

# **DEQ MEPA Work Group – Proposed Focus Areas**

The following focus areas will help direct our efforts. DEQ proposes dividing the large work group into targeted subtask work groups to give appropriate attention to each area. These do not exist in silos and conversations that crossover between subtask groups are encouraged. Each subtask group will have two co-leads responsible for reporting back to the full work group at regular meetings. The end goal for each subtask group is to clearly outline challenges and to develop recommendations to improve MEPA.

### **Robust Public Engagement**

This area is associated with public involvement in the decision-making process on a proposed state action, including effective public notice, accessibility of MEPA-related documents and information, public comment periods, public meetings, and other aspects that comprise MEPA delivery and transparency.

## **Process and Applicability**

This is about MEPA process, clarity, consistency, and procedural continuity, including how MEPA aligns with permitting statutes, how the agency determines significance of impacts, appropriate reference materials, discretion, and other items that contribute to thorough and defensible, appropriately-sized MEPA review, including doing less in some circumstances.

# **Analysis of Climate Impacts**

This area relates to the analysis of Montana greenhouse gas emissions and climate impacts. This includes, when and if appropriate, a review of state action, assessment methodology for analyzing impacts, and disclosure of impacts in a clear way.

### **Education and Outreach**

DEQ'S MEPA public outreach to date revealed a need for improved education about what MEPA does and does not require. This theme includes topics such as what parts of MEPA are most commonly misunderstood, what types of educational materials are needed, how to provide effective education, the audiences in need of education and outreach, and who is responsible for MEPA education and the clear role of EQC in this area as it oversees MEPA implementation.