THE 6 ENERGY STATES OF TEAMS

FLOW ENERGY

WHAT IS IT? Alignment, focus, and healthy momentum.

HOW IT LOOKS? Open body language, engaged tone, natural back-and-forth.

RISKS? Can slip into autopilot – people stop challenging assumptions.

LEADER RESPONSE? Protect it, but inject curiosity to avoid groupthink.

FRICTION ENERGY

WHAT IS IT? Visible tension or disagreement.

HOW IT LOOKS? Crossed arms, clipped tone, faster pace, interruptions.

RISKS? Left unchecked, it grows into toxic conflict or silent avoidance.

LEADER RESPONSE? Normalize dissent. Channel tension into constructive debate.

FATIGUE ENERGY

WHAT IS IT? Low mood, drained motivation, or quiet burnout.

HOW IT LOOKS? Flat tone, slouched posture, fewer contributions.

RISKS? Burnout, disengagement, or turnover.

LEADER RESPONSE? Slow down, adjust workload, reconnect people to purpose.

FALSE HARMONY ENERGY

WHAT IS IT? Outward agreement masking hidden resistance.

HOW IT LOOKS? Polite nods, forced smiles, silence after decisions.

RISKS? Passive resistance, lack of ownership, stalled execution.

LEADER RESPONSE? Ask into the quiet. Create safety for dissent. Confirm real alignment.

CHAOS ENERGY

WHAT IS IT? Scattered focus, constant context-switching, lack of clarity.

HOW IT LOOKS? Side conversations, people talking over each other, ideas with no direction.

RISKS? Decision paralysis, wasted effort, exhaustion.

LEADER RESPONSE? Ground the room. Clarify priorities. Create structure before moving forward.

HOPE ENERGY

WHAT IS IT? Optimism, resilience, and belief in the future despite challenges.

HOW IT LOOKS? Encouraging tone, willingness to volunteer, people leaning in during tough times.

RISKS? If not paired with realism, it can slide into blind optimism or denial of risks.

LEADER RESPONSE? Nurture it. Anchor hope in concrete next steps. Balance positivity with honesty.

