



Advancing Opportunities for Community Benefits through Energy Project Development

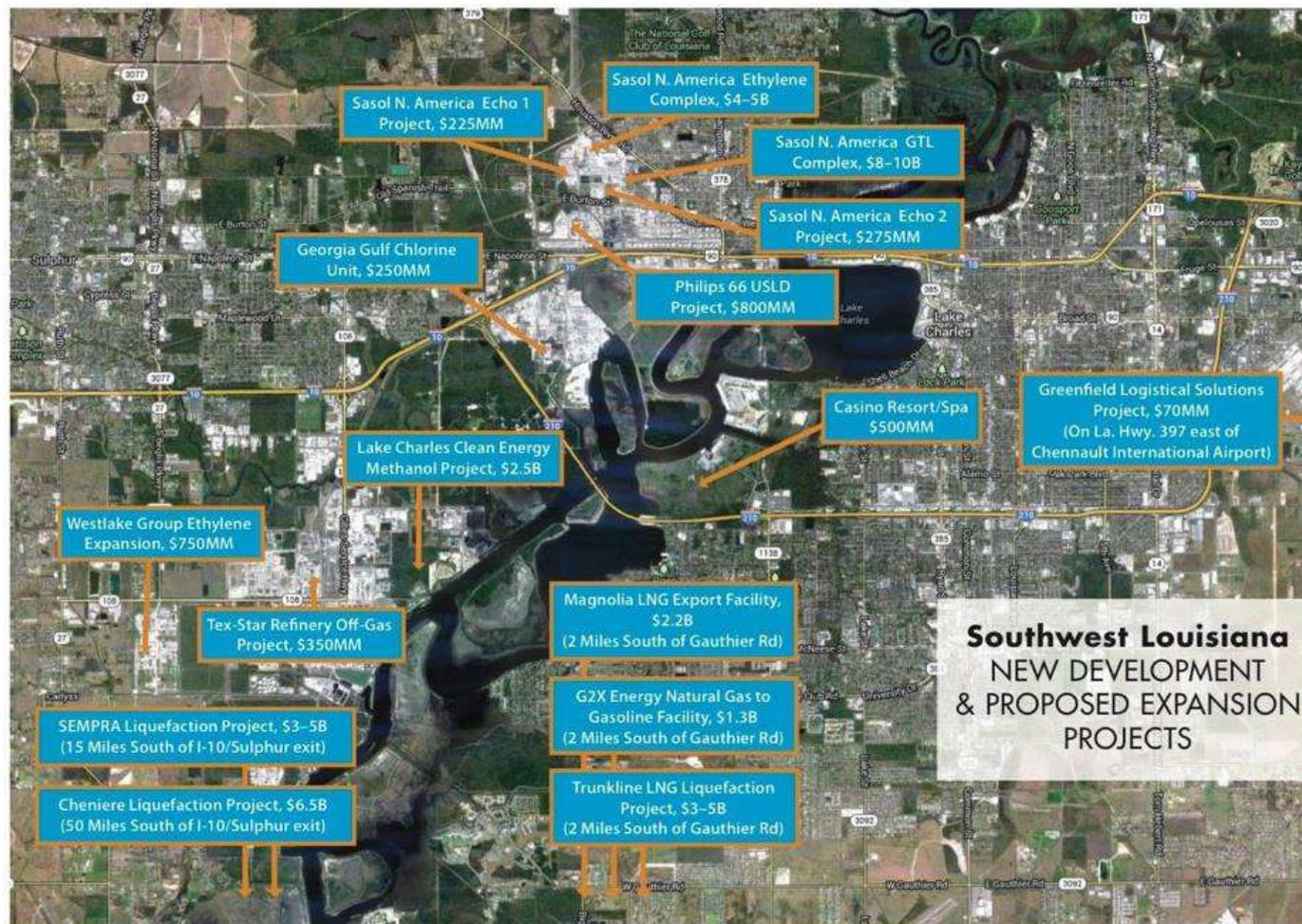


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Southwest Louisiana Partnership: The Opportunity



Office of Economic
Impact and Diversity



Southwest Louisiana Partnership: Partners and Mission



Office of Economic
Impact and Diversity

DOE Working
with Local
Community to
Maximize
Benefits



Local Recruitment,
Training, and Hiring



Purchasing goods
and services from
local and diverse
Louisiana businesses





DOE's Roles

- **Convener** to support local efforts
- Align and coordinate federal resources
- Assist in **addressing barriers** to accessing federal training funds
- Provide **best practices and models**
- Work with community to develop a **business inclusion plan** for local and diverse suppliers

Partnership Milestones

- Developed the **Louisiana Business Connector** to match local vendors and suppliers to procurement opportunities.
- Identified resources to develop a school district-wide **K-12 educational framework** to integrate career readiness programs and coordinate outreach.
- Identified resources to develop a Calcasieu Parrish **SNAP employment training program**. 186 local residents have received worker readiness training since December and 27 are now employed. Employment ranges from hospitality to plant/industry jobs with hourly wages as high as \$30.00 and a median of \$17.00/hr.



How can Community Benefit Agreements help regions like Southwest Louisiana?



What is a Community Benefit Agreement (CBA)?

A CBA is signed by a **community benefit group** and a **developer**, outlining a broad range of community benefits the developer agrees to provide, **in return for community support of the project.**





What are the Developer's CBA Benefits?

- ✓ Community support **reduces risk** for developers, by fostering cooperation between *government* and *community groups*,
- ✓ Developers get needed **public subsidies** and/or **government approvals** more reliably, and
- ✓ Community coalition agrees to support the project, with **public testimony** and **written statements**,

How can Developers get engaged?

- Identify stakeholders and build public trust,
- Engage community representatives and coalitions,
- Ensure stakeholder representatives are part of the project development team **early in the process**,
- Initiate project briefings with key federal and state government officials,
- Train company project representatives about community outreach and CBAs, and
- Educate stakeholders about the technical aspects of the project.



What are the Community's CBA Benefits?

- ✓ Job creation,
- ✓ Hiring and training commitments,
- ✓ Living wage and other benefits,
- ✓ **Education partnerships,**
- ✓ Support for local small businesses,
- ✓ Improvements to open spaces, parks and playgrounds,
- ✓ **Affordable housing** and rehabilitation,
- ✓ State and/or local **economic incentive packages.**

How can the Community get engaged?

- Research development proposals in your region and identify any that could offer **important benefits** or pose **significant risks**
- Organize a broad-based coalition of community interests and recruit stakeholder organizations of interest,
- To **maximize turnout**, hold public meetings with help from identified leaders, and
- Actively **engage the developer** with sustainable community objectives, via open dialogue and transparency.



How can city & state governments support CBAs?

- Inform community coalitions of proposed developments,
- Encourage developers to enter good-faith negotiations with responsible community coalitions,
- Respect the negotiating process and honor CBAs, and
- Fold CBAs into Public-Private Partnership agreements, where appropriate, for added enforcement.





Community Benefit Agreement Examples



Community Benefit Agreement Items

- Establishment of annual **County Economic Trust Fund**,
- **5% Supplier Goal** for local, qualified contractors,
- **60% of full-time, operations workforce recruited locally**,
- **Construction job** training,
- School, education and assisted living aid, and
- **Road repair and transportation.**





Community Investment Agreement Items

- Scholarship program,
- Pre-apprenticeship, **construction skills training**,
- On-the-job training programs,
- **Education** and skill-building programs,
- Implementation of full-service community schools,
- **Local-hiring** process and plan.



✓ Educational Materials

- Guide to Advance Opportunities for Community Benefits through Energy Project Development,
- Community Benefit Agreements: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), and
- Advancing Opportunities for Community Benefits, PowerPoint.

✓ CBA Examples

- Robbinston, Maine – Downeast LNG Inc.'s *Liquefied Natural Gas Import Terminal Project*, and
- Richmond, California – Chevron U.S.A. Inc.'s *Richmond Refinery Modernization Project*.

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<https://energy.gov/diversity/services/minority-business-and-economic-development>



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