

# Fast and fair permitting for renewable energy and green hydrogen projects

## A 9-POINT PLAN FOR FAST AND FAIR PERMITTING

Nine sets of proposed actions and recommendations for fast, effective and trust-building permitting.

Throughout the world planning and permitting is holding up the energy transition. Here are nine universal recommendations for fast, effective and trust-building permitting.



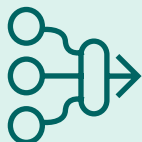
[gh2.org/planning-climate](https://gh2.org/planning-climate)

### Recommendation 1: Innovate to shorten permitting timeframes.



- a. Establish clear timelines.
- b. Digitised permitting.
- c. Set targets to cut application processing times by half.
- d. Adopting a “rule of positive silence”.
- e. Assign priority status to renewable energy, green hydrogen projects and related infrastructure.
- f. Setting strategic vision for renewables deployment.

### Recommendation 2: Streamline permitting processes in a transparent and predictable manner.



- a. Streamline framework.
- b. One-stop-shop permitting.
- c. Create a renewables project data observatory.
- d. Standardise permits for green hydrogen plants.
- e. Flexible permitting for different projects.

### Recommendation 3: Engage communities from the outset.



- a. Clear policy approach to community engagement.
- b. Engage early.
- c. Preliminary surveys to assess attitude towards a project.
- d. Financial incentives at the local level such as power rebates.
- e. Involve local governments.
- f. Consider aesthetic design of projects.

### Recommendation 4: Deploy carefully designed and regulated benefit-sharing mechanisms.



- a. Auctions.
- b. Community development agreements.
- c. Community co-design.
- d. Community shared ownership.
- e. Community benefit funds.
- f. Access to electricity.
- g. Employment and skills development.

## Recommendation 5: Put in place strong policies and safeguards to limit environmental impacts.



- a. "Do No Significant Harm".
- b. Biodiversity conscious and nature positive development.
- c. Recognise ecological diversity in auctions.
- d. Integrated renewable energy and agricultural planning.
- e. Company level environment and nature positive strategies.
- f. Create and maintain extensive environmental data banks.

## Recommendation 6: Accelerate grid infrastructure build-out and integration.



- a. Higher grid flexibility.
- b. Planning new grid and transmission infrastructure.
- c. Transmission line planning avoiding protected areas.
- d. Development of joint grid feed-in points for combined renewable energy projects.
- e. Priority for grid connection to repowering projects and those that are installed in acceleration zones for renewables.
- f. Planning hydrogen transportation infrastructure and pipelines.

## Recommendation 7: Allocate land appropriately and strategically.



- a. Establish Renewable Energy Zones (REZs).
- b. Strategic Spatial Planning and "renewable acceleration areas".
- c. Digital mapping tools to aid deployment.
- d. Early dialogue and consultations.
- e. Data availability.
- f. Green Hydrogen Valleys.

## Recommendation 8: Strengthen and optimise institutional capacity at central and local levels.



- a. Sufficient resourcing and competence enhancement.
- b. Sufficient staffing for permitting roles.
- c. Distinct roles in the permitting process.
- d. Regular assessment of resources and framework.
- e. Regular Monitoring.
- f. Evaluating opportunities for interagency coordination to facilitate knowledge sharing.
- g. Creation of administrative units dedicated to permit acceleration.

## Recommendation 9: Avert technological risks by adopting rigorous standards.



- a. Regulatory certainty through pre-feasibility studies.
- b. Development and monitoring of safety standards.
- c. Adoption of renewable energy and hydrogen standards and certification.
- d. Averting water permitting risks.