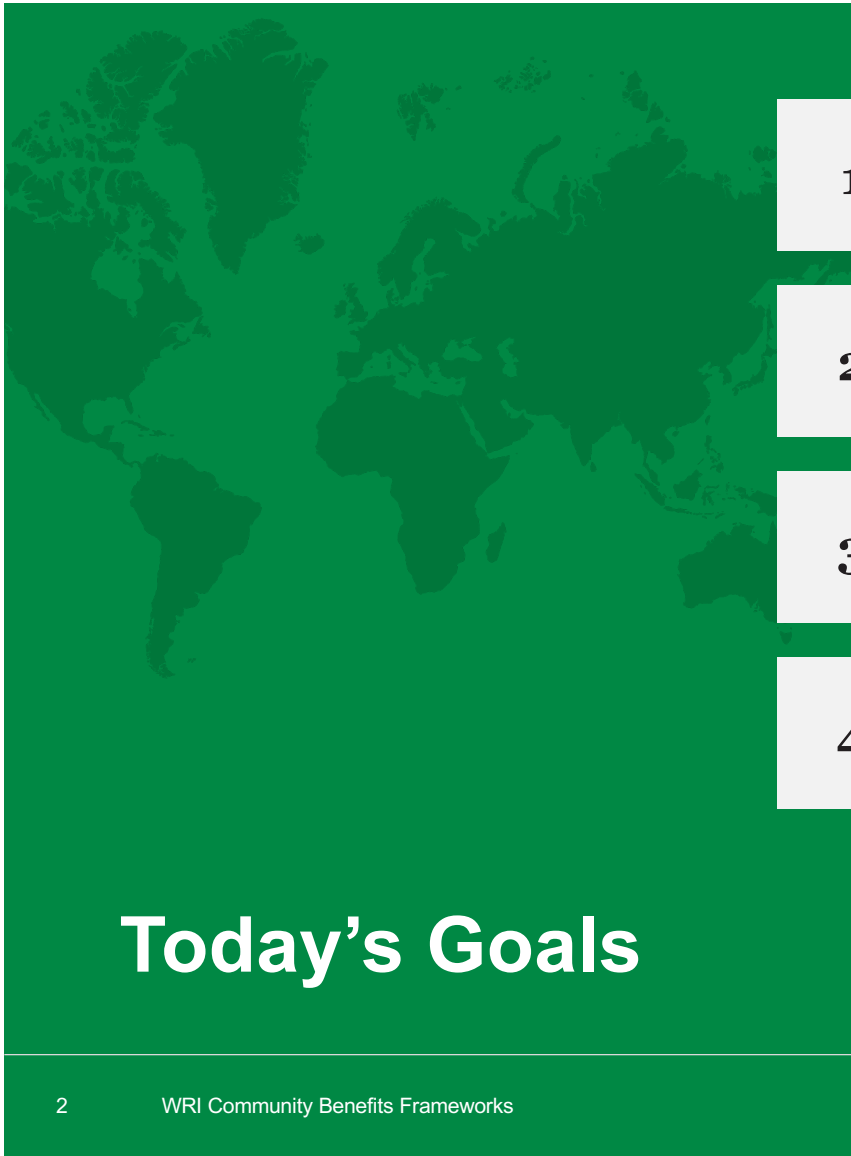




U.S. Community Benefits Frameworks: An Overview

NASEO State Energy-Based Economic
Development Working Group
September 24, 2025



1

WRI's approach to Community Benefits Frameworks (CBFs)

2

WRI's work in this space

3

Role for government in promoting CBFs

4

Discussion

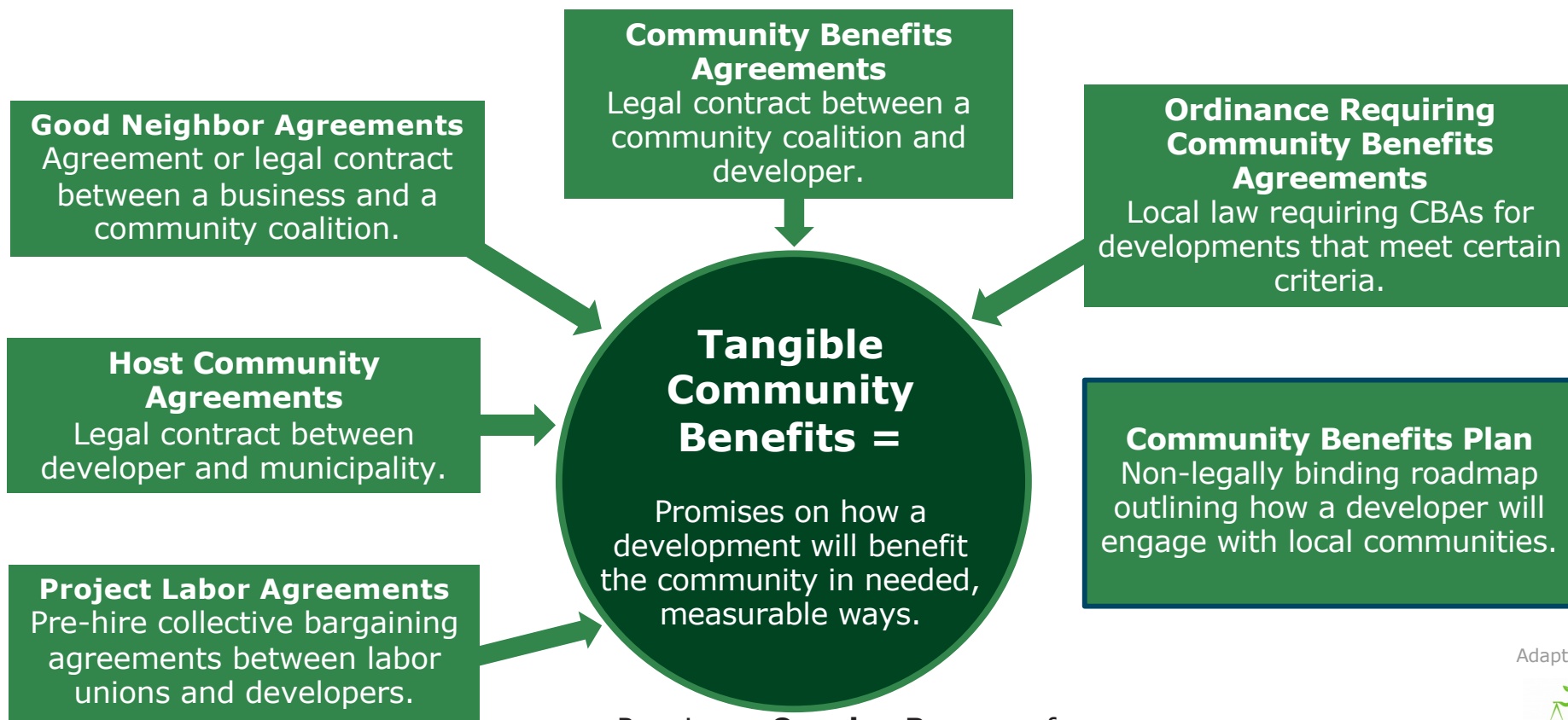


Why a Focus on Community Benefits Frameworks?

Community opposition and ordinances limiting renewable energy development are **“leading causes of project delay and cancellations,” “major, major factor for developers,”** and **“one of, if not THE, biggest challenge to decarbonization.”**

(LBNL Study, November 2024)

What Are Community Benefits Frameworks?



Require an **Ongoing Process** of
Visioning; Coalition Building; Creating; Negotiating; Implementing; Following-Through.

Adapted from





A Long History of CBFs

- PLAs have been in use since the 1930s for publicly funded projects.
- First CBA negotiated in California in 1997 for the Hollywood and Highland project.
- The Stillwater GNA related to a mining project was signed in 2000.
- The first CBA for a clean energy project was signed in 2015 for an offshore wind project (between Vineyard Wind and Martha's Vineyard).

Private Versus Public Benefits-Sharing Agreement and Plans

- Private agreements and plans are those between project developer and a set of community and/or labor stakeholders; they are voluntary
 - Can be a legally binding agreement OR a non-legally binding roadmap/plan
- Public agreements and plans are those between a project developer and a local/state/federal government; they are required
 - Can be a legally binding agreement; e.g. Detroit's Community Benefits Ordinance, Host Community Agreements
 - Can be a non-legally binding plan; e.g., Biden administration's Community Benefits Plan

- Strengthen community inclusion in project planning and outcomes
- Provide a structured framework to deliver community-wide benefits
- Address (negative) project impacts and provide benefits that the community wouldn't receive otherwise
- Ensure benefits reach the broader community and not just a few stakeholders
- Promote timely and responsible deployment of projects



Goals of Benefits- Sharing Agreement and Plans

WRI's Work on CBF

Across Sector Work

Detroit's Community Benefits Ordinance: Lessons Learned About the Community Engagement Process and Its Outcomes
(Nov 2024)

Database of Community Benefits Frameworks
(Mar 2025, with plans to update regularly)

Community Benefits Snapshots
(Nov 2024 - ongoing)

Transmission-Focused Work

National voters survey
(Oct 2024)

Grasstops survey
(Feb-Mar 2025)

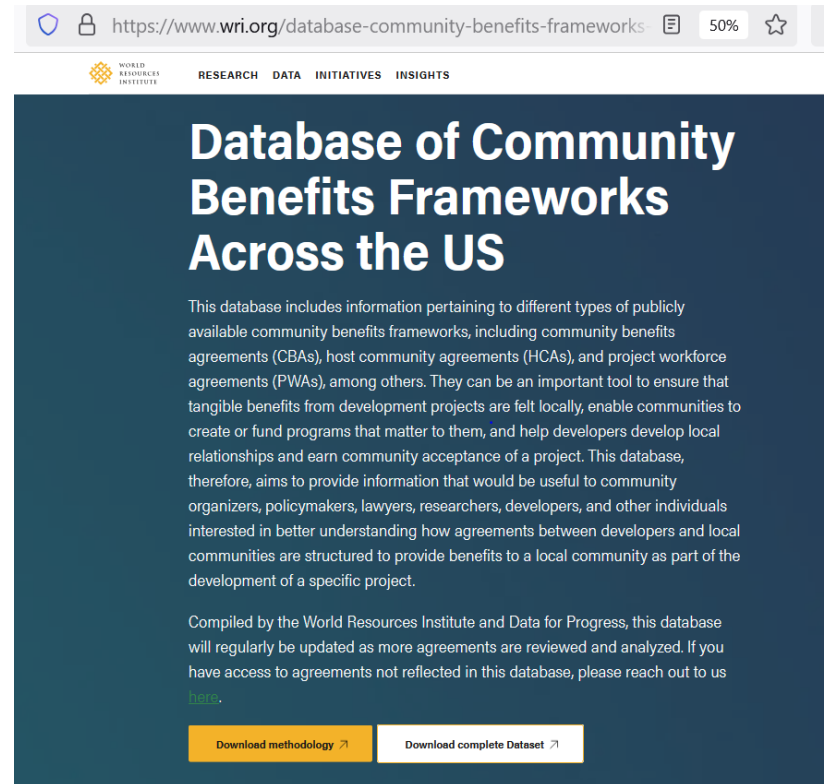
Focus groups/interviews with grassroots and grasstops transmission stakeholders
(Nov 2024 – Mar 2025)

Final report
(July 2025)

Database of Community Benefits Frameworks Across the U.S.

Objectives:

- Create an accessible catalogue of community benefits frameworks (CBFs)
- Provide information to stakeholders about how previous community benefits frameworks have sought to ensure positive impacts from project development
- Analyze trends, patterns, and commonalities between community benefits frameworks



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://www.wri.org/database-community-benefits-frameworks>. The page features the WRI logo and navigation links for RESEARCH, DATA, INITIATIVES, and INSIGHTS. The main heading is "Database of Community Benefits Frameworks Across the US". The text describes the database's purpose: to provide information on publicly available community benefits frameworks (CBAs, HCAs, PWAs) to help ensure local benefits and community acceptance. It also notes that the database is compiled by WRI and Data for Progress and is regularly updated. At the bottom, there are two buttons: "Download methodology" and "Download complete Dataset".

Database of Community Benefits Frameworks Across the US

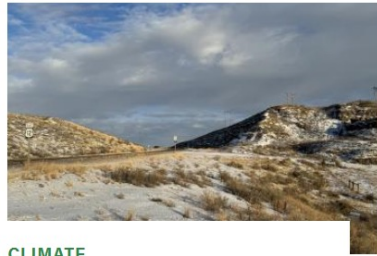
This database includes information pertaining to different types of publicly available community benefits frameworks, including community benefits agreements (CBAs), host community agreements (HCAs), and project workforce agreements (PWAs), among others. They can be an important tool to ensure that tangible benefits from development projects are felt locally, enable communities to create or fund programs that matter to them, and help developers develop local relationships and earn community acceptance of a project. This database, therefore, aims to provide information that would be useful to community organizers, policymakers, lawyers, researchers, developers, and other individuals interested in better understanding how agreements between developers and local communities are structured to provide benefits to a local community as part of the development of a specific project.

Compiled by the World Resources Institute and Data for Progress, this database will regularly be updated as more agreements are reviewed and analyzed. If you have access to agreements not reflected in this database, please reach out to us [here](#).

[Download methodology](#) [Download complete Dataset](#)

Community Benefits Snapshots

- In-depth analysis of how communities and developers negotiated an agreement.
- Cases developed from interviews, landscape analysis of literature on projects.



CLIMATE

Community Benefits Snapshot: North Plains Connector Transmission Line Community Engagement and Benefits



Community Benefits Snapshot: Block Island Wind Farm Community Benefits Agreement

Snapshots JANUARY 31, 2025



CLIMATE

Community Benefits Snapshot: SOO Green Transmission Line Community Engagement and Benefits

Snapshots JANUARY 9, 2025



CLIMATE

Community Benefits Snapshot: New Flyer Community Benefits Agreement

Snapshots DECEMBER 19, 2024



CLIMATE

Community Benefits Snapshot: Tallgrass-Bold Alliance CO2 Pipeline Community Benefits Agreement

Snapshots DECEMBER 3, 2024



CLIMATE

Community Benefits Snapshot: Stellantis Community Benefits Agreement (Negotiated under Detroit's Community Benefits Ordinance)

Snapshots NOVEMBER 25, 2024



CLIMATE

Community Benefits Snapshot: Stillwater Good Neighbor Agreement

Snapshots NOVEMBER 22, 2024



Role for Governments (1)

- Invest in community engagement to move projects forward with greater ease and trust
- Provide information and education to communities and developers
- Facilitate dialogue between developers and communities
- Provide the community with technical assistance and resources to understand the project's technical aspects and navigate the regulatory process



Role for Governments (2)

- Leverage discretionary approvals to encourage developers to engage in benefits-sharing agreements
- Incorporate benefits-sharing agreements into development agreements, giving these agreements legal weight and power of public enforcement
- Invest in monitoring, enforcement and measuring the success of benefits sharing agreements



Thank You

**Contact: Devashree Saha
(Devashree.saha@wri.org);**