

## EAG Meeting Notes - February 18, 2022

**Participants:** Will Von Bracht, Connie Kliewer, Michele Bennington, Molly Brewer, Rob Denbel, Tami Dillon, Vanessa, Alex Swenson, Caroline Mellor, Claire Trapp, Kim Boynton, Rylie Ellison, Shauna M, Renee Coelho, Tamara Bradley, Amber Lenhart, Amanda Ghering, Darrell Soyers, Margee Chambers, Shay Bauman

Introduction to Clean Energy Implementation Plan (CEIP) and Customer Benefit Indicators (CBIs). Clean air quality is one of the CBIs selected in the environmental category, we will use the weighted average days exceeding the healthy levels in areas where that information is available. We will also use the Avista plant air emissions for each plant as suggested by the EAG members.

Member: one the weighted average days, where specifically is that slide data from, tamara stated this is not specific to Spokane, this is the whole service area. Member stated that is reported on a particulate matter each day. Member is wondering if Othello had a day, but Spokane did not, would it be added in the graph? Response: Yes, that is true. Member: would it be all particulate not just wildfire days? Response is yes that is correct.

Member: Chart on the right shows different SO<sub>2</sub> sulfur dioxide, NO<sub>x</sub> nitrous oxide, VOC- Volatile organic compounds and is monitored county by county and in each plant and they are monitored 24/7.

Rob Dengel and Caroline Mellor with the Department of Ecology presented their requirements and targets for clean air due to the new Climate Commitment Act (CCA). Improved air quality is part of the initiative within the CCA.

Member provided great websites to access air quality information:

<https://enviwa.ecology.wa.gov/home/map>

<https://www.airnow.gov/?city=Spokane&state=WA&country=USA;>

<https://spokanecleanair.org/air-quality/current-air-quality/>

And for during wildfire season, this is a good blog to access info on wildfires and smoke impacts;

<https://wasmoke.blogspot.com/>

Air Quality discussion (Slide 17 of Department of Ecology presentation)

Member: wild fire smoke days and it is obvious the everyone that there is a problem and workplaces and there may need to be guidance on workplaces around HVAC and what is safe inside of a building vs outside, some buildings seem that there are problems with the poor air coming into the building. Can certain hvac systems have a valve to turn on air intake or are there areas where employers should send employees home for the day?

Member: during school activity they had to be inside due to wildfire smoke (sharing lived experience)

Member: during the summer with the wildfires and living so close to the river it appears that much of the smoke settles down into the river and builds up close to the low ground pollution and inundates those in that area, you can't see across the river, you cant go outside on the trails and there are a lot of seniors that live in Kendal Yards area and they like to walk outside for exercise and they are not able to

do that during high wildfire smoke time. Seems like the river just draws the smoke down. It also impacts her dogs.

Member: Protecting workings from wildfire smoke, indoor and outdoor workers. WA Dept of L&I has undergone rulemaking for workplace standards, here's a link to the website, <https://lni.wa.gov/safety-health/safety-rules/rulemaking-stakeholder-information/wildfire-smoke>

Member: In the average of those days, do we have any idea of unhealthy days that are not related to wildfire days? Can we look at our air on more than just wildfires and other seasonal impacts?

Rylie: Ecology's air monitoring network:

<https://enviwa.ecology.wa.gov/home/map>

Member: My lived experience is like others but from the school perspective we must watch the air quality and if we can have outdoor sports activities and practices.

Avista: ambient air quality has been a thing that should be monitored, we have a renewed focus on getting down to specific neighborhoods and getting a more localized look on air quality and how it certain things impacts certain locations and how we can improve. We must rely on existing data and how we can build programs that help to impact that. Potentially have portable monitoring systems to move around to "hot spot areas"

Member: working in school we have to monitor air and see if kids can play outside or not, in Othell they were not able to do that well because they did not have monitors in that area and had to rely on areas close by, but was not very accurate.

Facilitator shared that she lives in a drafty old house so on bad air quality days they must run their air filters and have even tried to construct one out of a box fan + filters

Member: the dump (the waste energy plant) burns garbage and wondering if they have filters for that smoke or if they just let the air pollutants go into their air and can we add filters to that.

Rob states that the legislature is looking into that and that is a great suggestion and something that we should investigate.

Member, they do have air pollutant standards they must adhere to. They do have filters and they have an online virtual tour to learn about how that process works. Link to virtual tour of the City of Spokane Waste to energy plant.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Z32wPt3MWQ>

Member: The libraries are working on placing Purple Air sensors which will hopefully help gather info from all over the city and county.

Member: there is a large proportion of outdoor workers that appear to be of central Latin folks that work throughout the city and this terrible environment that comes up from wild fires and other pollutants in the air and she thinks that we need to draw in workers that are impacted by that kind of work outside to hear their thoughts.

Member seconds what was said, they have farm workers and the yare greatly impacted as wildfires typically happen during harvest season and they are also greatly impacted

Avista: we have a separate target for indoor air quality and a set up programs that will be build separate from the outdoor quality as well.

Member: To answer the question above- I am curious about air quality near the freeway and other high traffic areas

Member: Another aspect for harvest in my area, is burning of the grass fields. I live in Tekoa and we are right on the Idaho/Washington border and the field burning is across the state line, but it has an impact in the neighboring communities.

Facilitator: On Wednesday we also talked about specific areas, like the paper mill in Millwood

Member: they have wind issues in Colville that create pollution issues. How can that be addressed when the pollutants are coming from Canada or Seattle from the wind. How can that be monitored?

DOE stated they know about this and are working on monitoring etc.,

Member: I am sure that the farmers look at wind conditions etc. when they are planning to burn but it does affect especially those with allergies

Member: schools serve as a community hub for many rural and urban underserved communities. Maybe consider ambient air quality monitors (PM) at schools.

Avista: we do have a particulate issue in Colville that is pinpointed at the sanding of the roads and right after it snows.

Member: Reattainment of traction sand in Colville area. Ecology and the municipality can enter into an agreement to have traction sands cleaned up as soon as safely possible, rather than leaving the sand down all year or until late into spring/summer. This is what we do in Spokane Co, to reduce PM10 and PM2.5.

Member: really believes we need to start monitoring methane and the UN environmental protection program had a study that said methane that gets trapped down into the lower part of the ozone and it impacts agriculture as well as people and believes we need to start monitoring that. Methane in the short term is 80% more detrimental than the carbon fossil fuel that goes on. Would like to find out where our gas comes from and knows there have been more talk about not adding gas in new homes and buildings and why haven't we looked at increasing our electrical grid.

Member: sometimes hear about air quality from client with COPD or other health issues that the air quality impacts, most people that she sees are really looking for financial assistance not necessarily on-air quality.

Member: they have a blue air monitors/filters, it freshens the air and filters out pollutants, maybe we could help to make those more accessible for people?

Thank you/ Wrap Up