

---

# Realizing Community Benefits:

PILOTING A COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACH IN A REGIONAL DAC HUB

---

Louise Bedsworth, PhD

Executive Director | Center for Law, Energy & the Environment

January 24, 2025

# The Challenge

---

How do we meet our climate targets and

- Avoid duplicating patterns of previous transitions that concentrated pollution, left communities behind, and increased inequity?
- Support emergent technologies needed to meet the climate challenge?
- Move with necessary speed?
- And...

# CBA Principles

---

## Representative

- Trusted community voices are represented in the negotiations

## Transparent

- The negotiations are transparent to those involved and to observing community members

## Accountable

- The CBA establishes measures to ensure the developer is accountable for meeting the CBA provisions

## Procedurally Fair

- Impacted communities should possess adequate capacity to engage

## Impactful

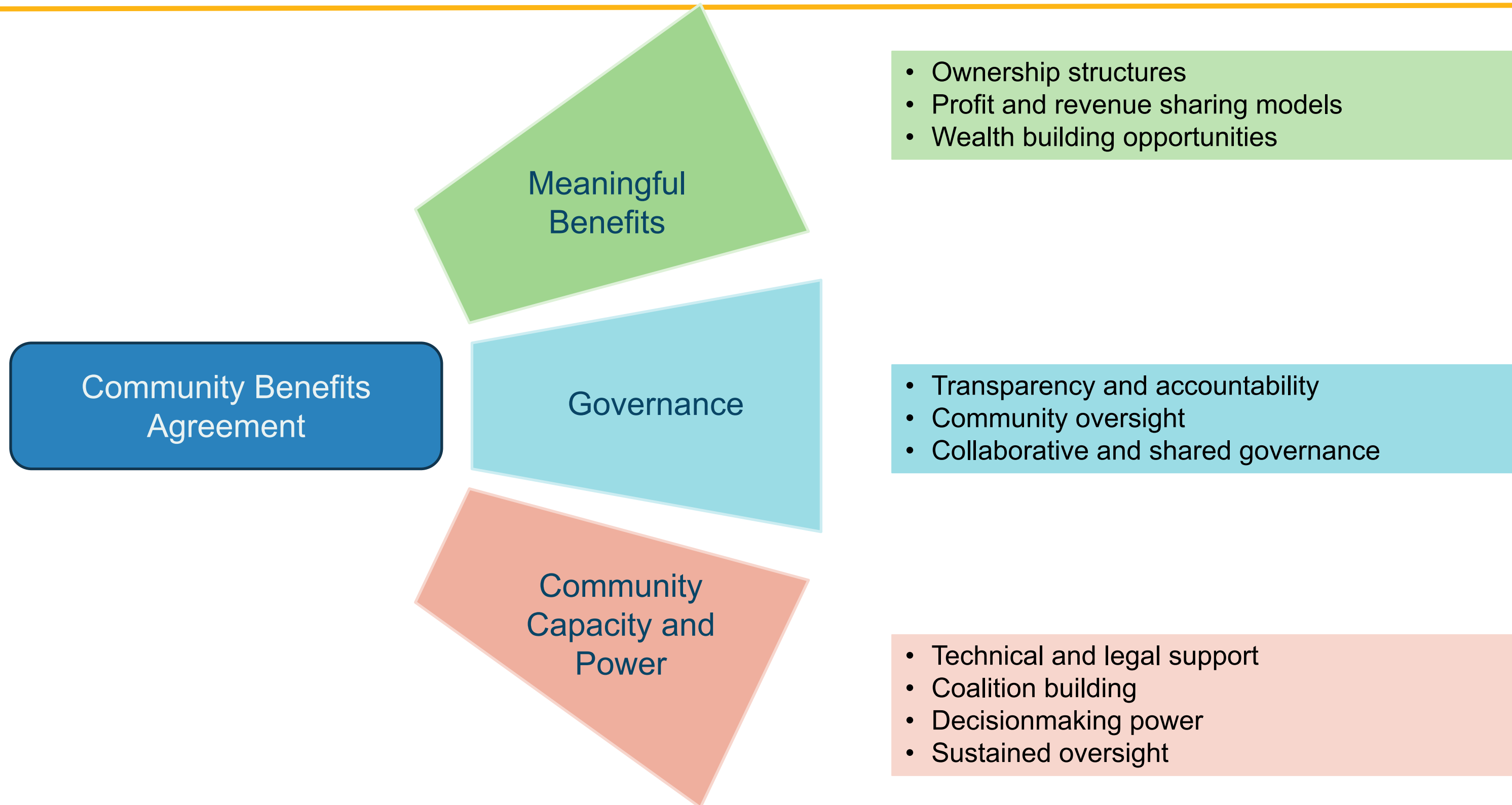
- The CBA produces substantive benefits over the long-term that the community wants and needs

## Enforceable

- The CBA is well constructed to enable and facilitate enforcement

# Community Benefits Ecosystem

---

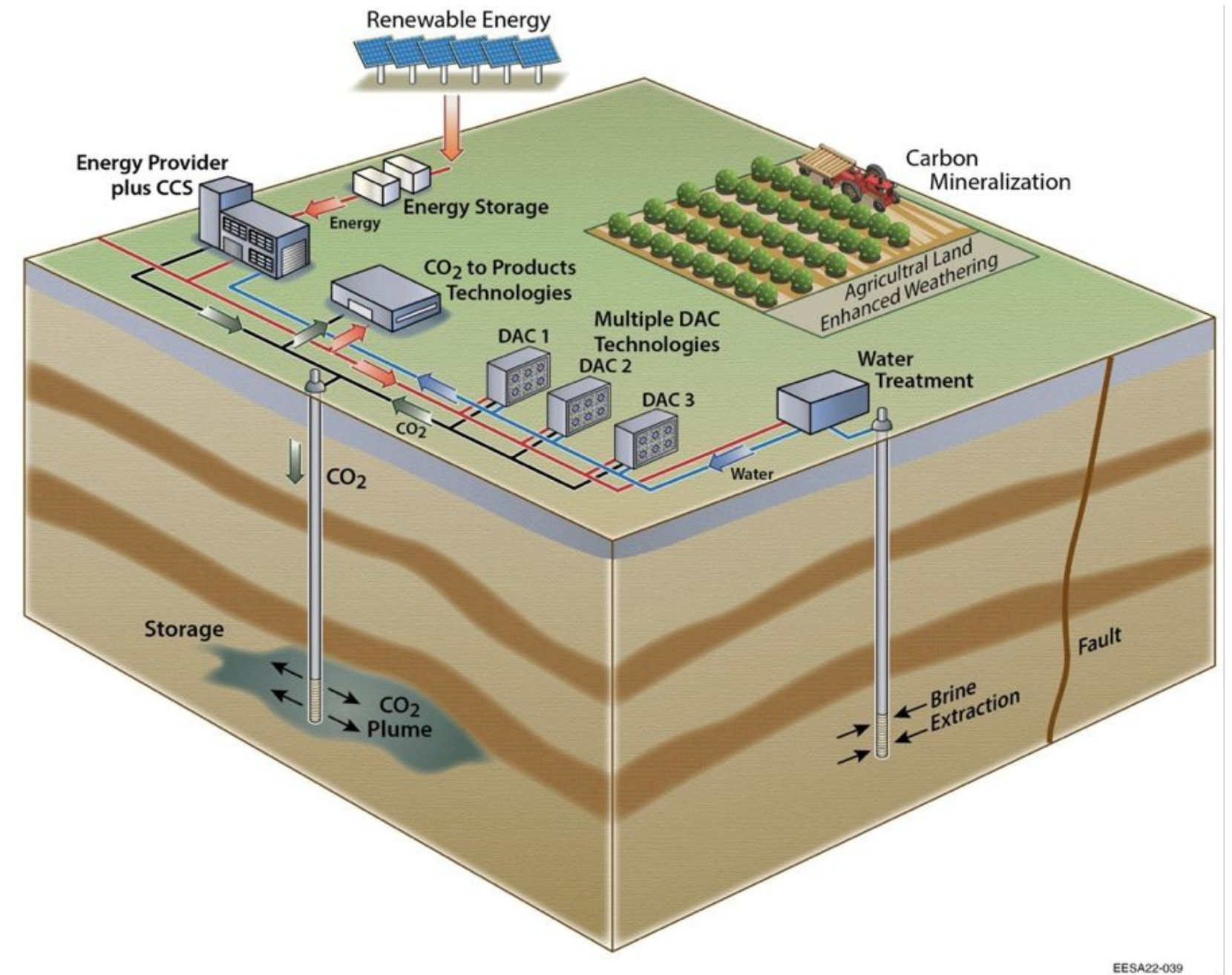


# Piloting a Different Approach

Conducting a US DOE-funded feasibility study that will include:

- A Hub design that is technically feasible and meets community-informed criteria for hub design; environmental, economic, and safety performance; and accountability and transparency
- A Hub owner, ownership and business model, and governance structure that delivers real and measurable community benefits while protecting the environment
- Co-produced data, accountability metrics, and structures to guide potential future phases

If we cannot meet **BOTH** community and technical feasibility criteria, the project will be **deemed infeasible**.



# Key Project Elements

---

- Community Oversight Council
  - Include representatives of environmental, civic, labor, and environmental justice organizations
- Community Benefits Plan
  - Framed by community-created goals and vision
  - Assessment of ownership and governance models
- Community Ownership Structures
- Exploring Public Authority Model
- Two-way learning
  - Informing research and feasibility study based on community knowledge, experience, and perspectives

# Key Points for Co-Creation

---

- Community Vision to serve as a framework for evaluation
- Community-based design process to inform:
  - Hub Design and Development
  - Hub Resource and Analysis
    - Energy sources
  - Environmental Health and Safety
    - Monitoring
  - CO<sub>2</sub> Storage and Utilization
- Community Benefits and Governance
  - Ownership structures, public authority
  - Community benefits plan and agreement
- Co-Learning in all stages of the project

# Innovation in approach

---

- Developing replicable and accessible approaches to community partnership and engagement that extend from development to implementation
- Extend to project operation and oversight
  - Ownership structures
  - Governance and public oversight
  - Transparency and accountability
  - Community benefits agreement and supportive systems
- Transforming projects to encompass environmental benefits and public good