



Equity Advisory Group – Equity Lens January Session

Meeting Date: April 22, 2026

Time: 9:30 am to 2:30 pm

Location: In person at Avista, 1411 E. Mission and virtual offering from 10 till 11:30 am only.

Attendees:

<i>Facilitator</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>EAG Member</i>	<i>Member Organizations</i>
<i>Amber Lenhart</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clyde Abrahamson	Spokane Indian Housing Authority
<i>Avista Team Members</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brook Beeler	Department of Ecology Eastern Region
<i>Ana Matthews</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Karen Boone	Community Advocate
<i>Amanda Ghering</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Margee Chambers	Spokane Clean Air
<i>Ariana Lake</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sandra Childers	Rural Resources - Colville
<i>Kelly Dengel</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tami Dillion	Providence Healthcare
<i>Kelsey Solberg</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ronaele Fitzpatrick	Takesa Village (substitute)
<i>Marissa York</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Andrew Gardner	Spokane Public Schools
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Carmen Groom	SNAP
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	KJ January (virtual attendee)	Spectrum
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cindy Kimmet	Takesa Village
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jean Kindem	Aging & Long-Term Care of Eastern Washington
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Connie Kliewer	NEWESD101
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Vladimir Kronin	Slavic Community
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sue Lani Madsen	Washington Rural Environmental Network (WREN)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Maliek Martin	Spokane Workforce Council
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lynn Suksdorf, Phd	Rural Community Member
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	William von Bracht	Othello, school English as 2 nd language
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Latrice Williams	Community Member/ WA state board of Equity
		<i>Guests</i>	
		<i>Joshua Dennis, WUTC</i>	
		<i>Paul Koening, WUTC</i>	

Start	End	Topic	Presenter
9:30 am	10:00 am	Meet & Greet	
10:00 am	10:15 am	Welcome	Amber Lenhart, MPH Principal & Founder, Social Impact Partners and

			Mike Magruder , Director Integrated Planning & Clean Energy, Avista
10:15 am	11:15 am	Named Communities Compounding Need	Hassan Shaban , PhD Principal, Energy & Data, Empower Dataworks
11:15 am	11:45 am	Campus Tour: Operations & Power Supply	Samuel Helms , Manager Electric Operations, Avista and Morgan Stach , Organized Market Manager, Avista
11:45 am	12:15 pm	Lunch	
12:15 pm	2:15 pm	Powering our Future	James Gall , Manager Resource Analysis, Avista
2:15 pm	2:30 pm	Closing Discussion	Amber

[EAG Equity Lens Session Meeting Notes](#)

I. Welcome & Introductions

Amber Lenhart opened the meeting and introduced Mike Magruder, who provided an overview of how the utility industry has evolved, highlighting increased complexity due to clean energy initiatives, changing resource bases, and customer demand management. Mike emphasized the importance of advisory groups and customer transparency in navigating these challenges.

The group then conducted introductions with participants sharing their names and affiliations.

II. Agenda Item I: Named Communities Deepest Need

Hassan Shaban led a discussion on defining "deepest need" for Named Communities. Hassan presented three options for defining this need, with Option 2 (individualized approach focusing on energy system struggles) receiving the most support from participants. The group discussed how different communities define and experience need differently, with particular attention to immigrant populations and rural areas. Key considerations included making the definition logical, clear, relevant to Avista's energy system, useful for program implementation, and reproducible for ongoing use. The

discussion highlighted the importance of both geographic targeting and individual customer needs, with participants suggesting a hybrid approach that combines these elements. The conversation ended with plans for Hassan to conduct further data analysis and reconvene with the group in a few months.

III. Tour

The tour provided participants with a practical look at how a utility operates day to day and over the long term. The first stop was a utility line dock, where participants learned about electric operations, including how crews prepare equipment, respond to outages, and maintain the power system to keep service reliable and safe from Sam Helms.

The tour then moved to power supply operations, where Morgan Stach introduced how electricity is purchased and managed. The members learned how the utility conducts day-ahead and real-time energy trading to meet customer demand, as well as how long-term power planning and contracts help ensure affordability, reliability, and compliance with regulatory requirements.

Overall, the tour highlighted how field operations and power supply planning work together to deliver electricity to customers.

IV. Powering Our Future

Mike Magruder and James Gall lead the group through an interactive simulation game that places participants in the role of electric utility decision-makers. The goal is to design and manage a long-term electricity resource mix that reliably serves customers while balancing cost, environmental goals, and public policy requirements.

V. Next Meeting

- Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 20th at Noon and Friday, May 22nd at 7:30 am.