Notes from open discussion of Energy Cluster path forward:

Will send out invites to energy@lists.esipfed.org to participants, to enable participation in future discussion.

What Went Well
- Emphasis on data and data sources.
- Data are available for different types of energy systems. Common part that can then be adapted different needs. Help build a sense of community and recognition of what folks are doing
- Target towards decision support, broadly defined.
- Multiple agencies represented, helped engage some new people to ESIP
- Some engagement with end users and different use cases. Knoxville presentation was particularly good.
-

Take A Look At
- More user input would be good
- Utility presentation (we tried, hard, but this was a problem)
- Some challenges with remote presentation and technology
- Need clear statement of value for engagement with users and clear limits on what's being asked of them (minimize risks of sense of entrapment, future expectations for them). Note that the user community is very broad – many user communities.
- We had some travel funds for people to participate, and need to see how to use these in the future.
- Need to clearly define the purpose of the cluster, what's in it for them? What's the value statement for someone to come to and participate in the Energy Cluster (or ESIP overall, for that matter)? How does this align with the ESIP strategic vision?

What can ESIP Energy Cluster do?
- Consider joint session with Decision Cluster at Winter Meeting. Decision support is an aspect of many clusters.
- White paper on what ESIP has to offer, including expertise in the group, success stories relevant to this community, targeted information relevant to energy communities.
- Clearinghouse of relevant projects, contacts, and resources relevant to energy community (??Where does something like this already exist?)
- Work out ways to get utilities involved. Might be easier in DC. Renewable companies, trade associations. AWEA or UWIG are in DC area. EPRI is another contact point. Information about what's driving progress would be useful. Energy companies are another possible.
- State and local government participation. Possible tribal participation in Summer 2011 meeting (ABQ).
- Succinct mission and vision statement for the Energy Cluster (consistent with the ESIP mission and vision). Connection to users. Look at Air Quality cluster for model and progression. What does AQ and Water clusters have for mission/vision, engagement.
- Possible theme related to energy related to transportation, housing/buildings,

- How do we bring the relevance to boots on the ground to what we're doing? Don't want to be ivory tower researchers talking to each other. CCS talk was relevant tailored to information we need to hear.
- AMS has a model where 25 symposia are at annual meeting, several sponsored by multiple sections. Need to make sure we make the connections with other clusters.
- Note: Winter meeting: Renaissance Hotel, DC (Dupont Circle), Tu-Th (AM) Jan 4-6, 2011.
- Air quality took off because a key decision support tool could be identified and it took off. RETScreen is an example of this for Energy. Need a funding agency willing to put out money for pilot projects. Needs funding agency buy-in. How can we put together good ideas for pilot project. Would be best if we had clear user engagement of people who say that they will use something if we build it (as opposed to the hammer in search of a nail problem). ?? USDA lifecycle work. USDA/DOE call for projects. No NASA open call for feasibility projects, but Carbon Monitoring system is being developed.
- USDA is interested in a US equivalent to Swiss system for lifecycle analysis, which includes energy as a part of this. Possible changes in USDA financing model that can help.
- Some ESIP funding (think a few K) can be available for well-defined travel or other opportunities that would advance the ESIP/Energy Cluster agenda. Not for salaries (generally).
- Mission can relate to sustainability, energy availability, ...? What does this define for what we bite off first versus second.
- Would be useful to extract out URLs and basic discovery metadata about relevant tools and projects. Possible hands-on session at a future meeting.
- RETScreen hosting conference Jun 2011, Niagra Falls. Are there quick-win opportunities related to RETScreen? Would a demo or reprise of Greg's talk as a webinar be useful?