

**Avista 2021 Clean Energy Implementation Plan  
Advisory Group Meeting No. 1 Agenda  
Thursday, May 20, 2021, 1:00 – 3:30 pm PST  
Virtual Meeting on Zoom**

Meeting Attendees: 60 participants on Zoom.

Notes in *italics* are the short responses from the presenters.

**2021 CEIP Introduction, John Lyons**

**Slide 2:** Meeting guidelines and contact info.

**Slide 3:** Virtual meeting reminders; meeting will be recorded.

**Slide 4:** Review of sequence of events to develop CEIP – IRP, CEAP, Public Participation, and the CEIP. This meeting is the public participation part. We'd like your input to improve our plan. Studies or new scenarios may be considered in future planning processes.

**Slide 6:** Remaining public participation schedule includes meetings on Thursday, June 17, 2021; Thursday, July 15, 2021; Tuesday, August 18, 2021; and a public outreach meeting on Wednesday, September 2, 2021.

**Slide 7:** Today's agenda includes this introduction, an Avista overview, a CETA [Clean Energy Transformation Act] overview, 2020-2025 Clean Energy Actuals and Forecast for Avista, a presentation about Named Communities for Avista under CETA, a Public Participation Overview, and we expect to adjourn at 3:30 pm.

**Avista Overview, Scott Kinney**

**Toby Hearsey (Slide 17):** Can you expand on renewable natural gas?

**Scott Kinney:** Yes – renewable natural gas can come from landfills that can be capped, or other opportunities with farms and cattle that are close to our service territory that may have economic opportunities for us. Tom, anything else to add.

**Tom Pardee (Avista Natural Gas IRP Manager):** Any natural methane-emitting source and there are different sources. It could be injected in the existing natural gas system or synthetic gas, blends, etc. We are looking at various ways to decarbonize for the environment.

**Mike Kelley:** Please explain “carbon neutral gas”.

**Tom Pardee:** An example is dairy and if they don't have a carbon capture. The waste expands as it's being digested. If we can capture it and use it, it won't go into the atmosphere. It has been shown to increase the heat in the atmosphere. That's one example. Green hydrogen made from splitting water molecules by using a clean electricity source to split and combine with a carbon source or not. That is what carbon-neutral natural gas would be.

**Logan Callen:** About how much natural gas is used for generation vs. what is delivered to customers. Avista – we'd be guessing. Maybe we can get back to you. 31% of generation on the electric side would be natural gas generated, but best if we can get back to you. [In 2020, Avista's system LDC, or local distribution company, used 37,223,382 Dth of natural gas and Avista's thermal plants used 26,785,934 Dth of natural gas to serve both its system loads for Washington and Idaho. Historic values follow a similar pattern.]

**Maggie Gates:** Is there a plan to move away from natural gas entirely?

**Scott Kinney:** No, not at this time.

### **Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) Overview, Shawn Bonfield**

**Corey Dahl (Public Counsel):** All utilities are approaching the advisory groups differently and we don't need to prescribe a one-size fits all approach. How is the utility ensuring that it is providing transparency if there isn't a way to provide for other individuals or regulators to participate?

**Ana Matthews (Avista Consumer Affairs Program Manager):** It was important to create a safe space for the participants. We talked with the members of the Equity Advisory Group about should we allow observers and videotaping; we were told it would stifle input and participation. We're asking folks to be active participants and won't be recording. Anyone is welcome to actively participate.

**Corey Dahl:** How can we guarantee broader assurance if there isn't a way to look under the hood?

**Shawn Bonfield:** We submitted a public participation plan, charter, information on the group and topics to the Commission. A report will go out from the group to provide information to the other advisory groups. There are plenty of opportunities for review, questions and the ability to provide input. The goal is to provide transparency without stifling collaboration.

**Amber Lenhart (facilitator of Equity Advisory group):** Who asked the question and what organization are you from? *Cory Dahl of Public Counsel.* We want to provide transparency. Avista has done a good job of pulling people from these named communities but would include those who don't feel they're being included to reach out.

**Corey Dahl:** Don't want to needle on this too much but marginalized and highly impacted communities haven't had the best relationship with government so with us being involved, we may not be helping that relationship. But we're having trouble

ensuring this is taking place without just taking Avista's word for it. We don't like to take the approach of just taking the utility's word for it.

**Shawn Bonfield:** We are considering taking steps to think through this further.

**Molly Brewer (UTC Staff):** Corey touched on some things I was going to follow up with. When I spoke with Annette, I understood there'd be opportunities for breakouts with these stakeholders.

**Ana Matthews:** That is still the plan. Any member can attend as an active participant.

**Molly Brewer:** But not someone like me from PC or Staff.

**Ana Matthews:** I think we're saying the same thing – you can participate as an active participant.

**Shawn Bonfield:** I think we need to table this issue until Annette is back and we can further discuss this issue.

**Carol Weltz (SNAP):** Does Avista keep track of who they reached out to for this opportunity? This could provide this transparency. Yes.

**Amy Wheeless:** Will there be notes from the EAG? Yes.

**Amber Lenhart:** It may be helpful to clarify the EAG will convene at the same meetings as this public meeting with any interested community members or observers, and then the EAG will be able to separate into a small breakout group to discuss.

**Margee (no last name provided):** I think you can resolve this by providing the URL for the Equity Advisory Group to this afternoon's attendees. All are invited to join, please submit a completed application. [Washington's Clean Energy Future \(myavista.com\)](https://www.myavista.com/washingtons-clean-energy-future)

**Corey Dahl:** We don't want to take up space and we're not customers but want to be included.

**Shawn Bonfield:** We appreciate your input and that it's a little different for each of the utilities and will take it under advisement as we move forward.

### **2020-2025 Clean Energy Actuals and Forecast, James Gall**

**Kelly Hall (Climate Solutions):** First, we really appreciate your intentionality in maintaining the spirit of the law. On the second slide, when you say Idaho customers may still sell their RECs to other Washington customers, is this referring to a sale of the RECs for use as an alternative compliance mechanism as an unbundled REC, or would you be "selling" the RECs bundled with the power to be used for the 80% clean energy requirement?

**James Gall:** Excellent question. It's still unknown, we'd have to look at opportunities on a case-by-case basis. It is an opportunity for Idaho customers to take advantage of if we allow this.

**Kelly Hall:** Apologies for having you repeat, but how are you accounting for voluntary renewable energy programs? In other words, are you distinguishing between REC-based programs and other programs that actually deliver clean energy to Avista's load?

**James Gall:** Correct, we are differentiating. The third line – included in that PURPA/Customer Programs. I think there is debate about this. I'd like feedback from Commissions on that.

**John Lyons:** We only included those being assigned to those customers.

**James Gall:** Yes, Boulder Park Solar, customers paid a premium for that resource while the program was operating, but I'm not sure where those RECs are sold now.

**John Lyons:** They are not sold and are being used for I-937 compliance now.

**James Gall:** I'll need to include those here.

**Jean & Mike Walters:** What is the life expectancy of Solar and Wind generating equipment?

**James Gall:** From life expectancy, traditionally what happens is will buy through a PPA of 15 years for solar and 20 years for wind. Although the facilities are designed to last longer for example up to 30 years. The generation output will degrade over time, but maintenance mitigates some of this. Both facility types can be repowered and since it's a brownfield site the cost to repower should be less than a new facility.

**Toby Hearsey:** I have to hop off, please send out a recording! Great info, thanks Avista!

**Ricky Davis:** Is Avista considering repowering Palouse Wind?

**James Gall:** Palouse Wind is owned by another party; we have a 30-year contract. We're in year 9. Under that agreement it is unlikely to be repowered. Avista has rights to purchase at a point in the future. At this time, there are no plans for repowering.

### **Named Communities Presentation, James Gall**

**Jennifer Snyder (UTC):** Will the EAG be looking at potential other factors that define vulnerable populations in Avista's service territory?

**James Gall:** I believe that is the plan. One of the issues is what happens when you have a population that isn't in one of these named communities but is still vulnerable.

**Ana Matthews:** Yes.

**Maggie Gates:** Will Avista consider communities outside its service area? For instance, populations who are impacted by pollution from energy production sites like Colstrip.

**James Gall:** Another good question. When we look at retiring resources not in Avista's service territory, I think the intent is to look at these areas as well. Colstrip is unique because this is already included in law.

**Simon Ffitch (The Energy Project):** Re your question about overlap, one consideration is that the two terms are used somewhat differently in CETA, so that might argue they aren't double counting. I'm afraid I have to drop off for another meeting. Thanks for the presentation.

### **Public Participation Overview and Discussion, John Lyons**

**Molly Brewer:** Given that a main way for customers to provide input is through the CEIP meetings, what efforts are being made to reach the hard-to-reach customers/populations with limited English-proficiency to solicit their feedback?

**Shawn Bonfield:** Quick answer is that we haven't done much in that regard. We know for our service territory it is Spanish and it is a very small percentage. We have translators available but haven't reached out to these individuals for them to participate.

**Molly Brewer:** I would welcome further discussion on this.

**Shawn Bonfield:** We'll make sure that things will be available in both languages where appropriate.

**Molly Brewer:** Will customers and EAG members have opportunities to create their own customer benefit indicators besides the ones that Avista creates?

**Shawn Bonfield:** Not sure I understand your question. Our intention is to develop these indicators in collaboration rather than have Avista create our own. Our indicators are only a starting point to get the ball rolling.

**Ana Matthews:** Even though we presented some indicators we're still planning to get input.

**Molly Brewer:** Will there only be review of what the company developed or will they develop their own.

**Ana Matthews:** It's either yes, no or how about this as informed by the group.

**Michele Bennington:** I live in West Central [Spokane] and volunteer at Our Center Community Outreach. Our Governor [Inslee] signed bill 1026 to reduce environmental disparities in our state. If we cut back in named communities, how will that impact this bill that just got signed into law? If you have native people who live on a reservation that is partially in the "zone" how will it impact them when being a highly impacted group.

**John Lyons:** I haven't reviewed that bill in its entirety. There may be communities that may not fit the definition, but we've identified it as vulnerable. As we work with the Equity Advisory Group, we'll identify how to help with these areas.

**Michele Bennington:** I'm very concerned about cutting off people that need help. In West Central we have Kendall Yards then you cross the street to extreme poverty stricken and homeless. Where will we place the importance to address these highly impacted areas.

**John Lyons:** That will be a challenge as they don't fit nicely into a census track. Also, this won't replace our other programs but rather augment them to get an increased and broader impact. And I think this might be the intent of that law that was signed.

**Michele Bennington:** I was thinking about environmental racism. I'm not clear about what the health department is talking about in their mapping. We have a high rate of asthma and such that contribute to a lower quality of life. I need to better understand this. Pollution doesn't stay in geographic boundaries.

**John Lyons:** More focus on clean energy and reduce impacts from thermal plants. Could this help with a community of high asthma rates from transportation – can we electrify cars to help with this? We'll have to work with the Advisory Group to determine how best to do this in our area.

**James Gall:** We identify the areas that need the help and put in place efforts to help them. How much can we influence? Avista is clean – may have limited ability to correct this. What can we do collectively to find solutions if they're available?

**Carol Wertz:** Have to go. Thank you, very interesting.

**Jennifer Snyder:** Please keep my email address visible in the CC if possible when you move those who want to go to the BCC line. Thanks!