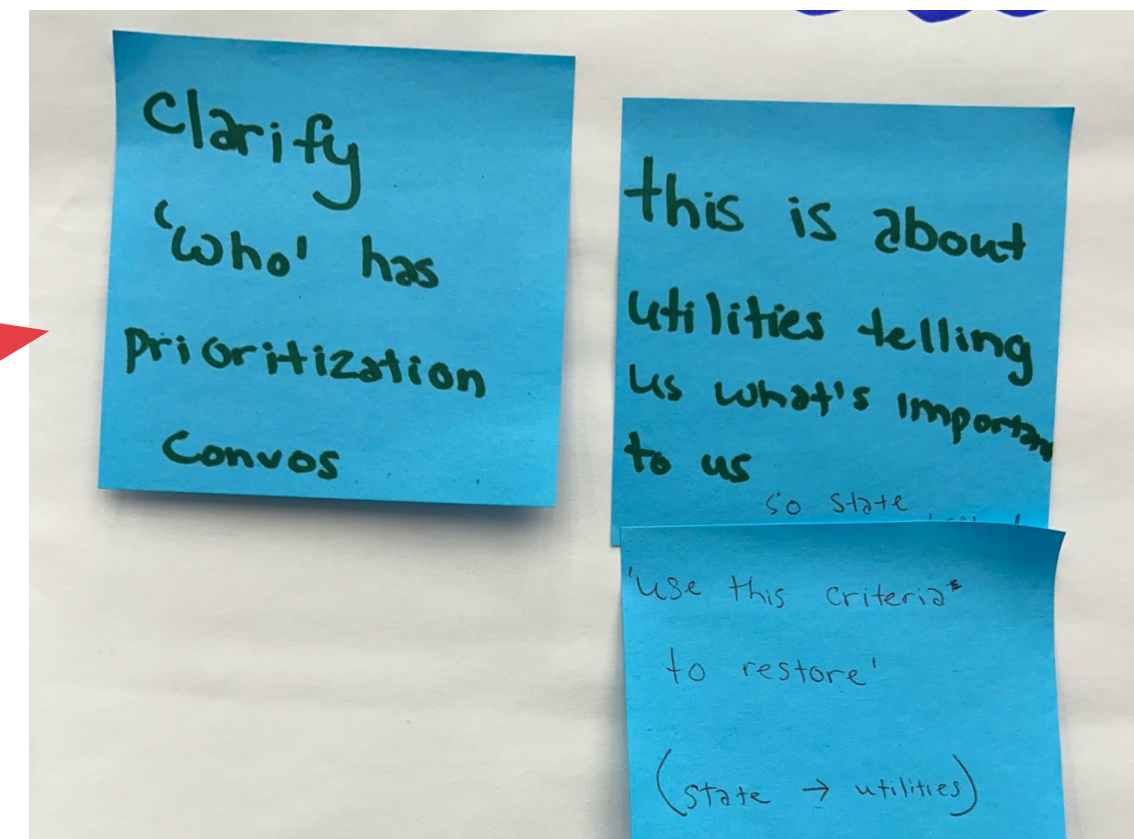
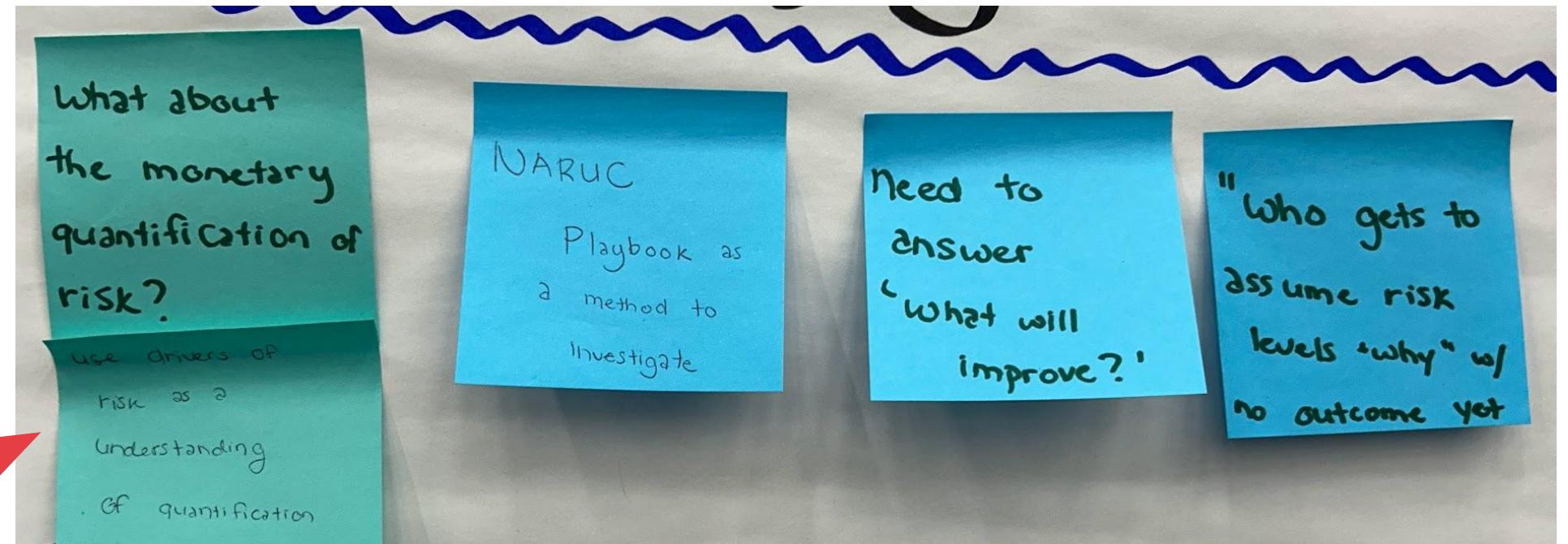
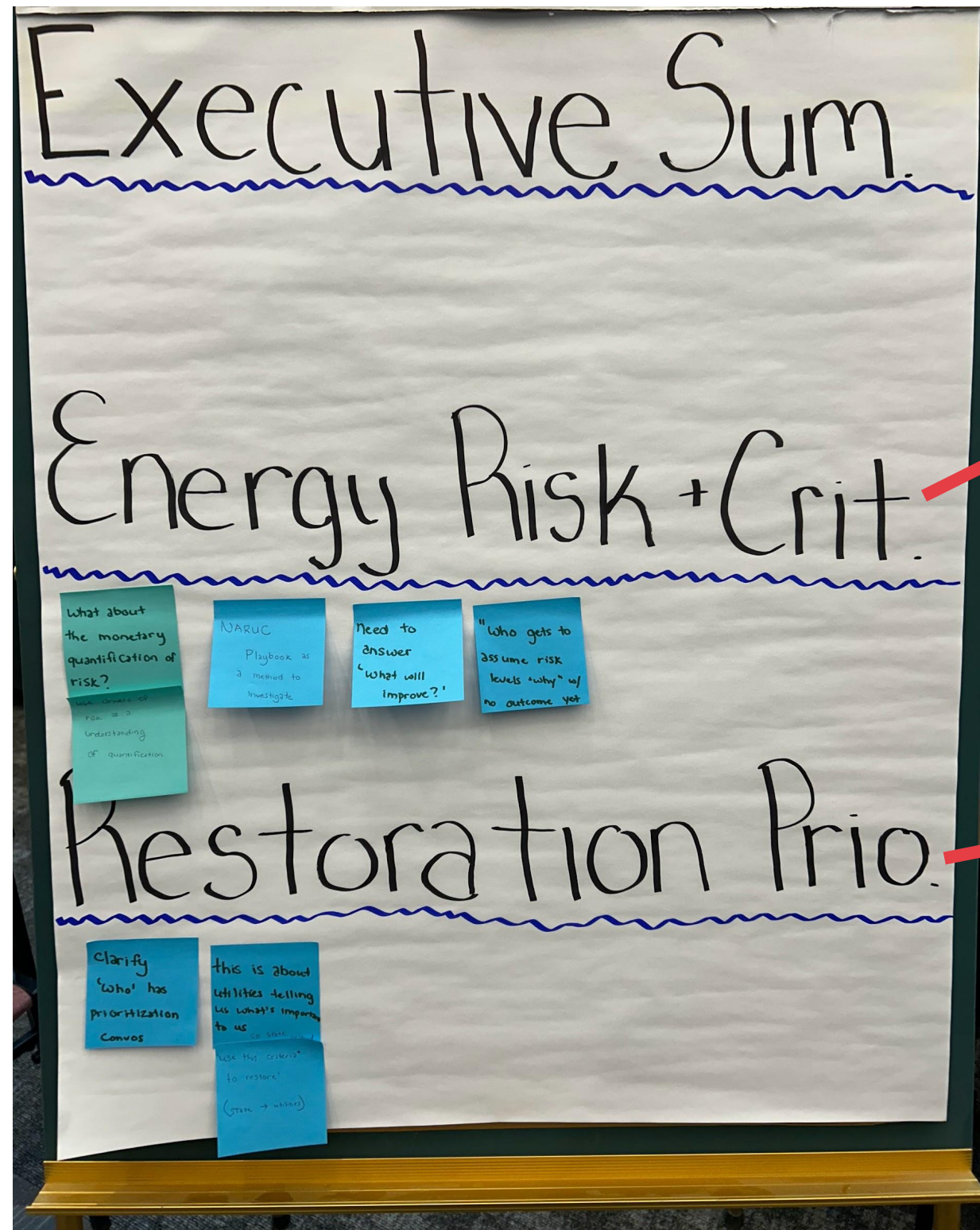
Energy and Emergency Planning Integration Crosswalk (EEPIC)

Prepared for the Midwestern
Governors Association by Converge
Strategies

2025

Appendix (Workshop Notes)

Module Overview Notes



Interdependency Planning Notes

~ Communications ~

Add Clarify Remove

Add:

- PACE Comms Plan (Add)
- need to inc. engagement w/ comms. sector
- How PACE (integrated) helps priorities
- ACI

Clarify:

- gens @ cell towers (6-12 hrs of base w/)
- Importance of understanding what sites are critical
- Committees need to be standing + effective so they can open
- BEOCs
- you need to build trust

~ Transportation ~

Add Clarify Remove

Add:

- gen/pipeline impact damage assessments using drones/helicopters
- Satellites used for monitoring
- For roads: state can sometimes be #1 help to move utility personnel
- reciprocity between state licenses/licenses (E.G.)
- change title to (Modal) transport
- waivers for transport to prioritize grid ops (eng. g. power)

Clarify:

- aviation dependencies (mention)
- 'energy' vs 'grid' terminology
- this is the FEMA definition

Remove:

- mention of 'energy' in Strategy def.
- Rail - the fuels go to their end use/destination

~ Energy ~

Add Clarify Remove

Add:

- Distillates Add
- VPP (Virtual power plant) add energy tech

Clarify:

- put energy tech ~ Somewhere ~ more clearly
- mention the asymmetry of impacts to products of different fuel types

Design & Integration Notes

~ DIVERSIFICATION ~

ADD CLARIFY REMOVE

- ADD**
 - (Intro) 'first among equals' in your strategy * mix *
 - (Intro) Case study: IL CRA energy battery storage
 - (all) map case studies to imp. plan
 - 'tariffs' to regs.
- CLARIFY**
 - (Intro) design + risk analysis should be... utilities do it, but state is unsure. they need to integrated
 - (Intro) which stakeholder is involved w/ implementing each strategy?
 - clarify which lever is state driven vs state taking
- REMOVE**
 - Case Studies: remove 'state' from title + ~~state~~ say if it's 'resilience' or ~~state~~
 - (Intro) move D/I to first
 - (Intro) Add more about aligning these to strategy.
 - (Intro) Be put stakeholder list into Strategy implement.
 - (Intro) 1 general RA page

~ ECONOMIC ~

Add CLARIFY REMOVE

- Add**
 - add affordability to the RA annex
 - regs in 'imp. s.' add siting + permitting + cultural sites
- CLARIFY**
 - 'Strategy approach' based on cost ~~and~~ benefit analysis
- REMOVE**
 - Keep D-T-G + do qualitative c/b analysis for implement.

~ RESILIENCE ~

ADD CLARIFY REMOVE

- CLARIFY**
 - c/b: you can get resilience w/o \$\$\$\$\$\$

Contact Us



MGA



America's Smartland
Midwestern Governors Association

JEFF EWART

Deputy Director

jewart@midwesterngovernors.org

JONATHON MONKEN

Senior Partner

jmonken@convergestrategies.com

JESSE HEIER

Executive Director

jheier@midwesterngovernors.org

BRAXTON DUNCAN

Director

bduncan@convergestrategies.com