

Agenda

- I. Introductions
- II. Agenda Review
- III. Clean Energy Overview
- IV. Equity Advisory Group Discussion

Attendees:

Equity Advisory Group Members: Larry Mattson, Connie Kliewer, KJ January, Shauna Meharry

Avista Staff: Annette Brandon, Ana Matthews, Renee Coelho, and Jaime Majure (note taker)

Notes:

- Reviewed intention of public participation and overview of CETA; Provided current supply mix (a bit outdated and doesn't include Rattlesnake and other recent energy resources); explained again that the CEIP establishes the actions the utility will take to comply with CETA goals over the next four years and we will depend on this particular group to help us with the heavy lift of getting to know what's important to our customers – the communities EAG members represent – and help identify what we (Avista) need to do to help ensure we're creating an equal playing field for all customers and that the transition to clean energy is not inequitably benefiting or harming any particular customer or customer groups.
- Reinforced again how important equity is in these processes
- Reviewed WA DOH Health Disparities map; we're looking to EAG to help us confirm if these areas are accurate or if there are some areas that maybe haven't been considered.
- VP Characteristics: We're looking to get an improved and authentic view of these characteristics, and again identify anything missing
- Repeatedly emphasized that this is an iterative process, and future CEIPs will continue to be so

Discussion:

- **How could the transition to clean energy benefit (or harm) customers?**
 - Through availability?
 - Through access to clean energy?
 - Through changes to the environment?
 - Through energy security, reliability, and resilience?

– Through community and economic development?

Equity Advisory Group Member Responses:

- Cost. It all depends; if it lowers their bill great, but if it doesn't then people that are low-income already struggling could be worse
- Reliability. With solar and wind if we don't have backups it could be less reliable.
- It's hard to think of another benefit or unintended consequence; a lot of my thoughts are already there (on our list).
- Will people need to make any changes—do any retrofitting—with this new clean energy? Annette responded: I don't think so. If we acquire clean resources, that will automatically go onto our grid and be incorporated in our mix. If you, however, wanted to get solar panels on your home, then yes, you'd need to play a role in that. With access, however, it's finding out about how to participate in these programs.
- What about EV? Equitable distribution of EV charging infrastructure as it becomes available.
- What about rural households? Will they get left out?

What other populations can you think of that may be impacted here?

- The older generation. Technology changes, memory issues, etc. Getting the info to them in ways they can understand and have less anxiety about the change.
- Anxiety about changing to clean energy for all.
- Looking at the DOH maps, the NE Spokane area was purple—so both categories. In that context, would that neighborhood have to absorb a lot of the infrastructure? That could be a negative effect if they're burdened with the “ugly” infrastructure.
- Honestly just awareness could help improve access.
- As Spokane is diversifying, having maybe a FAQs page in multiple languages would remove barriers.
- I think this whole process is an opportunity to get the newer generation engaged in the energy industry.
- When I look at the wind turbines in Rosalia, Tekoa, etc. it's all on farmland—is there an impact to those farming families?

Annette: Could be a barrier or a benefit—maybe supplemental income?

- Low income is my primary focus. Not just NE Spokane, but the whole East side of Spokane County. Peaceful Valley is also a very vulnerable area.
- Housing stock/equipment needed to benefit is a barrier. Homes with ventilation problems, etc., such as a lot of customers with old systems would not have been able to change to a more efficient option like gas without Avista's previous program (LEAP).

Amber: How would you like customers to benefit from the transition to clean energy?



- Transportation. Public transportation. There's such a stigma that it's the "poor people's" mode of transportation, and it's not. It's an equity driver, a development and economic opportunity.
- Ease in transition – no added stress, minimal cost impact—and communicating that it's easy. Providing educational materials.
- One member provided an example of SNAP's new database system transition, and they were provided change management training and support well in advance to help alleviate the stress of the upcoming transition.

Renee – what types of educational materials would resonate with customers?

- All of the above. Social media, print, ads, etc., we have to kind of have to hit them all repeatedly (not "shove it down their throat", but it is). For language barriers, it's reaching those trusted community members.
- Another member agreed. When she works with Marshallese communities, she's working via their church pastors to get to them.

Ana – Are you, in your communities, hearing anything about environmental concerns?

- No, mostly bill affordability
- We're concentrating on housing right now. If we bring it up, there may be something there.

Ana – What about reliability? With regards to wildfires and power outages, etc.?

Amber: What among these existing indicators is priority?

- Cost/affordability.
- Accessibility (people wanting to participate and being unable to). FAQs and just breaking things down for customers in the way they understand (ties into the senior and language barrier issues). Visibility of "ugly" infrastructure is a big one.

MUST-DOS:

Language translations.

Top 3 languages of your communities:

- Spanish, Marshallese, and Russian (or some form of, i.e. Czech)
- English, Spanish, Slavic languages, Vietnamese, and something else according to census

Amber: Which of these are measurable?

- If equity is the goal, I imagine tracking over time of customers' ability to pay. Overlay payment history map with DOH map—would they have the same hot spots? Would there be change over time, in the positive? Geographic distribution of customers' ability to pay overtime, to see improvement in those areas' abilities too.

