



MCE Responsible Green Hydrogen Principles

In response to direction from the Technical Committee in May 2024, MCE's Principles have since been organized in different categories for ease of understanding:

Additionality:

1. Develop responsible electrolytic green hydrogen with renewable energy that is either new, under-utilized, or curtailed.

Community:

2. Green hydrogen project developers should consult local tribes and prioritize community and multilingual engagement, ensuring impacted community members have been adequately informed, consulted, and given the opportunity to express their views and concerns before significant development takes place.
3. Prioritize green hydrogen projects that catalyze local economic development and job creation, with an emphasis on equitable opportunities.

Environment:

4. Social and environmental costs should be clear and not disproportionately shouldered by Environmental Justice (EJ) and lower-income communities.
5. Green hydrogen projects should be sensitive to water limitations and needs.

Safety:

6. Green hydrogen projects must use best practices for worker and community safety.
7. Follow best practices for assessing and addressing the risks of leaks and flammability.
8. Fuel cells for back-up power should be considered on a case by case basis.

Avoid:

9. Avoid any use of fossil fuels - projects must not extend the lifespan of fossil fuel-based power generation. This includes avoiding non-green hydrogen production including lignite, coal, fossil fuels, or electrolysis from non-renewable sources.
10. Avoid hydrogen production from livestock biogas from concentrated animal feeding operations, to avoid improving or prolonging the financial viability of polluting industries at odds with MCE's mission.
11. Avoid hydrogen production powered by unbundled Renewable Energy Credits that are not retired by the electricity consumer or from non-renewable sources.
12. Avoid using or funding hydrogen in scenarios where direct renewable electrification is technically available and economically feasible (e.g., heating buildings and light-duty transportation).