



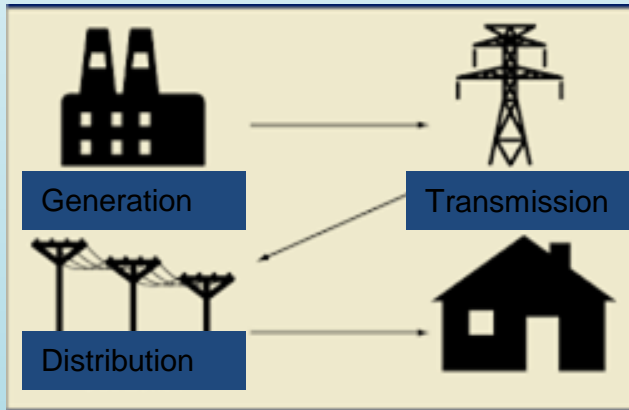
# **Stakeholder Influence in State Clean Energy Policy**

Dr. Elizabeth Baldwin  
School of Government and Public Policy  
Energy Democracy Symposium  
July 13th, 2017

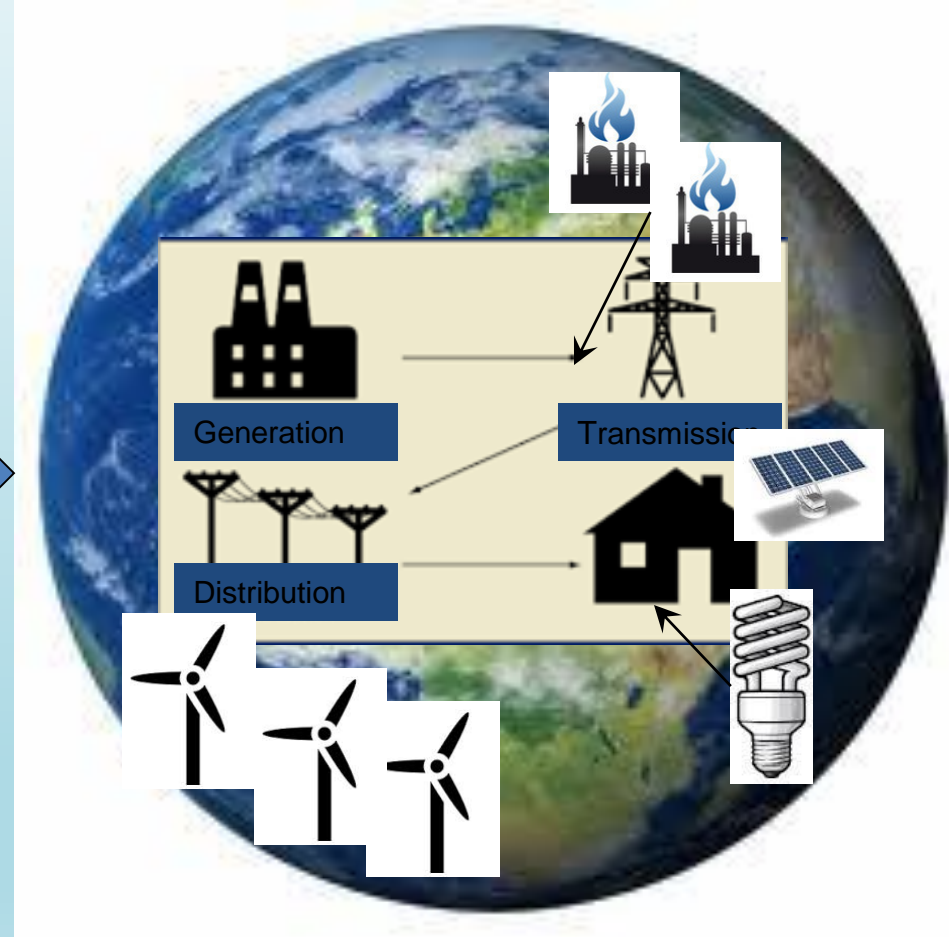
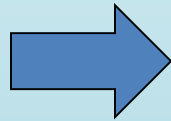
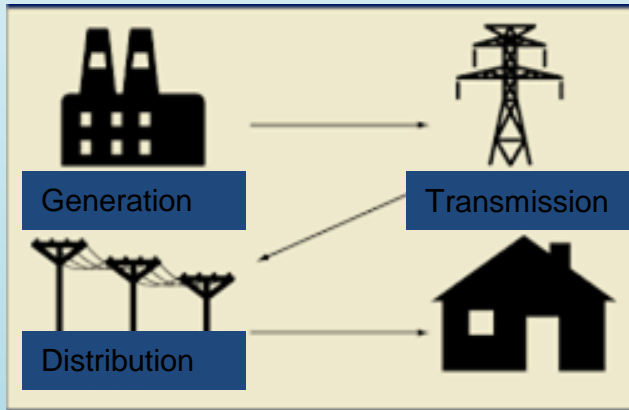


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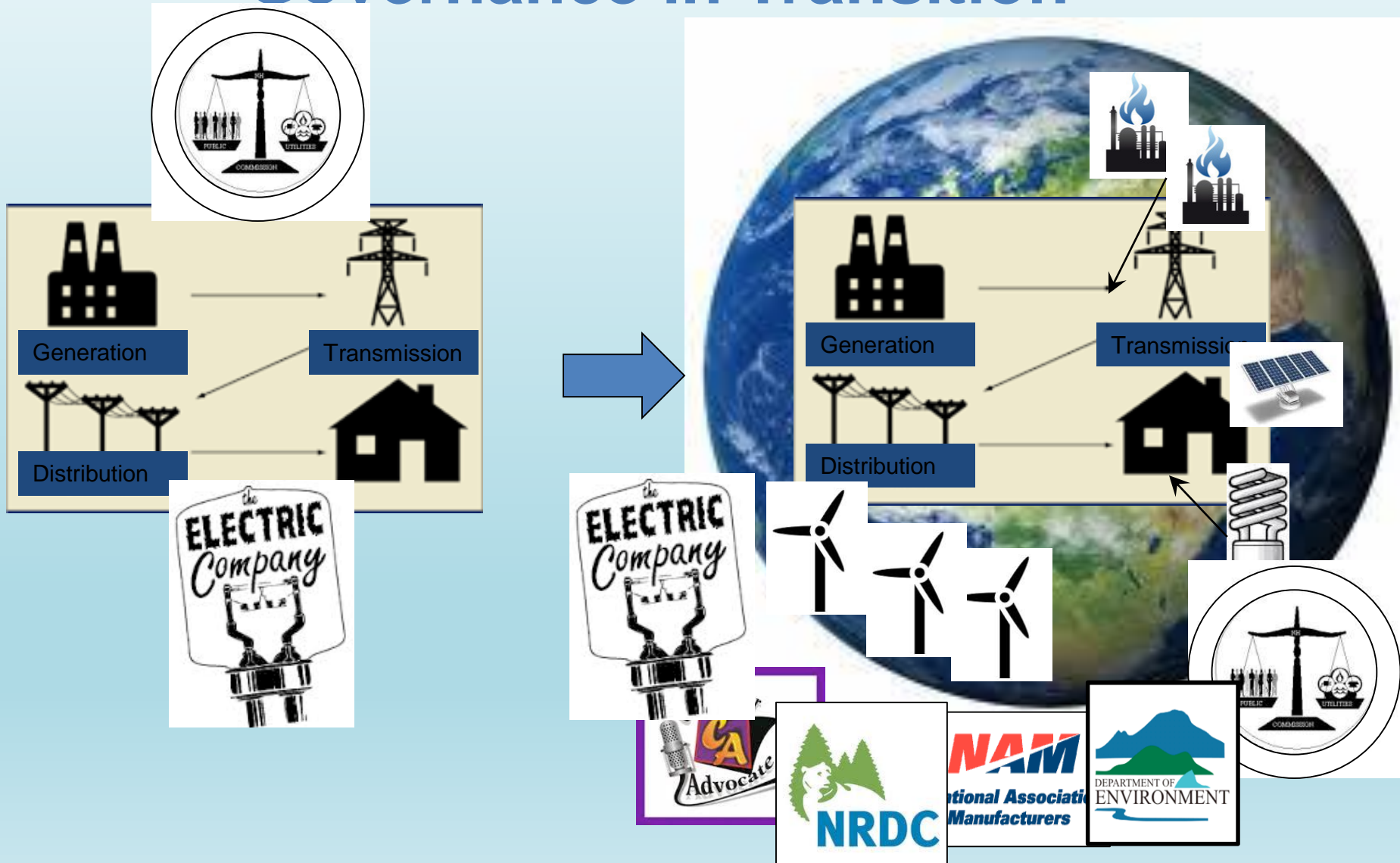
# Background: Electric Sector in Transition



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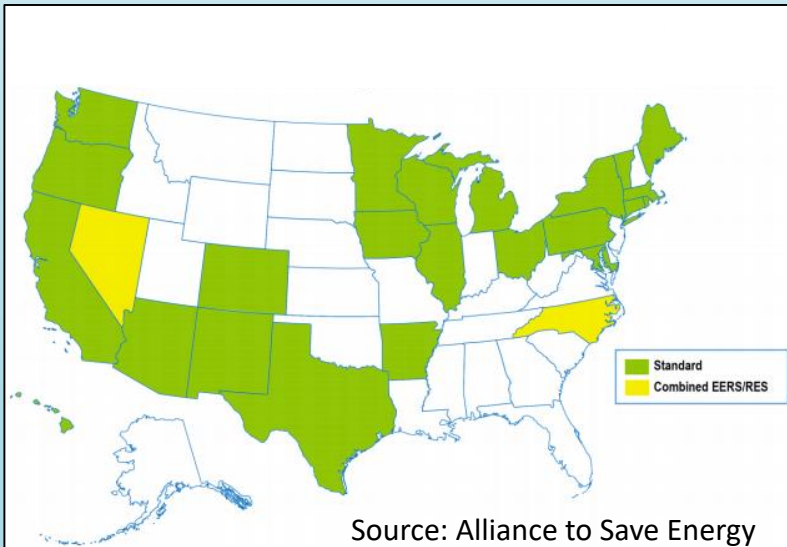


# Background: Electric Sector Governance in Transition

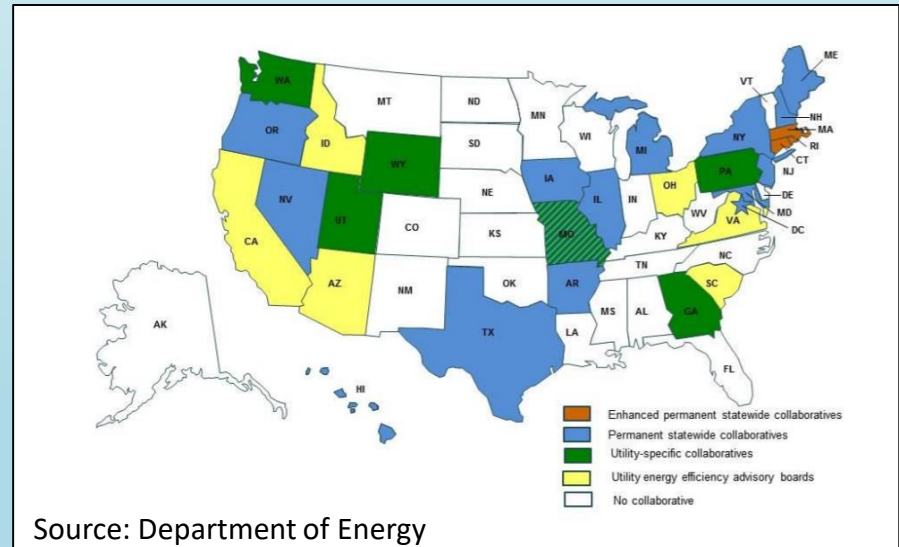


# Background: Energy Efficiency Governance in Transition

States with EE Resource Standards, 2014



States with EE Collaboratives, 2015



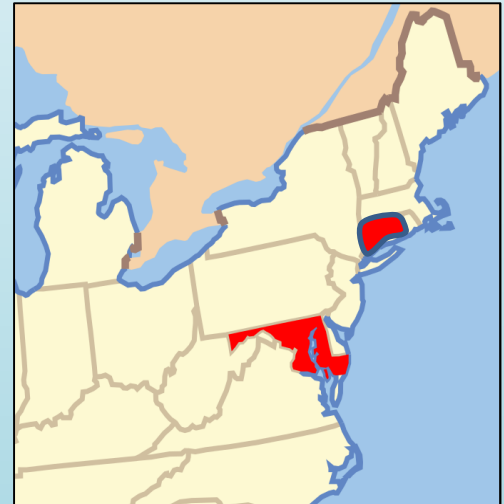
# The Policy Puzzle

As states have adopted ambitious savings goals, they have also adopted collaborative approaches to administrative policy making.

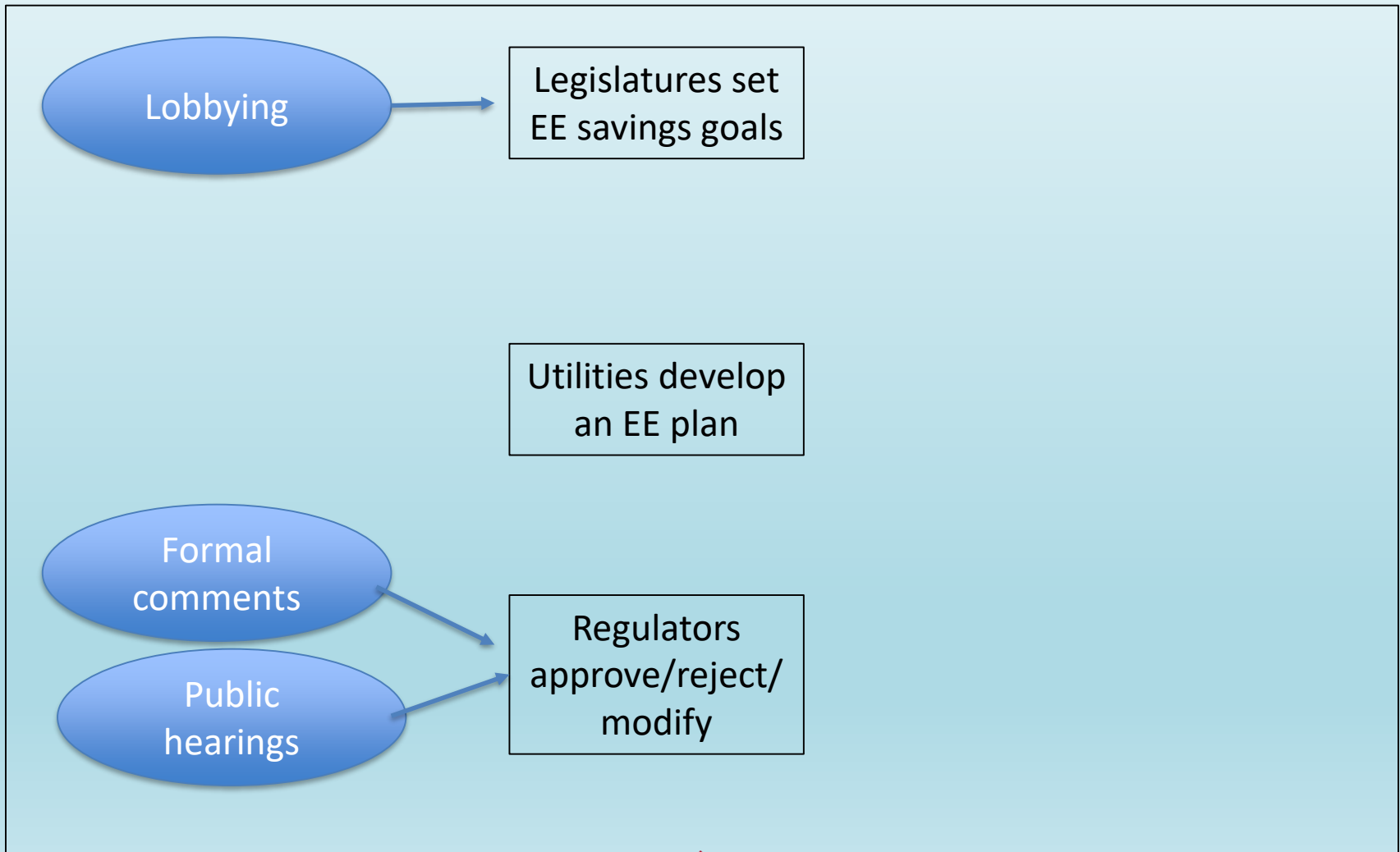
- How do these collaboratives work?
- Which stakeholders participate? Have a voice?
- Do stakeholders influence policy decisions?
- Do different approaches shape stakeholders' impact?

# Research Design and Data

- Comparative case study
  - Most similar cases design
  - Archival document analysis
  - Field interviews



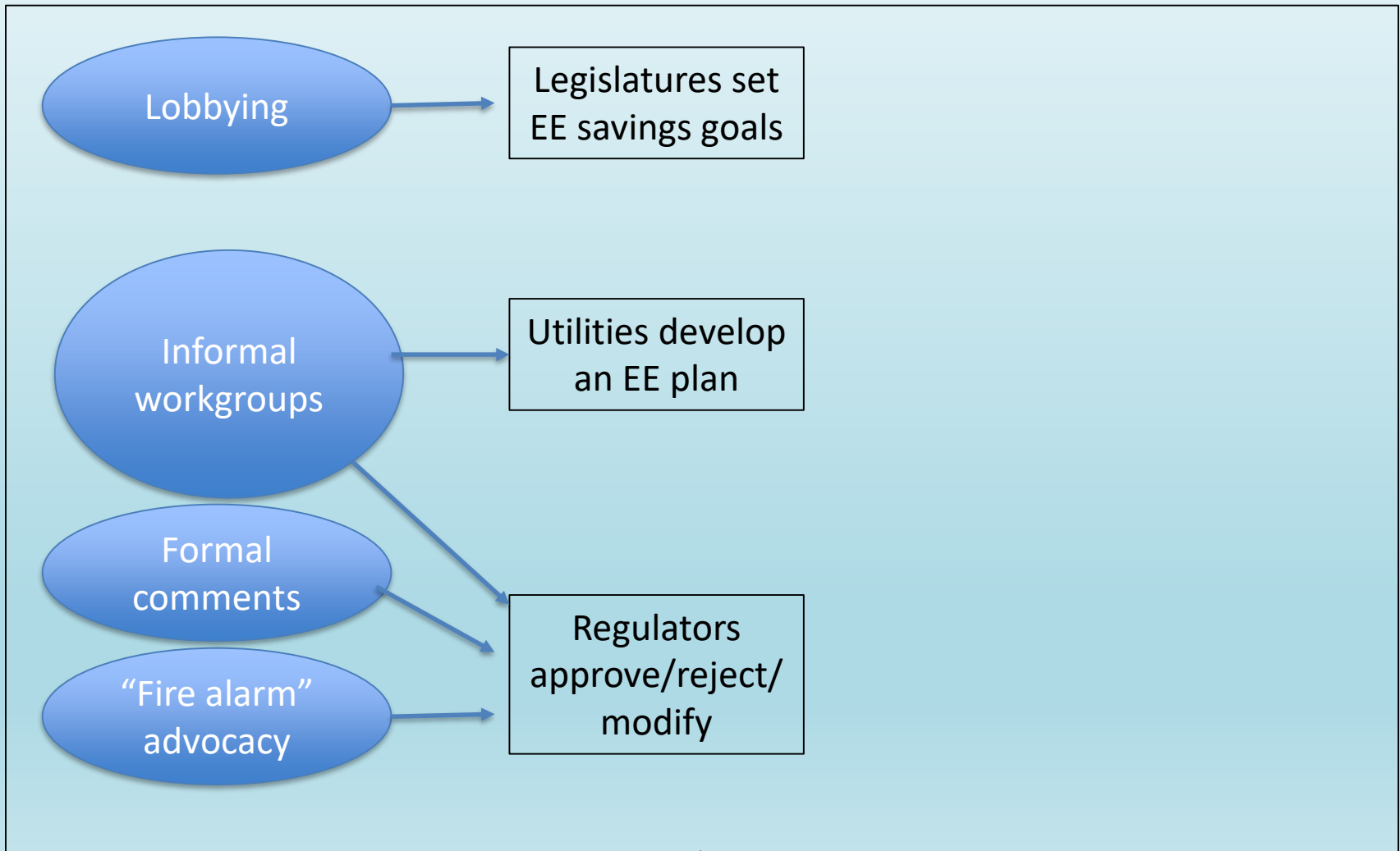
# The Traditional EE Policy Process





# The EE Policy Process

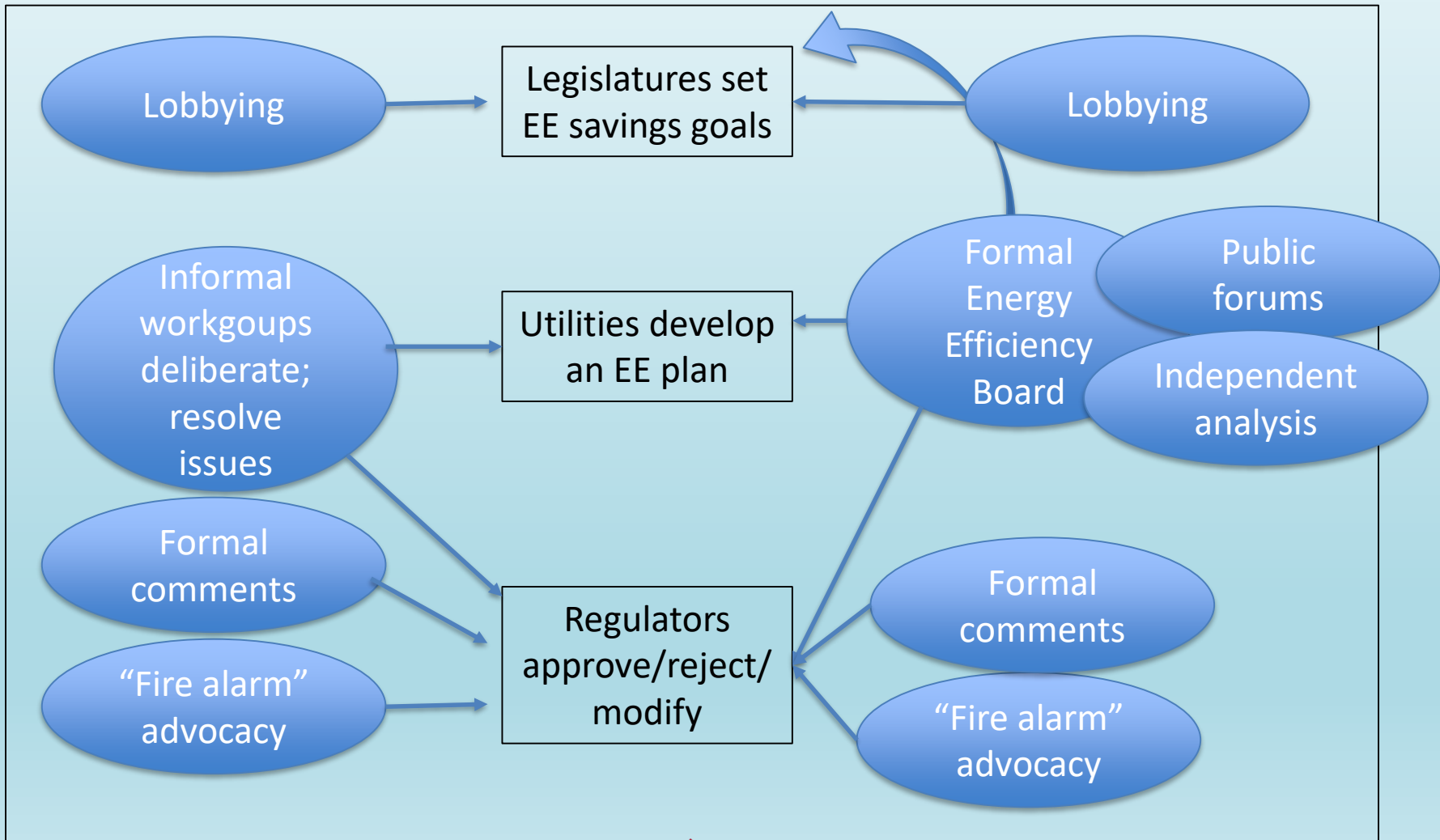
Maryland



# The EE Policy Process

Maryland

Connecticut



# Comparing Stakeholder Participation in Connecticut and Maryland

Aspect of process	Maryland's Workgroups	Connecticut's EEB
Who participates	Few interests represented	Wide range of interests represented in EEB
Basic approach	Informal Deliberative Ad-hoc; irregular	Formal and informal Deliberative Routine, transparent, ongoing
Influence on policy	Inconsistent	Routine and extensive



# Some Preliminary Findings

1. Regulators are no longer the technical experts.


- Utilities, vendors, advocates, and analysts often possess *far* more knowledge about EE
- But these actors are not neutral advocates for the public interest
- Deliberation and collaboration helps to produce unbiased information for policy decisions

# Some Preliminary Findings

2. Distributed resources require “distributed governance.”

- Diverse stakeholders possess policy-relevant knowledge
- Diverse interests must deliberate about equitable distribution of costs and benefits

# Some Preliminary Findings


3. Stakeholders *can* influence policy.
- Individual stakeholders have limited influence
  - Groups of stakeholders have significant influence, especially on “consensus” issues
  - Formal collaborative approaches help to build consensus
  - The rules about who participates, how information is produced, and how information is used *matter*.
- 

# Some Preliminary Findings

## 4. Public engagement is hard.

- The public is good at “fire alarm” advocacy
- But not at shaping policies and programs
- Forums like the EEB can bring public concerns to policy makers

# Democratic Implications

- Regulatory agencies are unelected – but they make important policy decisions
  - Traditionally, stakeholder engagement was about holding bureaucrats accountable
  - These approaches are ill-suited to the challenges of distributed energy
  - Many regulators *want* to be responsive to stakeholders and to the public
  - We need to understand the approaches that are effective
- 



# Questions?

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