

**Equity Advisory Group –  
Equity Lens Session**

Meeting Date: May 20th, 2022  
 Time: 7:30am – 9:00am  
 Location: Zoom Meeting

**Attendees:**

<b>Facilitator:</b>	<b>EAG Members:</b>
<i>Amber Lenhart</i>	<i>Claire Trapp</i>
<b>Avista:</b>	<i>Alexsandra Swenson</i>
<i>Tamara Bradley</i>	<i>Margee Chambers</i>
<i>Rendall Farley</i>	<i>Michele Bennington</i>
<i>Kim Boynton</i>	<i>Shauna M</i>
<i>Darrell</i>	<i>Tami Dillon</i>
	<i>Vanessa</i>
	<i>Will Von Bracht</i>
	<i>Larry Mattson</i>
	<b>Guests:</b>
	<i>Shay Bauman – Public Counsel</i>
	<i>Molly Brewer – Washington Utility and Transportation Commission</i>

**Agenda**

- I. Welcome & Introductions
  - Overview of Meeting: Rules and Intent
- II. EAG Spotlight
- III. Transportation Electrification
- IV. Your Support Team and Next Meeting

**Facilitator**

Amber Lenhart  
 Amber Lenhart  
 Amber Lenhart  
 Rendall Farley  
 Amber Lenhart

**Meeting Notes**

**EAG Spotlight**

This month’s EAG Member spotlight is Tami Dillon. Tami works at Skills’kin as the Director of Communications and Governance, lives in Colbert, WA. She has a blue healer named Blue!

**Transportation Electrification - TE**

Electric transportation overview and how the low-income community fits into that. The transition to electrification will bring economic and environmental benefits, reducing emissions, by 4 tons of carbon emission each year. Which will continue to get cleaner as Avista pursues its clean energy goals.

Economic benefits – electric vehicles are equivalent to \$1 per gallon and that remains steady, where the price of gasoline changes often. Electric bills will go up slightly but, the money is staying in the region and not going to major gasoline companies.

Approximately ½ of the vehicles sales will be electric vehicles by 2030 and by 2050 it is very likely that 90% of vehicle sales will be electric.

If we can get more charging to occur off peak, it will greatly reduce the infrastructure upgrades needed and the additional revenue will help to offset the costs of the fixed grid and helping to keep electricity affordable in the long term.

Most people drive about 40 miles a day and most electric vehicles need to charge for an hour to an hour and a half which can occur during the night while there is less energy consumption.

We ran a pilot program from 2016-2019 where we installed over 429 charging stations throughout our service territory. This was beneficial to helping design the long-term electrification plans and programs Avista can offer.

**Member:** Grid integration, the problems that we had last summer with the heat and the electrical grid, have they been addressed?

**Company:** That is an important question which is out of my wheelhouse, we have a lot of people in the company who work at that every day, but I cannot go into the specifics of what happened and why, but I can tell you that is a very important topic and that is something that we need to keep in mind as we move forward with transportation electrification. We must look at where constraints are on our grid and where we have capacity. There is close to no effect of TE on residential neighborhoods until ¼ of the vehicles on the roads are EVs. Maybe 2035 or later is when there could be issues, but we are looking to ensure that will not happen, we are preparing early to get a head of that.

**Member:** I watched a news clip about taking a trip from Spokane to San Francisco and that it could add an additional 4 hours to your trip if driving an EV due to charging times.

**Company:** I did not see that news feature, but now I would think it would add more time than that depending on the vehicle and available charging stations along the way.

I encourage you to visit our site and review our TE plan.

We are aiming to spend about 30% of our budget for TE to go towards benefiting named communities. Most likely we will get more funding through the clean energy fuels program and will enable us to expand the low income and community programs.

Key areas to highlight, partnership with community-based organizations (CBOs) is essential to support this program. Installing charging infrastructure throughout Avista's service territory and supporting emerging opportunities. We have 5 active partnership with CBOs right now. Depending on the building site We offer free AC charging others cost around 10,000-\$12,000. We currently do not have authorization or funding to bring in DC Fast charging since the cost is approximately \$80,000. Libraries and community centers, we are actively looking into installing the DC fast chargers to support the communities. We have programs where we are actively engaging small and rural communities where we support charging stations for public use.

Public transit, buses, car sharing, apartment complex charges,

Actively partnering with several community-based organizations to install charging stations and provide them with EVs to support its clients by driving them to appointments, food delivery, etc., The company holds the title to the vehicle and is responsible for its maintenance, but once they are done with the vehicles, they come back to Avista so we can repurpose them.

**Member:** Let me see if I have this straight, at our food bank, we make a lot of pick-ups that we must do at grocery stores etc., so you provide the vehicle and we handle the insurance and you would give us a charging station, is that what I am understanding?

**Company:** Yes, that is correct.

**Member:** Oh! That sounds wonderful!

Education and outreach, we look for opportunities to get people inside the EVs, we call it the EV experience where public can come in and learn about EVs, sign up for short term rentals and take test drives. We held workshops over the past year and had students for eastern design the education materials. This is not an attempt to sell EVs, we are just trying to get good information into people's hands, many people have a lot of questions or miss perceptions on EVs, so this helps to remove that.

The city of Spokane is actively electrifying its fleet of buses and shuttles.

We are doing what we can to design programs that are still affordable and easy for low-income customers and communities.

We can continue to provide Cleaner, cheaper, electrification and this is one great way to reach that better future.

**Facilitator:** We would love your reactions, how are you feeling, what are your thoughts on how we can help people to continue to benefit from these programs? Are there organizations that could benefit from charging stations or Electric fleet? Would love to hear your thoughts

**Member:** EVs are still expensive but as more and more are produced the prices will lower and ease access. I really like the idea of Avista's grant for food banks and other non-profits that have delivery as a key function of their programs. That is one way you are going to be able to access disadvantaged communities with grants that support those communities.

**Member:** I think recreation centers would be a good focus for grants like this, maybe the one in Cheney. For families that would be beneficial.

**Member:** I need to know how to start applying for that kind of support and we spend a lot of money on gas and with the cost of gas now, this would really benefit our community. We support over 4,000 member a month and this would lower our costs significantly. I also want to know if there are bigger vehicles since we are always picking up large items, we use a truck now. And one other thing, a lot of people in my neighborhood that drive old cars that break down all the time and they cannot afford

new cars, especially EV cars, why put those charging stations in public housing because people in those communities won't be able to afford those vehicles, seems like a bad place to put those charging stations at least at this time. But my main thing is, how can I start working with Avista to start getting Our Place electrified.

**Company:** We will forward you the information from the meeting held yesterday along with an application form. But I can connect you with Ana Matthews to support your needs. And when it comes to low-income communities, we are not looking to just drop charging stations, we are looking to work with apartment complexes that have tenants with EVs but more importantly is there a way to have a car sharing service for EVs, ways to be more innovative with deploying EVs into low-income communities.

**Member:** That makes more sense, thank you for that

**Member:** Can you share that website again where you can find charging stations

**Company:** [Chargeshare.com](https://www.chargeshare.com)

**Member:** Do you know if there are any at Fairchild Airforce base?

**Company:** Yes, there are some there and several in airway heights.

**Member:** I live in the country so I wouldn't be able to park my car overnight and charge it, I would have to keep it somewhere intown, is it possible to get individual charging stations in our homes?

**Company:** Yes, we have programs for that too, it is a sweet deal, we pay for the installation up front with a cost share component by the owner of the property with a greatly reduced cost, with this Avista can do load studies with them to better understand what a more long-term scale project could look like.

**Member:** I was wondering what happens to the batteries after you are done, where do you store those?

**Company:** That is another common concern, we are still researching to better understand that I am not personally concerned with disposal of the batteries, they are not environmentally toxic, but recycling of these needs to advance further. Sourcing the earth metals that are in the batteries is what needs to continue to improve, they are starting to move away from using those materials to help with environmental concerns. Our goal is to learn the truths and not sugarcoat what we learn and know.

## [Wrap Up](#)

Next meeting in June is schedule for June 22<sup>nd</sup> and June 24<sup>th</sup> to accommodate the Meeting with WUTC on June 16<sup>th</sup> and this gives us time to digest the feedback for us to be able to share that in this setting.

We appreciate everyone's engagement, are there any last-minute thoughts or questions before we wrap up?

Thank you and enjoy the rest of your day.