

The Agency is seeking your feedback on how to strengthen the EEC certification process to better align with CEJA's equity objectives while maintaining fairness and accessibility. Specifically, we want to ensure that EEP majority-owners are meaningfully involved in their businesses, prevent misuse of the EEC category, and identify ways to maintain program integrity while minimizing administrative burdens on EEP majority-owners. Your insights will be invaluable in helping shape potential recommendations for the next Long-Term Plan.

To help guide the discussion, we ask that you review the following questions in advance:

1. Ensuring Meaningful EEP Involvement

- How can the Agency ensure that majority-owner EEPs are genuinely engaged in managing their businesses while keeping the certification process fair and accessible?
- If the Agency were to introduce additional verification requirements (e.g., governance documents, socio-economic status), what should be considered to balance equity goals with administrative feasibility?

2. Strengthening the EEC Category & Preventing Manipulation

- What steps should the Agency take to prevent misuse of the EEC category (e.g., "sleeving" or pass-through arrangements) while maintaining a fair and accessible EEC certification process?
- How can we better support EECs in taking on substantive roles in project development and operations rather than being limited to procurement or administrative roles?

3. Additional Enhancements to EEC Certification

- What other improvements to the EEC certification process would help advance equity in the clean energy economy?
- Are there any best practices from other industries or programs that could serve as a model for strengthening the EEC certification process?