



Equity Advisory Group – Equity Lens Session

Meeting Date: August 22, 2025
 Time: 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm
 Location: Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

Facilitator	Present	EAG Member	Member Organizations
Amber Lenhart	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clyde Abrahamson	Spokane Indian Housing Authority
Avista Team Members	<input type="checkbox"/>	Margee Chambers	Spokane Clean Air
Kelly Dengel	<input type="checkbox"/>	Connie Kliever	NEWESD101
Ana Matthews	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Andrew Gardner	Spokane Public Schools
Tamara Bradley	<input type="checkbox"/>	KJ January	Spectrum
Amanda Ghering	<input type="checkbox"/>	William von Bracht	Othello, school English as 2nd language
Ariana Barrey	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michele Bennington	Community member at large
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brook Beeler	Department of Ecology Eastern Region
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jupiter McGee	Sunrise Spokane Affiliation (youth led) (Facebook)
	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	Cindy Kimmet	Takesa Village
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Carmen Groom	SNAP
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sandra Childers	Rural Resources - Colville
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sue Lani Madsen	Washington Rural Environmental Network (WREN)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jean Kindem	Aging & Long-Term Care of Eastern Washington
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Karen Boone	Red Cross
		Guests	
		Joshua Dennis, WUTC	

Agenda

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EAG Equity Lens Session Meeting Notes

I. Welcome & Introductions

The August Equity Advisory Group meeting began with the facilitator outlining the agenda, which included introductions, partner shares, and feedback on the July meeting from Avista staff will present updates on the draft Clean Energy Implementation Plan for 2025, and participants were asked to provide feedback on the presentation format and content. The meeting will follow a structure where questions are only allowed at the end of the presentation, mirroring the upcoming public participation meeting. Participants were encouraged to share their introductions in the chat and to provide constructive feedback during the presentations.

II. Partner Share/ Connections

- Spokane Public Schools - Welcome back Block Party at high school feeder patterns. Ferris next Wednesday, community and family members are all invited. Food is provided. Please attend.
- SNAP - September 13, SNAP Pajama Party at Brick West Brewery, 3:30 to 7:30 pm. Folks invited to donate or bring warm weather gear. Energy getting last of air conditioners out. Energy assistance appointments open September 16th to schedule October appointment.

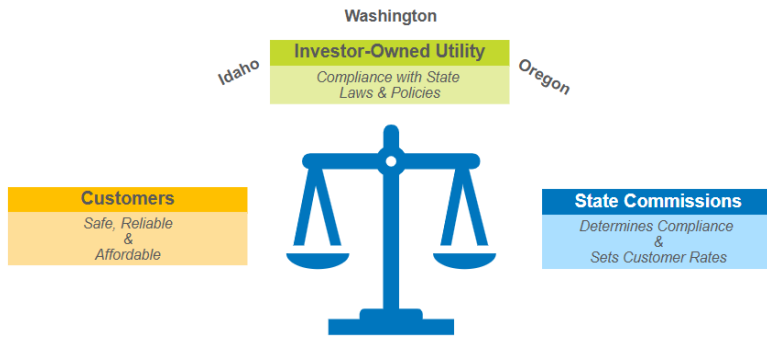
III. Review Previous Meeting Comments

Avista staff presented findings on multilingual customer engagement and billing practices at Avista. The overview covered 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 discussed Avista's customer engagement strategies, including website sign-ups, email communications, social media presence, and community outreach programs. An EAG member suggested targeting specific communities with multilingual PSAs and cultural competency training for staff. Ana agreed to explore these suggestions and mentioned ongoing efforts to update customers on multilingual inserts. The group also discussed Avista's use of Language Line services for non-English speaking customers and the importance of cultural awareness in customer service.

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

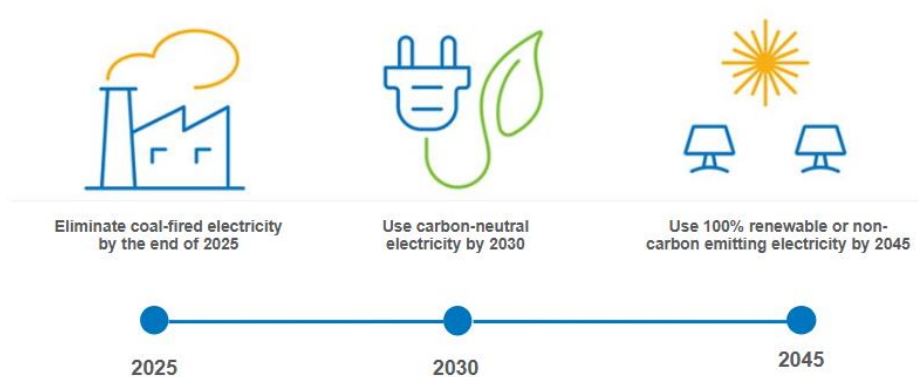
Key Message at introduction: appreciation to present main elements of the CEIP to EAG to obtain their input.

Avista's Regulatory Model



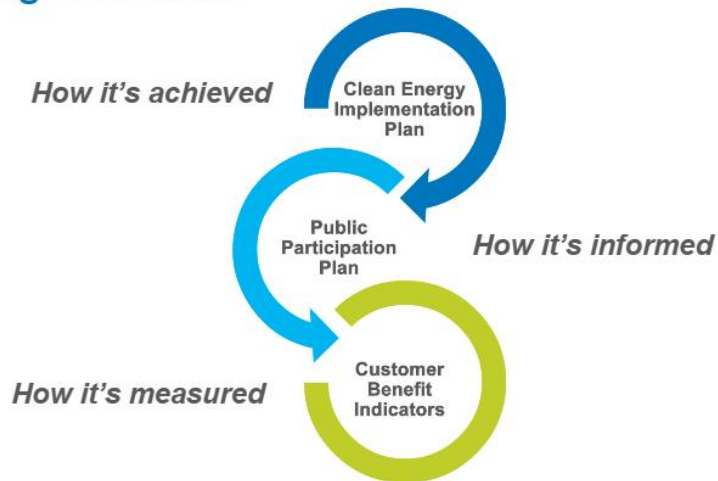
Key message on this slide: An overview that Avista is a regulated utility with oversight from WUTC required to compile with all state laws, commissions oversee utility commissions. It is a balancing act between safe and regulatory requirements. Avista responsibility to law and regulatory – commissioners determine if Avista is compliant and what Avista can do around rates.

Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA)



Key message: Passed in 2019 and applies to all electric companies in WA State. CEIP how comply with law. Avista will exit the Coal Strip in Montana at the end of the year. All 2045 all energy provided to customers must come from clean energy sources.

Complying with CETA



Key Message: 2nd quarter 2025 Public Participation and EAG meetings covered Public Participation Plan and Customer Benefit Indicators and this month's EAG and public Wednesday will be around 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

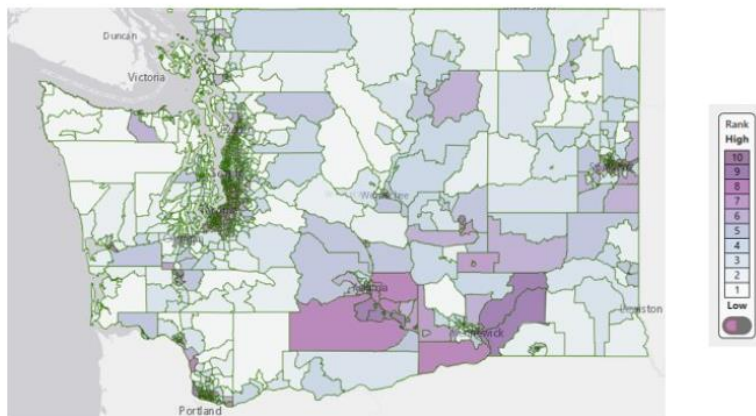
Key Message for this slide: Terms to be used today, Kelly will define as proceed.

2025 Clean Energy Implementation Plan



Key message for this slide: Graph is an overview of components of CEIP, will be covered in subsequent slides. Full details of the plan with ways to comments will be covered.

WA Dep. of Health's Environmental Health Disparities Map



Key message for this slide: Impacted by variety of ways may be considered a Named Community. Primary source for identifying is this map – uses census tract data to identify these groups.



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 message for slide: Vulnerable population identified by utility with Advisory Groups – most specifically EAG.



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

- 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
- 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
- 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

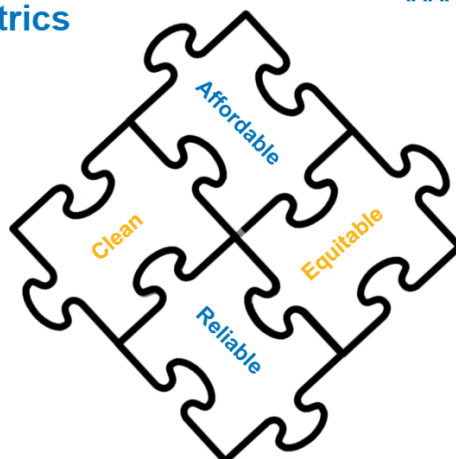
Key message for slide: Vulnerable populations defined with help from Advisory Group – characteristics identified by EAG over the past few years those that may be impacted by transition to clean energy.

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 message for slide: Law requires CBIs to measure impact on all customers and the Named Communities.

2025 CEIP Customer Benefit Indicators



Affordability



Accessibility



Energy Resilience



Energy Security



Environmental Affects



Public Health

Participation in Company Programs
Energy Burden

Outreach & Communication
Transportation Elec
NC Investments

Energy Availability

Generation Location
Residential Disconnects

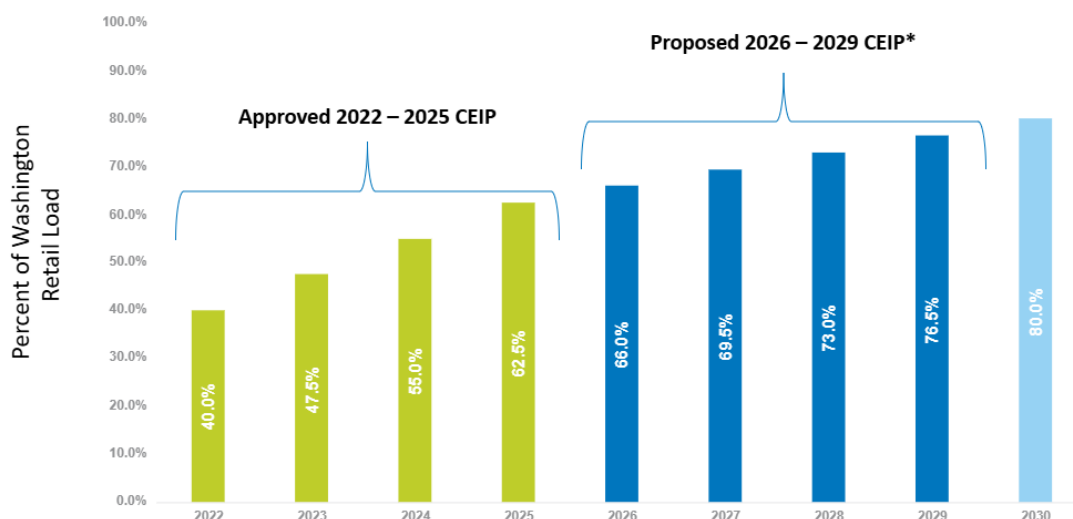
Outdoor Air Quality
Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Employee Diversity
Supplier Diversity
Indoor Air Quality

Key slide message: Required benefit areas listed across the top, 2025 CEIP AVA proposes 13 CBIs and 54 associated metrics – not included on slide. Reported annually for all customers and where appropriate Named Communities.



Proposed Renewable Energy Targets



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

Key message for slide: Goals of CETA and CEIP have required targets. Green is what was achieved through the first CEIP, dark blue represents what the company is proposing for the next CEIP. By the end of 2029 76.5% of energy delivered by Avista to customers will set up Avista well for meeting 2045 carbon neutral goal.



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 message for slide: Isn't Avista already clean with hydro, but the company must prove that it is from a clean source – renewable energy credit. Prior to the law the company separated the credit and sold the credit for the benefit of customers. To meet the requirement of the law, the company can no longer sell the credits and retire the proof that it was not sold.

Helps meet future requirements by RFP for future clean energy sources. RFP results will be known late 2025 or early 2026.

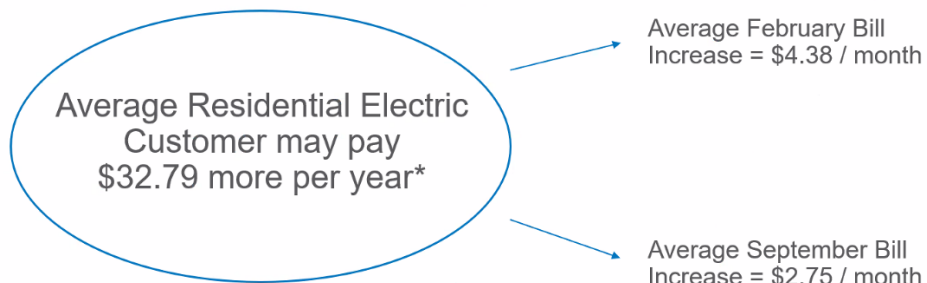
Estimated Four-Year Rate Impact



*Excludes financial energy assistance, impact of previous resource decisions

Slide message: Will show 2 slides on this topic. This slide was presented at Wednesday's meeting.

Estimated 2029 Rate Impact of the Plan



*Only reflects impact of 2025 Clean Energy Implementation Plan
*Excludes financial energy assistance, impact of previous resource decisions
*Assumes electric residential customer usage of 11,386 kWh/annually

Slide message: Previous slide modified based on feedback from Wednesday's presentation.

Energy Efficiency Targets & Specific Actions



Targets	Specific Actions
147,344 MWhs savings by 2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continue existing cost-effective measures/programPursue newly identified cost-effective measures/programs

Energy Efficiency: Using less energy but achieving the same results

Key message: Another requirement of the law is energy efficiency – the reduced consumption but same service results. Target savings measured in megawatt hours to meet targets the company will continue to offer cost-effective programs. Energy efficiency examples home insulation, rebates on efficient appliances.

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 contractIssue 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

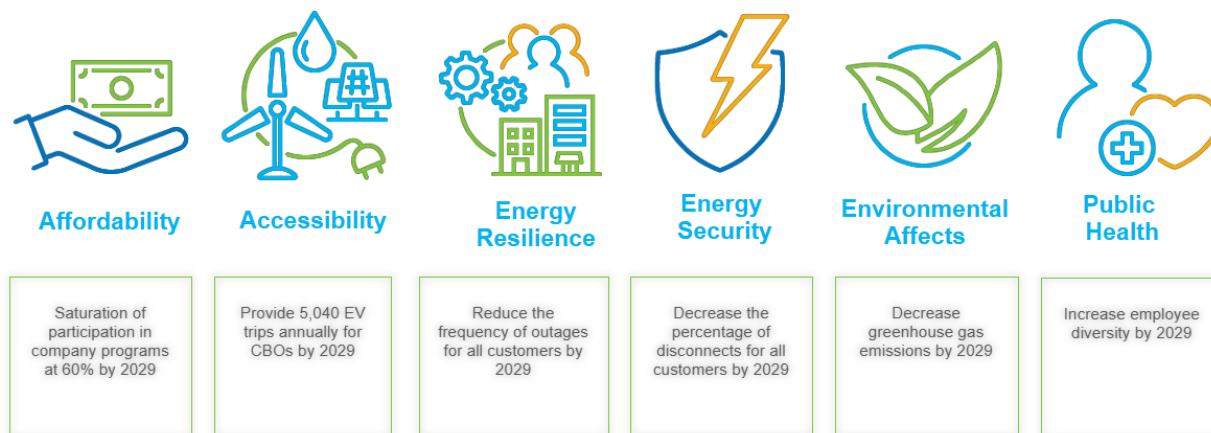
Key message: Another way to reduce energy consumption during high demand time or shifting use to alternative times. Propose programs to call upon customers to reduce use. Most customers are KWH, industrial are megawatts – so by the end of the next CEIP period the company needs to come up with programs. Issued RFP to companies to help us achieve these targets.

Company Initiatives Goals & Actions



Key message: Avista has proposed to aid in transition benefit for all customers and reducing barriers and burdens for Named Communities (NC). Some example 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: Six aspirational goals as noted.

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: Please consider providing comments regarding the plan.

V. Questions and Discussion

Comments –

- EAG facilitator: good presentation. adjustments from the Wednesday meeting made it accessible.
- Member: Are heads exploding? Lots of questions throughout: what did they mean, how will they do that? There's a lot of work to do with the 2045 deadline. Avista Staff: We have 4 years to do it. Every day, 24 hours a day can only be clean energy. Avista does not have access to nuclear energy today, unreliability with renewable sources, so need to overbuild or access to where clean energy is produced (i.e., from California) to help shore up the delivery. Avista is showing incremental progress.
- Member: Do these requirements apply to other utilities? Avista Staff: Yes, Investor-Owned Utilities along with smaller public utilities must comply.
- Avista Staff: Wednesday's group discussed REC and how it applies to costs. We present a lot on VP definition, CBIs and NCIF but don't talk a lot about other company programs or initiatives such as Energy Efficiency and Demand Response.
EAG Facilitator: Don't understand the credits. Who are the credits sold to, what does it mean?
Avista Staff: Prior to WA CETA California had clean energy law, they were looking for offset to meet compliance. So, there is a market to buy clean energy credits to cover carbon emissions, with something that is clean.
- Member: Used to sell for customer benefit but can't do that anymore but how else are there savings?

Avista Staff: In the past, before CETA Avista had hydro and proof of renewable energy credit, would sell for costs for delivering power (credit in megawatts purchases), and customers paid less overall. But now companies can't have that credit, we must keep the energy with the proof – called retiring the rec.

- Member commented in Chat: It is going to cost everyone an average of \$32.79.
- Member: Add the details to the slide and you will be able to take advantage of energy saving.

Avista Staff Even if saved, it will be impacted by the law.

- General comments on the updated slide: Good detail with the new slide.
- EAG Facilitator: Backwards math, for \$4.38 would be bill of \$230
- Member: More specific to overall bill cost to relate to personal situation.
- Member: Are you all saying, put a new slide that has bill and show what the average increase would be to the bill.
- Member: Just add a comment on what the actual bill is.
- Member: Use February as bill example to give context.
- Member: Range of bills average from high to low. Some have auto pay and don't check their bill.

Avista Staff: Always a touchy subject, safe environment to have this chat. But having discussion with the average customer is hard because there is emotion around rate increases, finding balance between the cost of the law. Company is doing best not to have costs skyrocket is a challenge. Appreciate feedback, will adjust illustrate cost impacts. Not sure we can promise to make.

- Member: take the 1.9% and add it back to the page. It helps to remove nervous energy, to show it's not that bad. It is important not to have too much other stuff on the page so that the message gets lost.
- Facilitator: Found it helpful to learn about the increases on renewable energy targets, and the discussion around the balance of what the company would like to do against what WUTC requires. Aspirational targets may affect rates. It is important to explain the guidance and how decisions are influenced based on UTC requirements.
- Avista Staff: Prior to CETA there was no requirement of proof that clean energy goes to the company. The UTC determines if the company is compliant with the law. For the targets, to keep costs low the company proposed lower targets but in the approval process of the first CEIP, the company was required to increase targets. Avista is fortunate with hydro resources, but other companies do not have as much clean, renewable energy and are in a difficult situation in meeting requirements. UTC determines if Avista is doing enough to comply with the law and can require us to do more.
- Member: 80% by 2023 are there benefits to reaching it early?
Avista Staff: Benefit to the environment, less carbon emissions, but not as good for the customer because they would have to pay higher rate before it is required. Rate shock, impact to meet goals, and for some utilities they do not have access to enough clean energy.

- Member comments in Chat: Feedback to reflection questions:
 1. What clarifying questions or curiosities do you have about the presentation?
 - What lessons have been learned from the Iberian Peninsula grid shutdown in April 2025 relevant to implementing the 100% renewables goal?
 - What is the benefit of CETA to the consumer? Is there one, other than Avista gets to stay in business
 - What disparities, root factors, or inequities (historic and current) are related to this topic?
 - Several of the named “communities” seem to have no relationship to energy use (e.g. everyone needs lights and a hot shower).
 - What is the assumption behind focusing on non-geographically defined communities relating to energy use and clean energy impact?
 2. How could Avista improve engagement strategies related to this topic, if at all?
 - Recognize there is not universal support for CETA from Avista customers instead of treating it as a given good.
 3. What new ways could help measure and track benefits and reduced burdens related to this topic?
 - It would help if the state complied with the law to provide measurement and tracking of benefits and progress towards atmospheric carbon reduction.
 4. If any, what steps, practices, or policies could help reduce future inequities related to this topic?
 - Would Avista consider rejecting projects permitted through EFSEC instead of through local/county permitting which is more responsive to rural communities?
 - How does Avista consider the disparate impact and inequity of siting process for industrial wind and solar on rural communities?

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 of 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