



Equity Advisory Group – Equity Lens August 2026 Session

August 19, 2026, 12:00 to 1:30 pm

August 21, 2026, 7:30-9:00 am

Location: Zoom meeting

Attendees:

<i>Facilitator</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>EAG Member</i>	<i>Member Organizations</i>
Kelsey Solberg	X	Clyde Abrahamson	Spokane Indian Housing Authority
<i>Avista Team Members</i>		Brook Beeler	Department of Ecology Eastern Region
Jaime St. Peter	X	Karen Boone	Community Advocate
Ashley McAndrews	X	Margee Chambers	Spokane Clean Air
Ariana Lake	X	George Dahl	Spokane County Housing & Community Development
Kelly Dengel		Tami Dillion	Providence Healthcare
Amanda Ghering	X	Andrew Gardner	Spokane Public Schools
Kirstin O'Connor Giampietri		Carmen Groom	SNAP
	X	KJ January	Spectrum
	X	Autumn Kern	Student and Community Advocate
	X	Cindy Kimmet	Takesa Village
	X	Jean Kindem	Aging & Long-Term Care of Eastern Washington
	X	Connie Kliewer	NEWESD101
	X	Vladimir Kronin	Slavic Community
	X	Sue Lani Madsen	Washington Rural Environmental Network (WREN)
		Vanessa Strange	Spokane Public Library
	X	Maliek Martin	Spokane Workforce Council
	X	Lynn Suksdorf, Phd	Rural Community Member
	X	Tawana Swanson	Rural Community Advocate
	X	William von Bracht	Othello, school English as 2 nd language
	X	Latrice Williams	Community Member/ WA state board of Equity
	X	Lisa Puett	Living Holistic Wellness
	X	Stephen Tsoodle	Spokane Indian Housing Authority
	X	Lyra Maidhoff	SNAP
		<i>Guests</i>	
		Paule Koenig	Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
		Joshua Dennis	Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission

Agenda

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EAG Equity Lens Session Meeting Notes

I. Welcome & Introductions

Welcome new EAG member: Lisa Puett of Living Holistic Wellness – looking forward to joining the EAG and understanding how she can contribute.

II. Partner Shares

Member: Based on the fires in Inchelium and Nespelem, the Spokane Indian Housing Authority is helping the Colville Tribe in rebuilding homes destroyed by the fires.

Member: The Spokane Indian Housing Authority is having a Housing Fair September 1, 2026 at our Pavilion at the Pow Wow grounds. Please contact the Spokane Indian Housing Authority (509) 818-1460 ask for Hannah Hahn or email hannah@spokaneiha.com if you want be a vendor at the event.

Member: Moratorium on Data Centers – what is Avista’s position on these.

Response: Avista provided the link to the Avista FAQs on Data Centers: [Data Centers and Your Energy | Avista](#)

Member: [Cash Assistance Available for Those Impacted by Fires • Spokane County, WA](#)

Member: I have heard from friends that when Avista shut off power in reference to the wildfires, they lost cell service even with charged phones. Is this something Avista has heard and if so, what is Avista's thoughts related to this safety issue?

Member: At my house, cell services require on router to work, remote areas also in suffer from this.

Member: This is more about a safety issue and the loss of availability to get to the internet when power it out – if router is out or cell service down. Being rural and losing the signal.

Avista: Great information to share Lynn and Sue Lani, we will pass this information on to our Wildfire team.

Member: My rural area is looking at data centers, and I see both sides, we need to make sure our communities remain as minimally impacted as possible and the topics seem to be getting heated; an entity is looking at a plant in town, the topic comes up a lot.

Avista: Yeah, we have heard a lot of those conversations too, the topic is relevant.

Member: SNAP had its annual resource carnival last week and it was incredibly well-attended; the outreach team is looking forward to smaller events with rich engagements in the community, including being at the Carl Maxey center market and at the International Rescue Committee open-door day (where people can come without an appointment).

III. Agenda Item I: Comment & Action Review – 2026 Clean Energy Compliance Report

EAG Comment & Action Review	
Member Question / Comment	Response
What is demand response or DR?	▪ Customers temporarily reducing electricity usage or shifting usage to a different part of the day when usage (demand) and energy prices are high ▪ Customers may receive an incentive for participating in a demand response event and reducing usage
What does 30 MW of DR equate to?	▪ Depending on time of year and individual home usage, 30 MW could provide power to ~2,500 to ~7,500 homes for 4 hours.

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EAG Comment & Action Review

Member Question / Comment	Response
Does the report show how hydro resources are displaced in favor of wind and solar?	- No, the report does not show that. - Under CETA, the law requires the displacement of natural gas and coal-fired generation in favor of renewable (hydro, wind, solar, etc.) or non-emitting generation. - The dispatch (use of resources) to create electricity is based on economics of the energy market – dispatching the lowest cost resource to serve customers.
Does the report account for Avista's multi-state jurisdiction (green energy costs go to WA instead of ID)?	- Yes, the report does. Avista does have a cost and benefit sharing allocation methodology between ID and WA regardless of the energy type. Each state commission approves or denies these costs and benefits reflected in customer rates. - If renewable energy assigned to ID is used for WA compliance, WA compensates ID for the benefit.

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EAG Comment & Action Review

Member Question / Comment	Response
Does the incremental cost estimate calculation include the NCIF?	No, the incremental cost estimate that was conducted in 2021 did not include the \$5 million NCIF because it was a proposed action in the plan and not approved by the Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission.

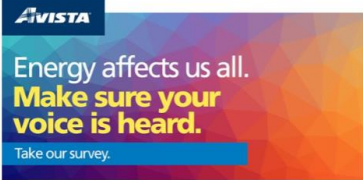
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EAG Comment & Action Review

Member Question / Comment	Response
Where can we access the results of the Community Partner Survey?	- Shared at the September 2025 EAG meetings - Posted at https://www.myavista.com/about-us/washingtons-clean-energy-future/equity-advisory-group.

IV. Agenda Item II: 2026 CETA Survey Results



**Energy affects us all.
Make sure your
voice is heard.**
Take our survey.

Dear Angela,

Washington law requires utilities, including Avista, to transition to 100% non-carbon emitting energy sources over the coming years. As we plan for this future, **we want to understand what these changes mean for you.**

Please complete our short survey, which should take less than 10 minutes.

[Take the survey](#)
(Español, Русский, Українська, العربية)

As a survey participant, you'll also have the chance to **vote for your favorite nonprofit** to receive a **\$1,000 grant from the Avista Foundation**. Votes may be cast for any nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization located within Avista's Washington service territory and/or serving residents in that service territory.

2026 CETA Survey

- April 20-May 18
- Available in 5 languages online and 6 in paper
- Promoted via direct email
- Marketed through community publications and social media
- Paper format available at Avista lobby and delivered to community partners
- New participation incentive

Avista: Here's a high-level view of the summary, with increased marketing and advertising with more than 200% increase in participation. Small publications called Black Lens, Fig Tree and incentive to complete the survey with award to non-profit, which was an EAG idea and we incorporated!

Survey Summary Over Time

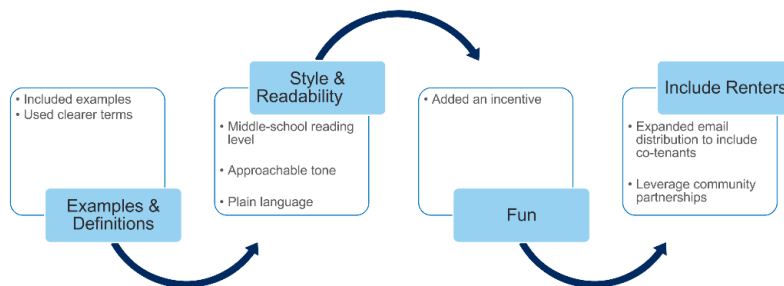
	2022	2024	2026
Who	152,000	156,000	159,836
What	Energy: 23 Demographic: 11	Energy: 7 Demographic: 13	Energy: 7 Demographic: 7
How	Online: English	Online: English, Spanish Paper: Russian, Spanish, Ukrainian, Arabic	Online & Paper: English Russian, Spanish, Ukrainian, Arabic, Marshallese (<i>Paper only</i>)
Promotion	Email	Email, Events, CBOs, Avista lobby, CETA Newsletter, Public meetings	Email, Events, CBOs, Avista lobby, Newsletter, Public meetings, Social media
Response	2,601 or 1.7%	1,900 or 1.2%	7,074 or 4.4%

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Avista: Here's an evolution of the survey over time, with improvement each year to increase language access, survey access, promotional materials, social media, etc.

2024 Survey EAG Feedback Impact



19 Equity Advisory Group Equity: March 2026 EAG



Avista: Connect back to the 2024 EAG request for feedback and demonstrate how we incorporated EAG ideas.

2026 Survey Improvements

Expanded translations 1

Online surveys expanded with Russian, Ukrainian, and Arabic translation

Spanish-language outreach 2

Translated survey promo sent to customers who prefer Spanish

Community incentive 3

An incentive offering designed to benefit the community

Targeted marketing 4

Presence on social media and in specialty local publications

Partner materials 5

Enhanced materials for community partner engagement

Employee engagement 6

Communication and education for Avista employees

20 Equity Advisory Group Equity: August 2026 EAG

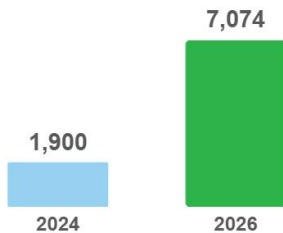
AVISTA

Avista: High level recap of the improvements, with expanding on the Spanish language outreach – Avista has created a Spanish-requested list for Spanish only as compared to English. More engagement with employees to share with organizations, committees and boards in the community to increase survey participation.

Participation Growth

+272%

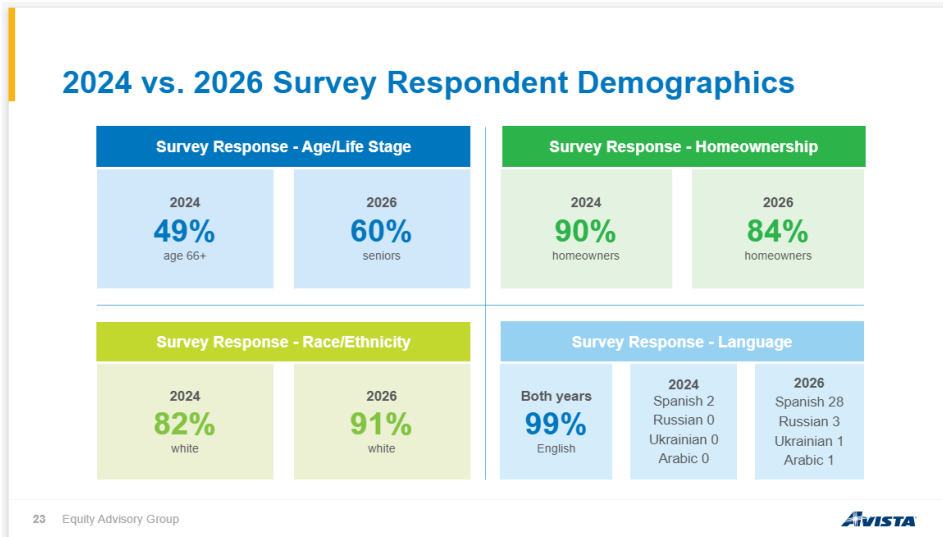
Increase in survey participation, 2024 to 2026



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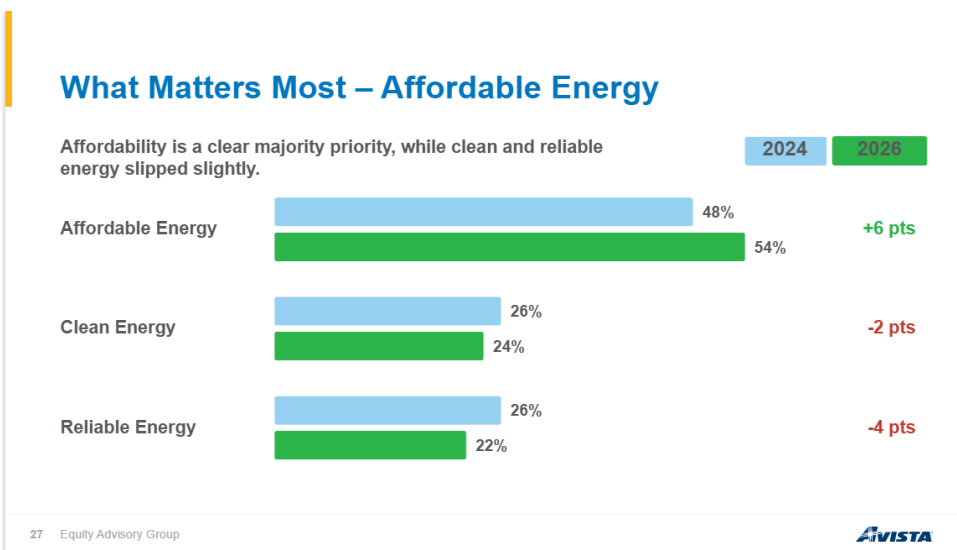
AVISTA

Avista: Participation grew more than 200%!



Avista: we also saw a shift in who has participated in the survey. Demographic questions were optional in the survey

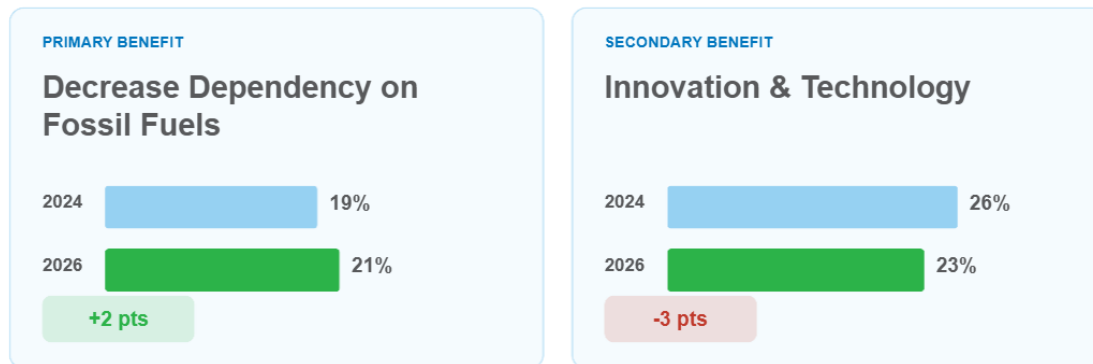
Member: Good work on updating and improving the survey methodology. Reaching more community members is an impressive improvement. KUDOS



Avista: Affordability remains the most important thing to customers.

Clean Energy Benefits

Reducing fossil fuel dependency is now the top-cited benefit, while interest in innovation and technology has slightly reduced.

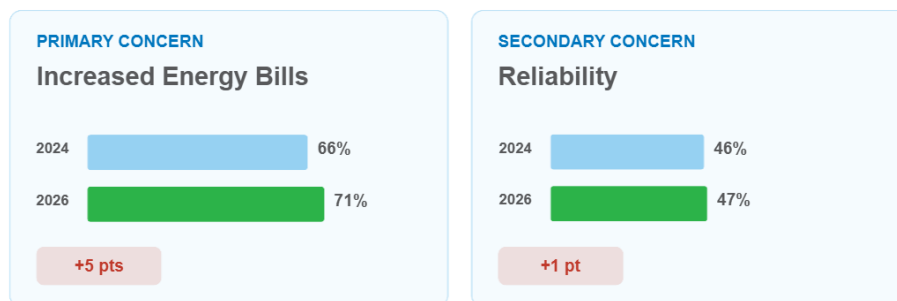


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Clean Energy Concerns

Rising energy bills remain by far the dominant concern, and worry has deepened since 2024.



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Avista: Cost and reliability need to stay in front and center for customers.

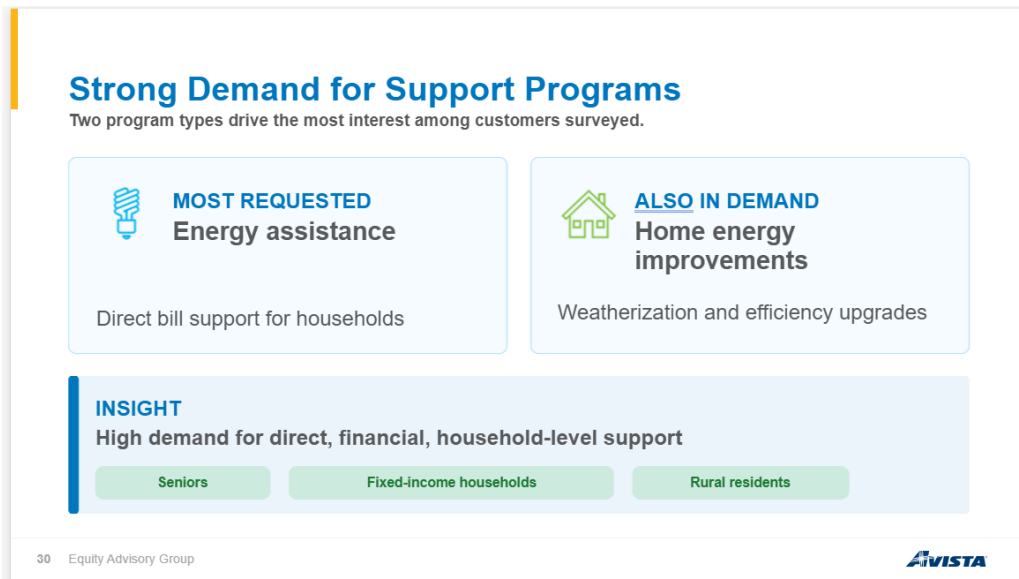
Member: How about if affordability be front and center in policy, and not just in communication and education?

Avista: Tell me more about this and what you think the utility should do.

Member: Make data available on your website about intermittent resource vs. renewable resources to serve baseload, how Idaho wants cheap power and

Washington wants clean power. It needs to be prominent, so I/we have something to point to when trying to lobby for change.

Avista: Avista has to walk a fine line between balancing customer needs/wants, complying with the law and being a regulated utility. Avista can't take stance, but does comply with the law while trying to limit rate impact.



Member: Great to see more communities being reached. The data speaks to the effort being put in.

Member: I was just at the chamber of commerce last week, learning to adapt to each communities needs and contouring your approach is important.

Avista: When we talk about clean energy it feels like a system wide thing but it really is an individual thing all the way down to how to keep bill affordable and reaching customers to share energy assistance or energy efficiency options etc.,

Member: Great to see increased participation. The feedback matches what I hear.

Member: Connecting with rural communities is always high on our engagement efforts. Glad to hear it's happening.

Member: Working with rural community and learning how the way we use and see energy is changing and the rural communities seem to be a little more equipped to self-manage their energy or self-sustain.

Avista: How can we reach those younger demographics?

Member: community programs put on for younger generations, maybe have table events at those or reaching out to different schools and seeing how you can partner with them and their families.

2028 CETA Survey Considerations

Three areas to address before the next survey cycle.

01

Advance planning

- Time the survey to avoid fatigue from wildfire season and elections
- Engage partners for hard-to-reach audiences earlier
- Plan a longer open period — 2 weeks planned, 4 weeks needed

02

Open-ended questions

- Provide an open comment box so customers can respond in their own words

03

Alternative engagement

- Use focus groups alongside the survey
- Draw on EAG ideas to drive participation

Avista: Here are some options we're considering as we plan for the 2028 survey and we thank you for your input in making this better.

2026 Avista Foundation Grant Awardees

Three community organizations each received a \$1,000 award

\$1,000

Second Harvest

2026 Grant Awardee

\$1,000

Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery

2026 Grant Awardee

\$1,000

Union Gospel Mission

2026 Grant Awardee

Avista: These are large non-profits in our area; but how do we make it possible for the smaller non-profits in future surveys? We'll consider that question in the future when planning for the 2028 survey.

Member: I'd love to see a small nonprofit grant program and a larger nonprofit grant program. There's some great rising stars locally. Great chance to allow them to build capacity.

Questions and Discussion

- ☐ What clarifying questions or curiosities do you have about the presentations?
- ☐ What disparities, root factors, or inequities (historic and current) are related to these topics?
- ☐ How could Avista improve engagement strategies related to these topics, if at all?
- ☐ What new ways could help measure and track benefits and reduced burdens related to these topics?
- ☐ What steps, practices, or policies could help reduce future inequities related to these topics?
- ☐ How does this affect your community? What steps will you take after learning about these topics?

V. Questions and Discussion

Member: I have an NCIF project idea and contact that I sent an email to Marissa, but I haven't heard back. Should I wait for Ana to return?

Avista: With Ana out, we're in a holding pattern. Kelsey Solberg, Manager of Social Impact, is willing to talk with the EAG member about her idea and community partner in the meantime.

VI. Your Support Team and Next Meeting

- Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday September 23 and Friday September 25.
- Please sign up for our quarterly newsletter if you have not already and we hope to see you all next month.
- Provide any additional comments or feedback to us at ceta@avistacorp.com