

Synthesis of Sector Workgroup Feedback on Draft DMF Priorities

1. Purpose and context

Sector workgroups (Buildings, Transportation, Power, and Natural & Working Lands) were convened to provide feedback on draft DMF priorities — Affordability, Public Health, Economic Development, and Equity — and to identify sector-specific implementation considerations, measurement approaches, and collaboration opportunities.

Feedback reflects thematic discussion rather than consensus and is intended to inform DMF refinement and consultant onboarding for CECP scenario modeling and policy design.

2. Cross-cutting themes across sectors

2.1 Priority structure: strong support with calls for refinement and expansion

Across all sectors, the four draft priorities were generally viewed as appropriate but incomplete in fully capturing system impacts and implementation realities.

Three recurring structural gaps emerged:

a. Environmental and ecosystem considerations

NWL strongly proposed Ecosystem Health and Functions as an additional priority.

Power participants similarly raised ecological impacts (land, water, biodiversity) as underrepresented.

Transportation and Buildings referenced environmental outcomes through resilience and land-use integration.

Cross-sector implication:

Environmental and ecosystem impacts are viewed as core outcomes of decarbonization, with ongoing discussion about whether they should be a standalone priority or explicitly integrated across existing priorities.

b. Adaptation and resilience alongside mitigation

Power and NWL strongly emphasized adaptation, while Buildings and Transportation referenced resilience through reliability and infrastructure readiness.

Common elements included:

- Extreme weather preparedness
- Infrastructure durability

- Ecosystem-based resilience
- Community Resilience and Well Being

Cross-sector implication:

Participants widely viewed mitigation and adaptation as interdependent and cautioned against evaluating mitigation pathways in isolation.

c. Enabling conditions for implementation

Multiple sectors identified system design conditions that shape outcomes across all priorities:

Simplicity and policy cohesion (Buildings)

Infrastructure readiness and connectivity (Transportation)

Nature valuation (NWL)

Clear definitions and indicators (Power)

These were not framed as priorities themselves but as methodological or process considerations necessary for successful implementation.

2.2 Evolving interpretations of affordability

Affordability was consistently discussed as more complex than direct consumer cost reduction.

Shared elements included:

- Lifecycle and system cost accounting (Transportation)
- Program complexity and administrative burden (Buildings)
- Rate stability and predictability (Power)
- Avoided costs and return on investment from nature-based solutions (NWL)

Cross-sector implication:

Affordability is increasingly interpreted as:

- system cost-effectiveness, distributional impacts, and predictability over time.

2.3 Equity and agency as central but under-defined

All sectors highlighted equity as essential but called for greater conceptual clarity.

Common themes included:

- Distribution of benefits and burdens
- Procedural inclusion and community agency
- Access barriers to technologies and programs
- Need for disaggregated analysis
- Protection from harms during the transition (e.g., workforce impacts, displacement)

Buildings and Transportation emphasized engagement and agency; Power highlighted energy justice frameworks; NWL focused on equitable distribution of ecosystem benefits.

Cross-sector implication:

Equity is broadly supported but requires clearer definitions, indicators, and consistent integration into modeling and policy evaluation.

2.4 Importance of measurement and analytical rigor

Across sectors, participants emphasized:

- Clear priority definitions
- Robust indicator sets capturing co-benefits
- Disaggregated data to assess distributional impacts
- Integration of qualitative and quantitative outcomes

2.5 Workforce and economic transition considerations

Workforce transition emerged across multiple sectors:

- Buildings and Power highlighted training and support for displaced workers
- Transportation and NWL emphasized job creation opportunities
- Participants stressed evaluating both positive and negative economic impacts

Cross-sector implication:

Economic development discussions increasingly encompass equitable transition considerations.

2.6 Strong emphasis on cross-sector integration

All sectors identified interdependencies as central to effective decarbonization:

- Grid readiness linking power, buildings, and transportation
- Land-use integration shaping transportation and NWL outcomes
- Nature-based solutions supporting infrastructure and resilience
- Shared workforce and financing strategies

Cross-sector implication:

Participants consistently viewed siloed policy design as a risk and emphasized integrated planning approaches.

3. Sector synthesis

3.1 Buildings

The Buildings workgroup emphasized implementation feasibility and structural barriers.

Key themes included:

- Split incentives and limited agency for renters and building occupants
- Importance of simplicity, coordinated policy design, and consistent messaging
- Technology feasibility and reliability, particularly under extreme weather
- Workforce transition from gas to electrification
- Need to differentiate policy approaches across residential, commercial, and industrial subsectors

Measurement ideas focused on program complexity, technology performance, engagement reach, and workforce indicators.

Collaboration priorities included grid planning, workforce development, data integration, and coordinated outreach.

3.2 Transportation

Transportation feedback was analytically detailed and strategy-oriented.

Key themes included:

- Expansive affordability framing incorporating lifecycle and externalized costs
- Integration of land use and transportation as a decarbonization strategy

- Emphasis on distributional analysis and procedural equity
- Recognition of infrastructure readiness, connectivity, and access to mobility options as enabling conditions
- Debate about economic development expectations (growth vs harm avoidance)

Proposed metrics included accessibility indicators, VMT reduction, cost-effectiveness modeling, and distributional impact analysis.

Collaboration priorities included grid readiness, building codes and right-to-charge, public health modeling, and land-use coordination.

3.3 Natural & Working Lands

NWL participants centered ecosystem health as a defining sector contribution.

Key themes included:

- Proposal to add Ecosystem Health and Functions as a DMF priority
- Strong co-benefits framing linking climate mitigation, resilience, health, and economic development
- Emphasis on valuing ecosystem services in policy analysis
- Protect–Manage–Restore as an organizing framework
- Concern about maintaining NWL visibility within a multi-sector plan

Measurement approaches included carbon sequestration, conservation targets, health indicators, job creation, and green space access.

Collaboration priorities spanned infrastructure siting, nature-based stormwater management, building landscapes, and statewide financing mechanisms.

3.4 Power

Power sector discussion focused on system stability, equity, and planning alignment.

Key themes included:

- Need to integrate adaptation and environmental considerations into priority framing
- Reframing affordability as rate stability and predictability
- Importance of defining equity using energy justice frameworks

- Alignment between grid decarbonization pace and electrification pathways
- Recognition of workforce transition impacts

Measurement discussion emphasized clear definitions, disaggregated indicators, and harm-prevention metrics.

Collaboration priorities included transportation electrification, building electrification, land-use coordination, and workforce transition planning.

4. Emerging considerations for DMF development

Across sectors, several implications for DMF refinement emerged:

- Clarifying whether environmental/ecosystem health and adaptation should be explicit priorities or cross-cutting lenses
- Developing clearer definitions and indicators for equity and affordability
- Incorporating co-benefits and distributional analysis into modeling frameworks
- Ensuring DMF structure supports integrated, cross-sector policy evaluation
- Considering workforce transition and potential negative impacts as evaluation criteria