EXECUTIVE EDUCATION SERIES

Governing Energy Resilience Proactively

A focused three-part series for leaders who need a practical way to prepare for, evaluate, negotiate, and govern large-load development.

Beyond Incentives provides the governing research. The Community Energy Resilience Framework™ (CERF™) translates that research into a practical local-government methodology.

Why this is pressing now

Data centers, AI infrastructure, advanced manufacturing, and other large-load projects can compress public decision timelines while creating decades of exposure across power, water, land use, public finance, infrastructure, and community trust. The work must move upstream before site control, utility commitments, and negotiation pressure narrow local choices.

FOR City and county executives, EDCs, COGs, governing boards, utilities, and cross-functional advisory teams.	**DECISION PROBLEM** Reactive, siloed reviews can obscure cumulative impacts, shift cost or risk, and weaken community confidence.

The three-part series

01 **Beyond Incentives**	A research-based governing point of view for moving from project-by-project incentives to durable public value. Focus: full-build and cumulative impacts; proper siting; cost allocation; ratepayer and taxpayer protection; early engagement; and social license. **EXECUTIVE VALUE:** clarifies what the community should decide before a proposal arrives.
02 **Community Benefits and Accountability (CBA) Agreements**	A practical tool for converting community priorities and negotiated benefits into funded, measurable, and enforceable commitments. Accountability chain: need > commitment > responsible party > funding > milestone > measure > verification > remedy. **EXECUTIVE VALUE:** connects approval to performance and long-term community support.
03 **The Executive Decision Matrix**	A multidisciplinary operating structure that brings executive leadership, finance, utilities, planning, engineering, economic development, legal, and engagement around one evidence record. Decision path: evidence > confidence > assessment > finding > recommendation > decision > implementation > verification. **EXECUTIVE VALUE:** produces decisions that are technically informed, financially responsible, transparent, and defensible.

WHAT LEADERS LEAVE READY TO DO

Move the work upstream; establish the evidence baseline; define siting, capacity, cost-allocation, engagement, and CBA principles; convene the matrixed team; make a defensible decision; negotiate enforceable conditions; and verify performance over time.

EXTENDS INTO Executive education | White papers | Published research | Workshops and webinars | Advisory engagements

David M. Smitherman | **|** david@bearstratusa.com
linkedin.com/in/david-smitherman-63773114

BEAR STRATEGIES