



Equity Advisory Group – Equity Lens Session

Meeting Date: August 20, 2025
 Time: 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm
 Location: Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

Facilitator	Present	EAG Member	Member Organizations
Amber Lenhart	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clyde Abrahamson	Spokane Indian Housing Authority
Avista Team Members	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Margee Chambers	Spokane Clean Air
Ana Matthews	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Connie Kliewer	NEWESD101
Amanda Ghering	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clair Trapp	Rural Resources
Kelly Dengel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	KJ January	Spectrum
Tamara Bradley	<input type="checkbox"/>	William von Bracht	Othello, school English as 2nd language
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lynn Suksdorf, PhD	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brook Beeler	Department of Ecology Eastern Region
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jupiter McGee	Sunrise Spokane Affiliation (youth led) (Facebook)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vanessa Strange	Spokane Public Library
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tami Dillion	Providence
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Latrice Williams	Community Member/ WA state board of Equity
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cindy Kimmet	Takesa Village
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Carmen Groom	SNAP
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sandra Childers	Rural Resources - Colville
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sue Lani Madsen	Washington Rural Environmental Network (WREN)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jean Kindem	Aging & Long-Term Care of Eastern Washington
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Karen Boone	Red Cross
		Guests	
		Em Piro, Puget Sound Energy, Equity Advisory Group Coordinator	

Agenda

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EAG Equity Lens Session Meeting Notes

I. Welcome & Introductions

The EAG Facilitator provided an overview of the agenda for the Equity Advisory Group meeting, which included introductions, partner shares, updates from Avista Staff based on previous meeting comments, and a presentation on the Clean Energy Implementation Plan. The facilitator reviewed the ground rules for respectful participation and explained that questions should be held until the end of the presentation, which is preparing for a public participation meeting. The facilitator clarified that the presentation will be at the "consult" level of the public participation spectrum, addressing feedback from the previous meeting, while the presentation on the 2025 Clean Energy Implementation Plan draft will be more informational, and input on making the presentation format more accessible for the upcoming public meeting is welcome.

II. Partner Share/ Connections

- During partner shares, a member announced that they raised \$348 for the Takesa Village children's Christmas party
- Spectrum's upcoming events including a Splash Bash pool party on the 23rd and a clothing swap on the 30th.
- [SNAP PAJAMA PARTY - SNAP](#) that will be held on September 13th at 3:30 at Brick West Brewery.
- A member recommended that group members get to know each other better, which Avista staff supports by expressing her intention to meet individually with each member.

III. Review Previous Meeting Comments

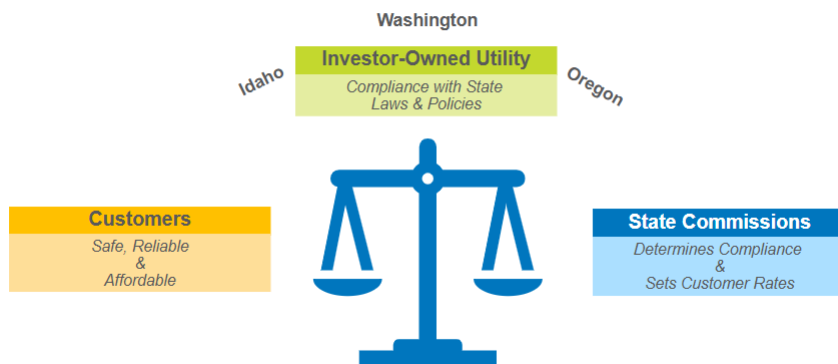
Avista staff presented findings on multilingual customer engagement and billing practices at Avista. An overview was provided that 60% of customers still receive paper bills, with 60% of recipients scanning inserts and 23% reading them thoroughly, suggesting that multilingual inserts could effectively raise awareness about language support services. Avista staff highlighted that Avista connects with customers through multiple channels beyond billing, including email, social media, and community events.

EAG member question: When asked how Avista compares to other utilities, Avista shared it's been their observation from her outreach activities that Avista appears more active in community engagement than other utilities. The group discussed other payment options such in-person payment options at lobbies, kiosks, and grocery store pay stations.

Action: Update the EAG on multi-language insert activity.

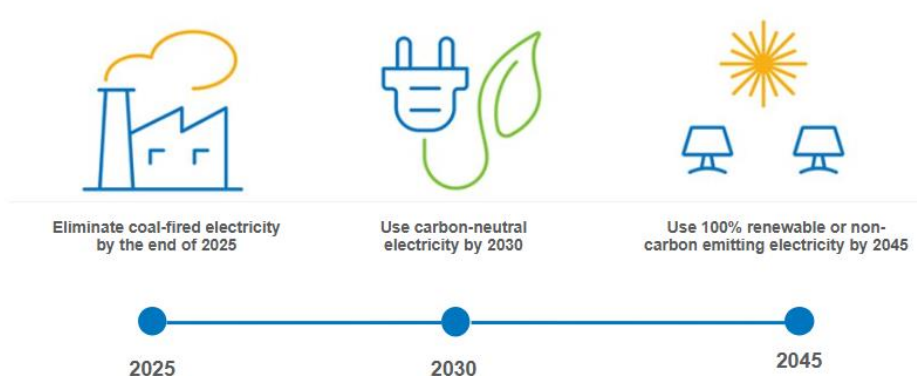
IV. 2025 Clean Energy Implementation Plan, presented by Kelly Dengel, Clean Energy Policy & Implementation Manager

Avista's Regulatory Model



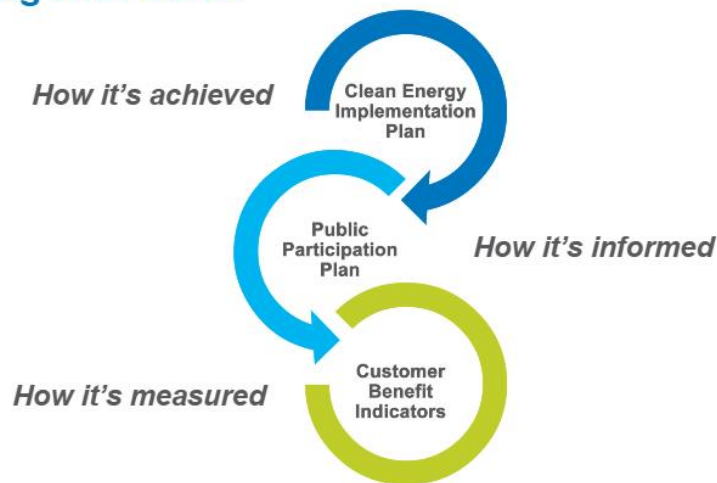
Avista staff presenting provided an overview that Avista is a regulated utility with oversight from WUTC required to compile with all state laws, commissions oversee utility commissions.

Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA)



Key messages, presented from Kelly: CETA was passed in 2019 and has requirement of all electric companies in the state. Based on the carbon neutral 2030 requirement, Avista will exit the Montana Coal Strip by the end of the year. The company is required to obtain renewable or non-emitting source 24/7/365 by 2045.

Complying with CETA



Key message conveyed: Earlier EAG helped craft and inform public participation plan and how benefit all customers. Today's presentation is focused on the 2025 CEIP.

Terms & Definitions

Renewable Energy	Energy created from a renewable or non-carbon emitting sources
Renewable Energy Credit	Proof the energy is generated from a renewable source
Energy Efficiency	Using less energy but achieving the same results
Demand Response	Reducing energy usage during high demand time frames
Customer Benefit Indicator	Metrics to evaluate customer benefit from the clean energy transition
Named Community	Customers disproportionately and negatively impacted by housing, food and income insecurities, environmental effects and other factors

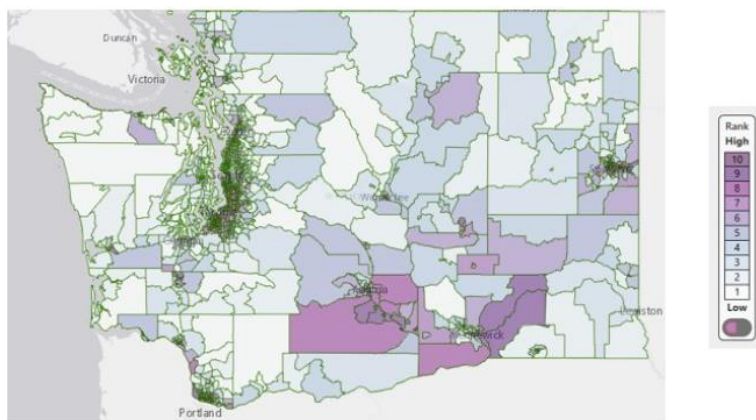
Key message for this slide: Preview of the terms to be used.

2025 Clean Energy Implementation Plan



Key message for this slide: Main components of CEIP – CBIs and Named Communities EAG is most familiar with. Ways to respond to each of these to be covered at the end of presentation.

WA Dep. of Health's Environmental Health Disparities Map



Key slide message: WA Department of Health map applies to all regulated utilities in WA social, medical, environmental, physical spheres.



Named Communities Identification

Highly Impacted Communities

- All DOH sensitivities combined score 9 or higher or Tribal census tracts

&

Vulnerable Populations

- DOH Socioeconomic & Sensitive populations at 9 or higher
- Equity Advisory Group identified characteristics
- Federal – Climate and Economic Justice 40 Map: Climate Change | Energy | Health | Housing | Legacy Pollution | Transportation | Water & Wastewater | Workforce Development (all sensitivities, all scores)

Named Communities: Customers disproportionately and negatively impacted by housing, food and income insecurities, environmental effects and other factors

Key slide message: Requirements under the law on the left, right side is EAG work to identify and shape components of DOH map, characteristics the group has identified. Combined with DOH map and these definitions identify Avista's NC.



2025 CEIP Vulnerable Populations Characteristics

WA DOH – Socioeconomic & Sensitive Factors

- No high school diploma
- People of color
- Population living in poverty <=185% of the Federal Poverty Level
- Primary language other than English
- Unemployment
- Death from cardiovascular disease
- Low birth weight
- Unaffordable house >30% of income
- Transportation expense

2021, 2023 & 2024 EAG Identified Characteristics

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ American Indian and Alaska Native (on/off reservation)▪ BIPOC▪ Eastside of Spokane▪ Fossil fuel industry workers▪ Houseless populations▪ Individuals who do not read▪ LBGTQIA2S+▪ Low-Income▪ Migrant workers▪ Monolingual (no written languages)▪ Northeast Spokane households | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Neighboring communities and states▪ Non-English speakers▪ Older homes with older infrastructure▪ People who fall between the cracks▪ People with disabilities▪ Populations outside of Avista's service territory who are affected by fossil fuel infrastructure and production▪ North Central neighborhood, Spokane, WA▪ Peaceful Valley, WA | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Religious and spiritual people▪ Rural▪ Specific indigenous languages▪ Tenants (renters)▪ Undocumented individuals▪ Youngest generation (high school, college)▪ Youth (some help families navigate resources)▪ Aging populations▪ Resiliency (community & personal)▪ Takesa Village, Mead, WA▪ High energy burden |
|---|---|--|

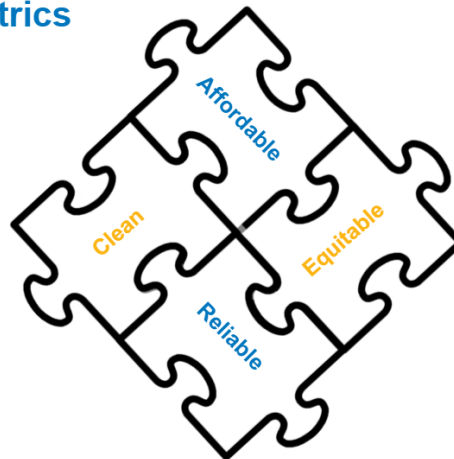
Key message: The EAG will continue to discuss and refine in 2026.

Customer Benefit Indicator Metrics



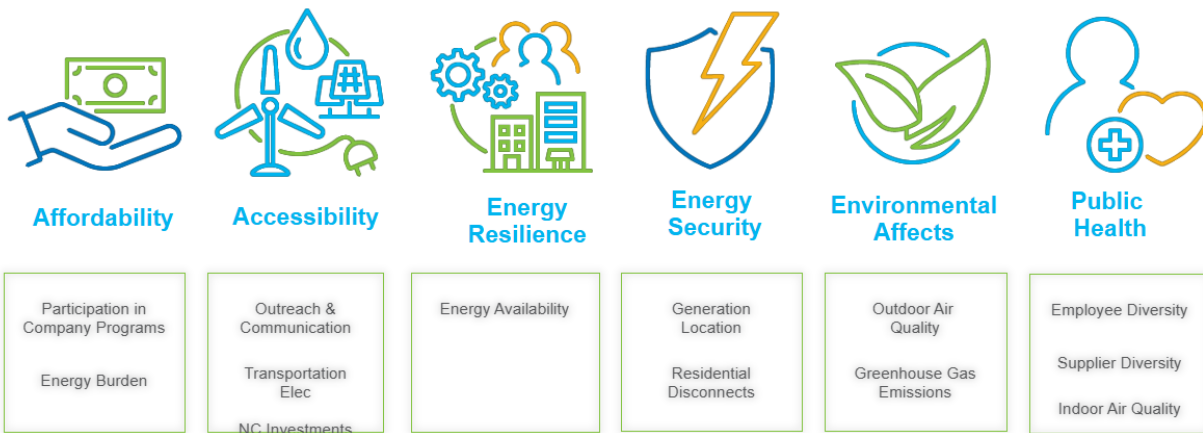
Measure, and hold accountable to, an equitable transition to clean energy for all customers

Ensure the equitable distribution of energy and nonenergy benefits and reductions of burdens to Named Communities (Highly Impacted Communities & Vulnerable Populations)



Key slide message: Intent of CBIs holds us accountable to measure change among all customers with focus on NC (examples of affordability, equitability, etc.).

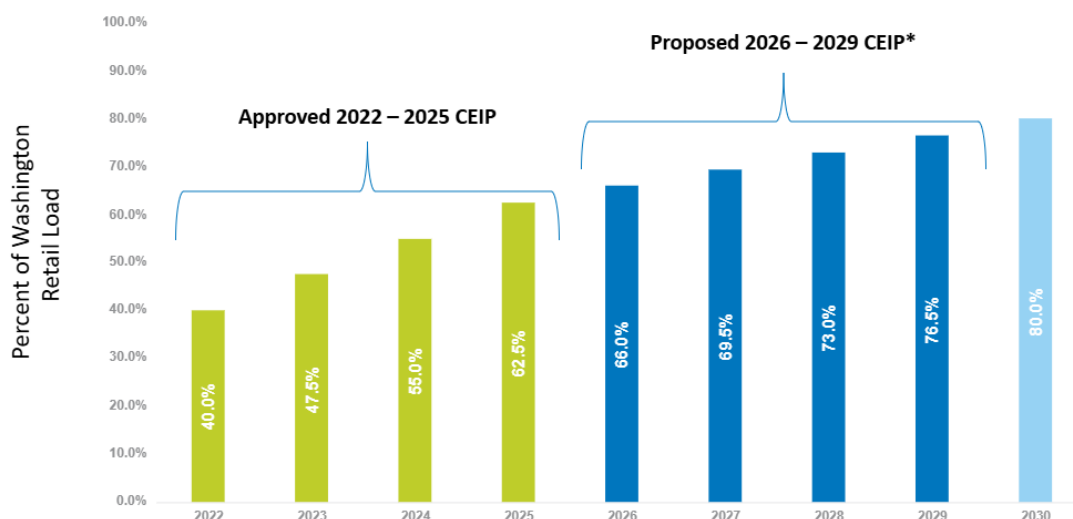
2025 CEIP Customer Benefit Indicators



Key slide message: EAG has seen this graph several times. The EAG has helped to identify the metrics under each of these required benefit areas. There are 13 CBIs, and 54 metrics are proposed in the 2025 CEIP that includes EAG inputs.



Proposed Renewable Energy Targets



*Based on preliminary targets set in the 2025 Clean Energy Action Plan; subject to change

Key slide message: Requirements under the law – renewable, demand response and energy efficiency requirements. Renewable delivery to customers how much is making to customer home. Green is what was delivered under first CEIP that ends 2025. Blue is what is proposed for the next CEIP. Notice of increase that sets up well for the next phase, 20% can be met with offset that may not be clean but could be purchased to help cover the emissions. Gradual increase to help mitigate costs to customers.



Renewable Energy Targets & Specific Actions

Interim Targets	Specific Actions
2026 – 66.0%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Retire sufficient Renewable Energy Credits to comply with annual targetsIssue 2025 All Source Request For Proposal<ul style="list-style-type: none">75 – 375 MW of winter qualifying capacity50 – 350 MW of summer qualifying capacity0 – 200 <u>aMW</u> of annual clean energy
2027 – 69.5%	
2028 – 73.0%	
2029 – 76.5%	

Key slide messages: How to meet the goals? Avista is already a majority of clean energy; to prove it is generated from clean energy an environmental attribute or as noted a renewable energy credits. Prior to CETA Avista sold recs for the benefit of the

customers. Now we must retire them and retain the energy. To help meet in 2045 the company will need to acquire more renewable energy targets in the future.

Estimated Four-Year Rate Impact



*Excludes financial energy assistance, impact of previous resource decisions

Key message: The cost includes the retirement of recs along with all CETA activity. The most significant cost for Avista is retiring recs. Estimated WA electric rates will be 1.9% higher by 2029.

Energy Efficiency Targets & Specific Actions



Targets

147,344 MWhs savings by 2029

Specific Actions

- Continue existing cost-effective measures/program
- Pursue newly identified cost-effective measures/programs

Energy Efficiency: Using less energy but achieving the same results

Key message: Energy efficiency is the practice of reducing consumption of energy while maintaining similar results. Included as part of the CEIP, the company will continue to seek energy savings through programs such as home insulation, residential/commercial lighting, and help to decrease energy consumption in the future.

Demand Response Targets & Specific Actions



Targets	Specific Actions
Cumulative 55 MW savings during a single peak hour by 2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Continue existing 30 MW industrial DR contract▪ Issue 2025 All Source RFP<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Acquire 25 MW DR cost-effective programs

Demand Response: Reducing energy usage during high demand time frames

Key Message: Effort to reduce usage during high demand, such as extreme heat while many are using ACs – Avista may be having difficulty serving demand. A demand response program may ask customers to reduce use. If the target is a lot of power, the company may utilize an existing industrial contract to reduce use. Recently the company issued an RFP for achievable demand response from customers.

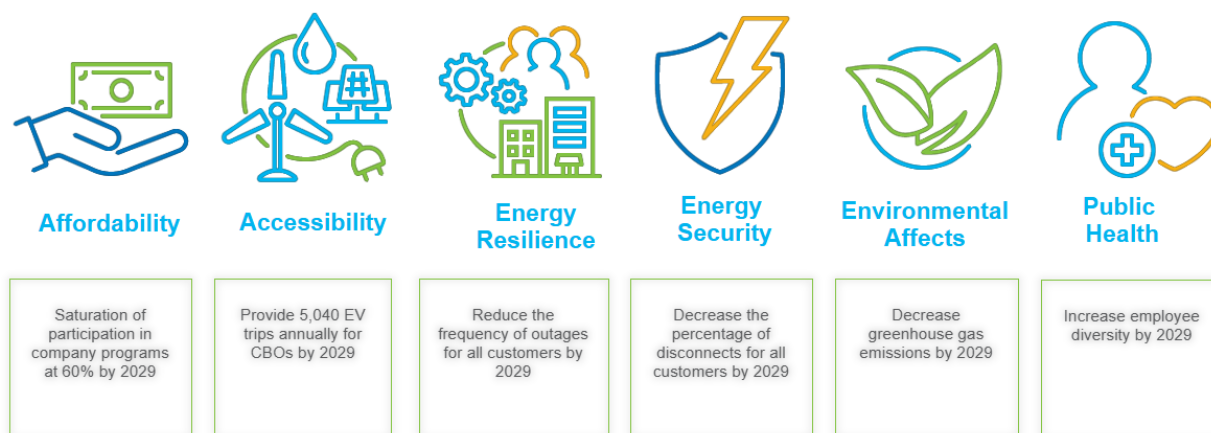
Company Initiatives Goals & Actions



Targets	Specific Actions
Invest up to \$5M annually in Named Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Named Community Investment Fund <div> <div>\$2M Energy Efficiency</div> <div>\$3M Community</div> </div> Supporting actions for each CBI metric
Aspirational CBI goal by benefit area	

Key message: Continuation of NCIF and aspirational CBIs goals to be achieved by 2029. Some NCIF projects include the MLK Center and Malden center, lighting at food banks, groups or that support NC. Avista spent \$7M in NCIF in the first CEIP and would like to continue in the next CEIP.

Aspirational Customer Benefit Indicator Goals



Key Message: Chosen goal to be achieved by 2029 is featured under each area.

2025 Clean Energy Implementation Plan Timeline

Public comment period through August 31, 2025



2025 CEIP: <https://www.myavista.com/about-us/washingtons-clean-energy-future/clean-energy-implementation-plan>

Email: ceta@avista.corp.com

Comment Form: www.myavista.com/ceta

Compile & address comments through September 30, 2025

File with Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission October 1, 2025



- Written notification to all WA electric customers by Nov. 1
- Commission's determination – TBD

Key message: ways to comment as noted were reviewed.

V. Questions and Discussion

- General group comments: 40 minute presentation delivered in just over 30 minutes. Opportunity to slow down.
- EAG member: bill increase by 1.9% - dollar wise what would that be?
 - Company: \$68M Should we say dollar or percentage?
 - Cindy percentage sounds better.
- EAG member: current administration downplays of benefits of windmills. Is Avista affected by that? What about solar? Additionally, what does the company do around educating customers around the average household energy use, ability to reduce use, not leaving certain things on? Insert – energy saving tips.
 - Company response: The wind law changes were due to the Big Beautiful Bill (BBB) that removed tax incentives for wind facilities. The incentives made wind appear to be affordable; with the incentives removed, the costs increased. A recent RFP that addressed wind farms was submitted to the company around the time of the BBB and will need to reprice their options, as affordability has been affected. We need to choose the most cost-effective resource.

Solar production is the same as wind situation. Rooftop solar unsure how impacted under the BBB bill. We currently do not offer it as an option to customers. We do offer net metering.

Helping customers reduce energy consumption is Energy Efficiency.

Reduce use but still power home.

EAG member – several meetings ago vampire use, inclusion in the bill. 60% read their bill inserts, that should include energy conservation.
 - Comments in Chat
 - 1.9% increase give example of bill
 - Lots of acronyms use chat to explain with definition. Many folks may not know.

- Definition on the slide – take a moment to explain.
- Expressed frustration with rescinding federal subsidies for clean power.
- EAG member – 1.9% of the customers need to understand in terms of what it means to individual customers. \$68M is for the overall customer, what does that mean to individual consumer. Individuals might be more involved if they knew the overall revenue increase (clarification from staff does not profit increase for Avista). Connect to human individuals, that are not at the level that staff and group members are at.
 - Emphasize the use of acronyms, and anything that can be done to make it easier for the general audience will be helpful.

Avista staff were anticipating the challenge of presenting the cost impact. EAG member, it is a challenge to present in a manner that means something to general customers.
- EAG member – use of power, refrigerator was the one thing that uses the most.
 - Chat Comments: My energy star highly efficient Refrigerator uses far less than my electric hot water heater, and my electric furnace. Just an FYI related to finding Energy Star ratings when replacing appliances and HVAC items.
 - Staff online tool to see how energy use is occurring in home. General education 40-60% of use may be attributed to HVAC.
- Avista staff asked the group if the rec explanation was understandable.
 - Amber was still difficult to understand, Marge agreed – however she stated that this presentation was the first time it made sense to her.
 - Kelly only provides proof when it comes from a clean source – that is a rec.
- EAG member – Slide #22 – renewable energy targets, early years percentage increased at quicker rate than in later years. What is the reason?
 - Staff first CEIP Avista wanted to have lower targets due to concern about customer costs, we would have been selling more recs and delivering less clean energy. UTC required that targets be increased, we sold less recs and retired them, and costs increased. The company strategy is to be conservative to keep low. If don't hit goal, could be penalized, wanted gradual increase but were required to do more. So, now it is what we think will be accepted by the commission and interested parties. If we are required to do more, it will result in higher costs for customers.
- EAG member asked if she is unable to attend the CEIP public meeting. Will the company provide an update.
 - Yes.

Action: Provide an update of the Public Participation meeting at the EAG September meeting.
- Facilitator – called out certain topics to see if any were becoming clearer. Avista staff in response to question about the other components of the plan. Staff are unable to cover all the details of the plan. CBIs will be on

the docket, so will talk about the aspirational goals, how trying to achieve by 2029. Amber called out that the specific actions would be very informative.

VI. Your Support Team and Next Meeting

- Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 17 at noon and Friday, September 19 at 7:30 am. Meeting information is featured at: www.myavista.com/eag
- Please sign up for our quarterly newsletter if you have not already and we hope to see you all next month. You can sign up here: cloud.ask.myavista.com/CEIP-Newsletter-Signup. Or visit myavista.com/ceta and navigate to the bottom the page under **Learn More**. From there, click “Sign up for our newsletters and get the latest updates”.
- Provide any additional comments or feedback to us at ceta@avistacorp.com