

Session 1: Wednesday, February 18, 2026, 12:00pm

Session 2: Friday, February 20, 2026, 07:30am



Equity Advisory Group – Equity Lens Session

February 2026 | www.myavista.com/eag



Agenda

Topic	Presenter
Welcome, introductions, agenda, and shared expectations	Amber Lenhart , Facilitator
Connections/Partner Shares	Connections/Partners
Electric Vehicle Community Program	Rendall Farley , Manager and Clay Christensen , Coordination Clean Energy Solutions
Revisit Named Communities Investment Fund (NCIF) Prioritization	Amber
Climate Commitment Act Programs for Named Communities	Meghan Pinch , Manager and Steven Cutter , Program Manager, Energy Efficiency
Questions & Discussion	Amber
Wrap-up and Adjourn	Amber

Shared Expectations

- Stay present** mentally and physically when possible.
- Listen** with an open mind and be open to new ideas.
- Participate** in discussion, share concerns and ideas, and give others space to do so.
- Ask questions** at any time. Use Zoom's "raise hand" feature or chat during presentations.
- Work together** to consider different perspectives and support the meeting goal(s).
- Respect** the role of the facilitator to guide the group process.

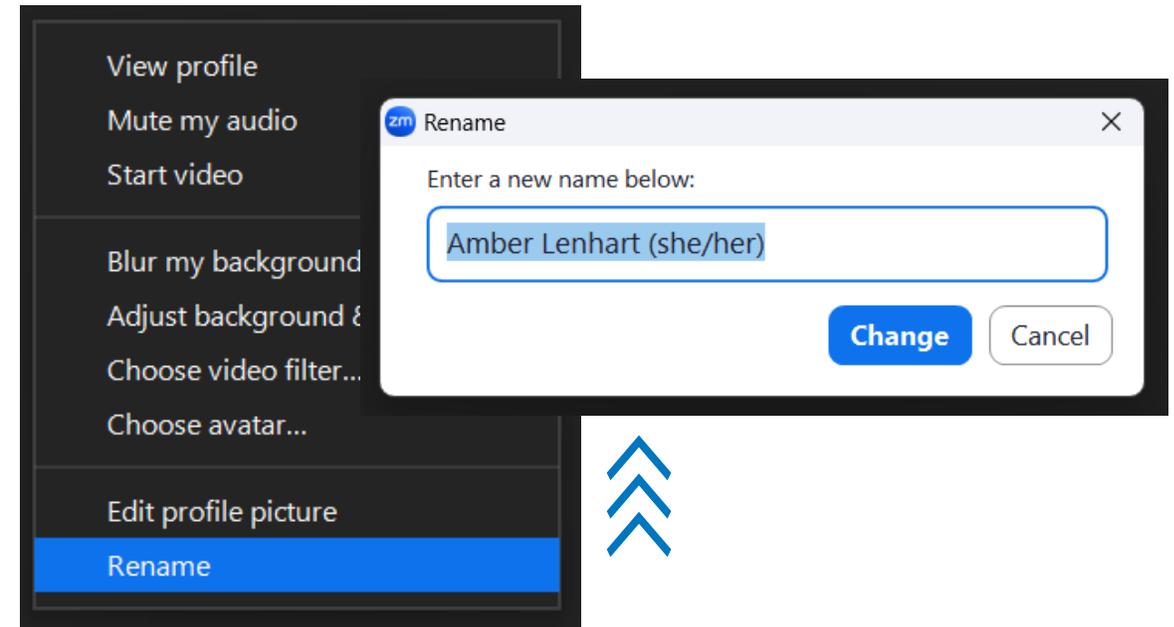
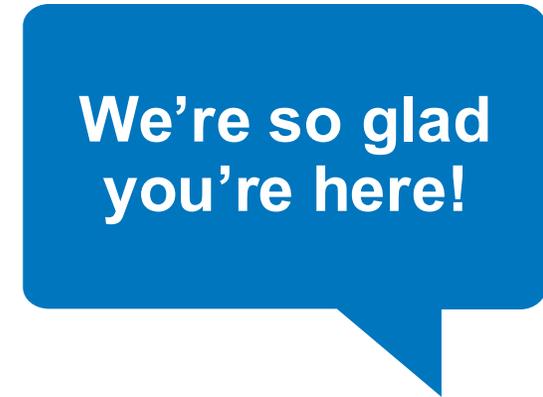


Introductions

Please share in the chat:

- Your name
- Organization or community

Optional: Consider including  your pronouns in your Zoom name



Spectrum of Public Participation

INCREASING IMPACT ON THE DECISION

	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.

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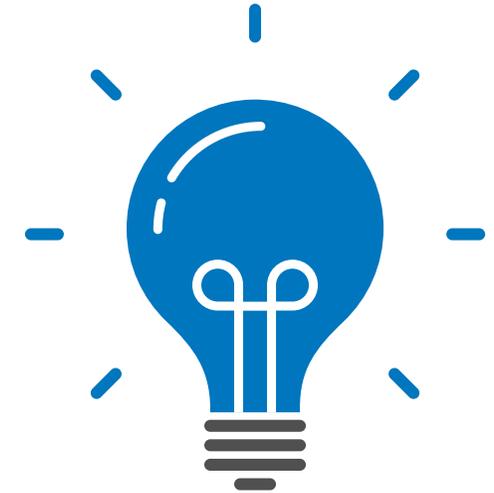
Today's Equity Lens Session Goals



Inform EAG members about Electric Vehicle & Climate Commitment Act Programs



Consult with EAG members to share their questions and perspectives for the Climate Commitment Act Program



Collaborate with EAG members around priorities for the Named Communities Investment Fund



Connection Question

What is a personal “gold medal moment” or significant achievement you've made in your life that made you feel proud, even if no one else saw it?

Partner Shares



- Do you have a "win" to celebrate?
- What upcoming events or opportunities do you want to share with other EAG members and their communities?
- What pressing issues or needs are you hearing about in your communities or organizations that we should consider or work together to address?



EAG Comment & Action Review

Ana Matthews

January Meeting: Chat Comment

An Avista energy conservation grant replaced the lighting in our Edwall fire station, and it flickers because the high efficiency lighting doesn't seem to be compatible with our sketchy wiring.



Avista Small Business Lighting

Program manager requested trade ally to do site visit

Replaced damaged breaker in the electrical panel

- Faulty equipment was giving interference over power supply causing the lights to flicker
- Informed after Fire Station training on February 10th the lights were no longer flickering



Community EV Program

Rendall Farley and Clay Christensen | Clean Energy Solutions

Community EV Program

- Partnerships:
Community-based organizations (CBOs) in Avista’s WA Service territory can apply for EV funding to benefit disadvantaged or underserved communities.
- CBOs with EVs + Charging Equipment
 - Active partnerships - **16**
 - Awarded EVs - **17**
- 2024 EV Stats
 - Trips taken by CBO partners in 2024 - **3,300**
 - Passenger miles driven by CBO partners in 2024 - **94,660**

*CBOs are eligible for free charging infrastructure regardless of whether they are awarded an EV.

[Electric Transportation | Avista](#)





Spokane Regional Health District's 2023 Kia Niro EV



Electrifying Results

Statistics for Spokane Regional Health's EV utilization from 2022-2025:

- Total trips:
855
- Total miles driven:
11,870
- Total savings on gas & maintenance:
\$6,518
- Total CO2 reduction:
6,731 pounds



The Dignified Workday crew & their Ford F-150 Lightning



Electrifying Results

Statistics for the Dignified Workday EV in 2024 & 2025:

- **Total trips:**
326
- **Total miles driven:**
7,931
- **Total savings on gas & maintenance:**
\$3,365
- **Total CO2 reduction:**
3,291 pounds

Community EV Program - 2026 Details

Funding Details

- **Total funding available:** \$220,000
- **Charging infrastructure:** Provided by Avista
- **Award size:** Multiple projects will be funded and recommended proposal budgets should not exceed **\$55,000** (excluding charging infrastructure)

Evaluation Criteria

- **25%** Estimated passenger miles served
- **25%** Estimated project cost
- **25%** Organizational capacity (including reporting requirements and ease of implementation)
- **25%** Proposal uniqueness, diversity, and educational/awareness value

Key Dates

- **February 20, 2026** - Informational Meeting 10:00 to 11:00 AM (optional)
- **March 27, 2026** - Proposal submission deadline
- **April 24, 2026** - Award notifications sent to selected organizations
- **May 2026 through September 2026** - Project implementation period

Avista Community Electric Vehicle Application

[Insert the name of your organization here]

[Insert the Primary Contact Information here]

[Insert Mailing Address here]

[Provide Organization Summary, including an overview of services for under-served and resource or economically constrained]

[Select Date]

Proposal Summary

Electric Transportation Benefits

- Summarize the proposed project, with an explanatory overview of how the target population will benefit from greater access to electric transportation and/or education and awareness. Please include a detailed explanation of activities to be completed and a description/address of each organization and facility that is involved in any operations.

Vehicle Trip Details

- Please provide the following information if your proposal involves the use of an electric vehicle:

Category	Min. #	Max. #	Avg. #
1. Number of trips per day			
2. Roundtrip distance			
3. No. of people per trip (including driver)			
4. Description of any cargo transported, other than persons			

Itemization of organizational support and investment for the proposal

- Provide an itemization and description of support and/or investment that your agency can support along with what you will need from Avista for the implementation of the proposal. This should also include ongoing operations.

Implementation Timeline

- Outline a timeline for implementation beginning as early as May 2026.

Reporting Capabilities

- Explanation of annual reporting capabilities including a narrative of activities, workhours, expenditures, participant benefits, and vehicle trip log, as applicable.

Form instructions:

Proposals for Avista's EV Community Program are due by **5:00 PM on March 27, 2026**.

Community-based organizations served by Avista electricity in Washington are invited to submit proposals that provide electric transportation benefits to disadvantaged communities and/or groups identified in the Washington Department of [Health Environmental Health Disparities](#) map. Innovative approaches that expand access to electric transportation and provide educational benefits related to electric mobility are highly encouraged. This is a Washington based project and awards cannot be made for activities outside of the state.

This year, \$220,000 in total funding is available to award community-based organizations with electric vehicles, in addition to charging infrastructure provided by Avista. This funding is intended to be shared among multiple awardees, therefore proposals costing less than \$55k are recommended, not including charging infrastructure. Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- 25% Estimated passenger miles served
- 25% Estimated cost
- 25% Organization's capacity to support the program, reporting, & ease of implementation
- 25% Proposal's uniqueness, diversity, and its value in promoting education and awareness

*Every application receives equal consideration through a standardized, equity-focused review process.

If a vehicle is awarded, the community-based organization will assume title and be responsible for insurance, maintenance, and other operational costs during the term of the program, per a memorandum of understanding that Avista will provide for signature. Additionally, a site agreement with Avista must be signed for any charging stations that are provided, which includes an insurance requirement.

Proposals for the project should be documented on the attached form. This information includes the following:

- General Agency information
 - Organization name and primary contact information
 - Summary of the organization to include the number of employees and clients/customers served
 - Brief overview of the organization's services provided to the community and low-income individuals
- Summary of the proposed project and explanatory overview of benefits
 - Improved access to an electric vehicle through your project
 - Education and awareness through your proposed activities and campaigns
 - Other direct and indirect benefits resulting from your proposed program
 - Include quantified benefit estimates (number of persons served per week, etc.)
 - Include trip distance and number of trips per day (min/max/average) for proposals involving use of EVs
- Itemization and description of the support and/or investment your agency can provide (e.g., driver hours per week, rider signup administration, etc.), and proposed EV charging locations, if applicable. Also include an itemization of the support needed from Avista to implement the proposal.
- Timeline for project implementations starting as early as **May 2026 and no later than September 2026**.
- Explanation of annual reporting capabilities including a brief narrative of activities completed, relevant agency workhours and expenditures, demonstrated benefits to project recipients/participants, and vehicle/trip log.

Due Date

- A meeting will be held on **February 20, 2026**, to answer questions and provide additional information. Attendance is not mandatory to submit a proposal.
- Please submit the completed proposal to Clay Christensen by 5:00 PM **March 27, 2026**, by email to: clay.christensen@avistacorp.com. If you do not receive an email confirmation, please ensure you have sent your proposal to the correct email address above.
- Avista will interview proposal finalists and select proposals by **April 24, 2026**.



Named Communities Investment Fund Initiative Prioritization

Amber

Looking Back: November/December 2022

Results-Based Accountability Process



EAG NCIF Prioritization

Rank	Initiatives
1	Focus efforts on improving energy efficiency (and EE awareness/education) for schools, community centers, and other places where Named Communities spend time
1	Focus efforts on improving energy efficiency for Spokane Tribe partners
2	Improve energy efficiency in multi-family and mobile home communities
3	Increase tree canopy and shade in Named Communities (consider tradeoffs with solar)
3	Increase access to energy efficient products and appliances for Named Communities
4	Increase awareness of and engagement in energy efficiency programs while also meeting whole-house needs through community-based partnerships and referrals to services
5	Set aside funds to match for energy efficiency grant applications for community organizations and tribal partners (could have higher feasibility)
6	Focus efforts on improving energy efficiency for community members without stable housing (consider including with other initiatives)

NCIF Results At a Glance (so far)

- Energy efficiency projects in schools, churches, and community centers
- Projects in partnership with the Spokane Tribe
- Window replacement, duct sealing, and other improvements in multi-family and manufactured homes
- Energy efficient products food food banks and farmers markets
- Matching grant funds for community-driven projects
- Energy efficiency projects in shelters and other facilities for unhoused community members
- Partnerships to plan for increased tree canopy
- Solar, batteries, and enhanced rebates for home insulation, small business lighting, and multi-family energy efficiency
- Projects focused on workforce development and multi-language access

Revisiting EAG Priorities for NCIF Proposals

- What clarifying questions do you have about the process or our goals for today's discussion?
- How are we doing? Are we on the right track?
- How else could an NCIF project benefit your community or named communities?
- What is missing?
 - Were there ideas brainstormed in 2022 that should be included as priorities, but currently are not?
 - What new ideas do you have for project priorities?



Climate Commitment Act Programs for Named Communities

Meghan Pinch and Steven Cutter | Customer Energy Solutions

Climate Commitment Act (CCA)

- A Washington State Law, passed in 2021, that aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality.
- Imposes limits or caps on emissions.
- Utilities and other entities are required to invest in clean energy and/ or purchase credits for emissions that exceed the cap.
- Funds collected through the program will be used to invest in programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote clean energy.



CCA Program Guidelines

Eligibility: Customers on **natural gas schedule 101** (residential and small commercial)

Allowable uses: for programs that reduce natural gas use for **customers in Named Communities (including income-qualified customers)**

Restrictions: revenues **cannot be moved** from the gas utility to the electric utility.

Estimated funding: Around **\$3 million**, to be used through December of 2027(actual amount will be determined by Spring of 2026).

“For the residual benefit amounts from Schedules 162 and 163 that were previously estimated to benefit low-income natural gas customers, Avista must work with its **energy efficiency** and **equity advisory groups** and **weatherization agencies**, to investigate developing and launching a multi-year **pilot program** beginning in 2026 **to benefit low-income customers and Named Communities.**”

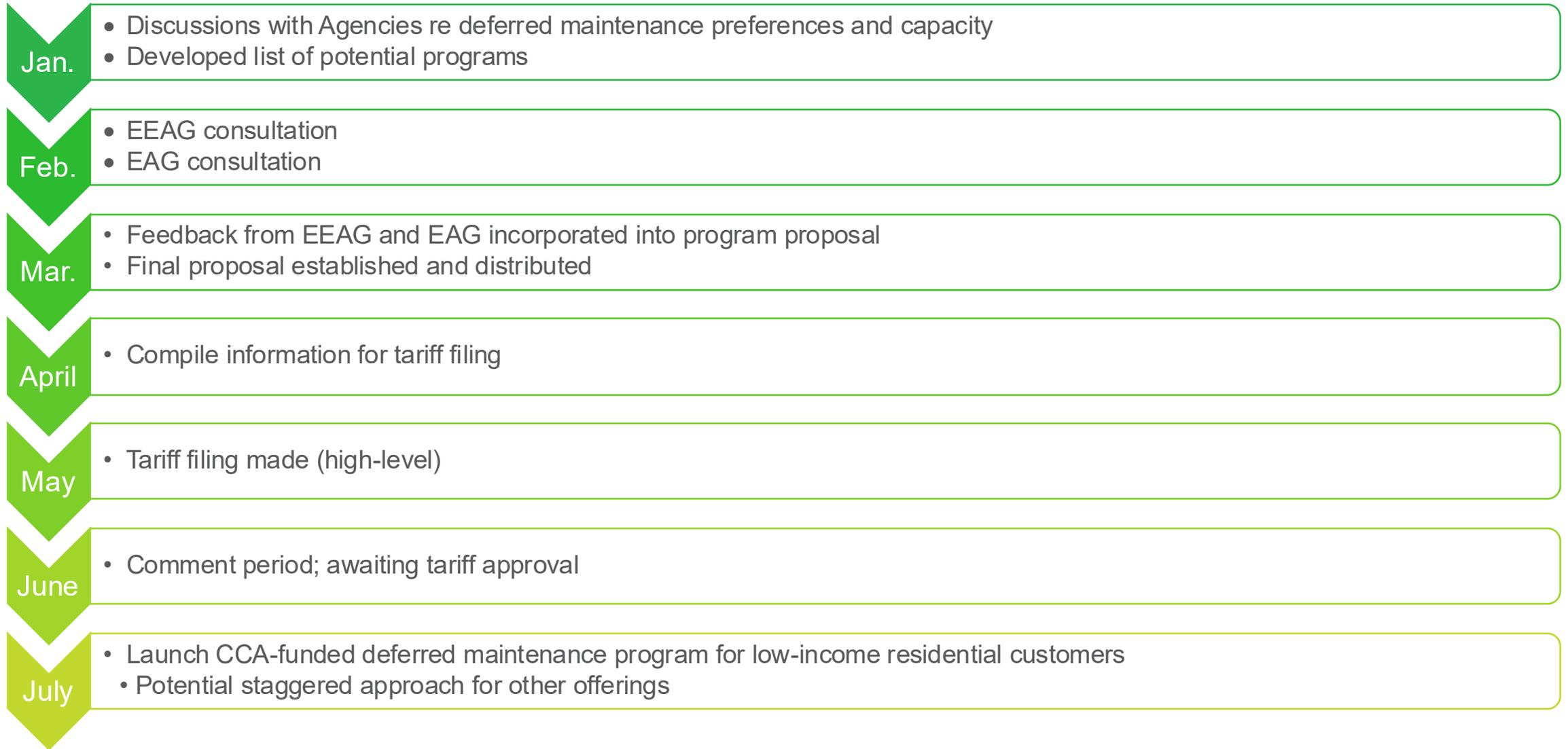
Potential CCA Programs

- **Deferred maintenance for weatherization agency partnerships:** Funding for repairs that enable weatherization- ie plumbing repair, roof repair, roof replacement. Income-qualified customers
- **Supplemental assistance for Home Insulation Program:** gas customers in Named Communities who need better insulation
- **Energy Smart Loans:** low, fixed-rate funding for residential and small commercial gas customers for energy efficiency/ decarbonization programs
- **Named Communities Investment Fund:** funding for projects that benefit nonprofit and small business customers in Named Communities

Deferred Maintenance- feedback from agency partners

- **Strong interest from participating organizations**
 - Agencies are enthusiastic about the opportunity. Many partners have deferred maintenance needs and can greatly benefit from the funding.
- **Program scope limited to gas-heated homes, reducing overall budget needs**
 - Because of the limited scope, the overall budget does not need to match the size of the broader pilot program
 - Gas customers accounted for almost 55% of the previous pilot program's activity, highlighting why a gas-only offering can still have meaningful impact.
- **Expected Benefits**
 - Helps stabilize homes that otherwise fail out of weatherization
 - Improves long-term program efficiency and customer outcomes

CCA Programs- 2026 Timeline



CCA Programs- Discussion

How do you envision these proposed programs benefitting communities you support?

What additional program ideas should we consider?





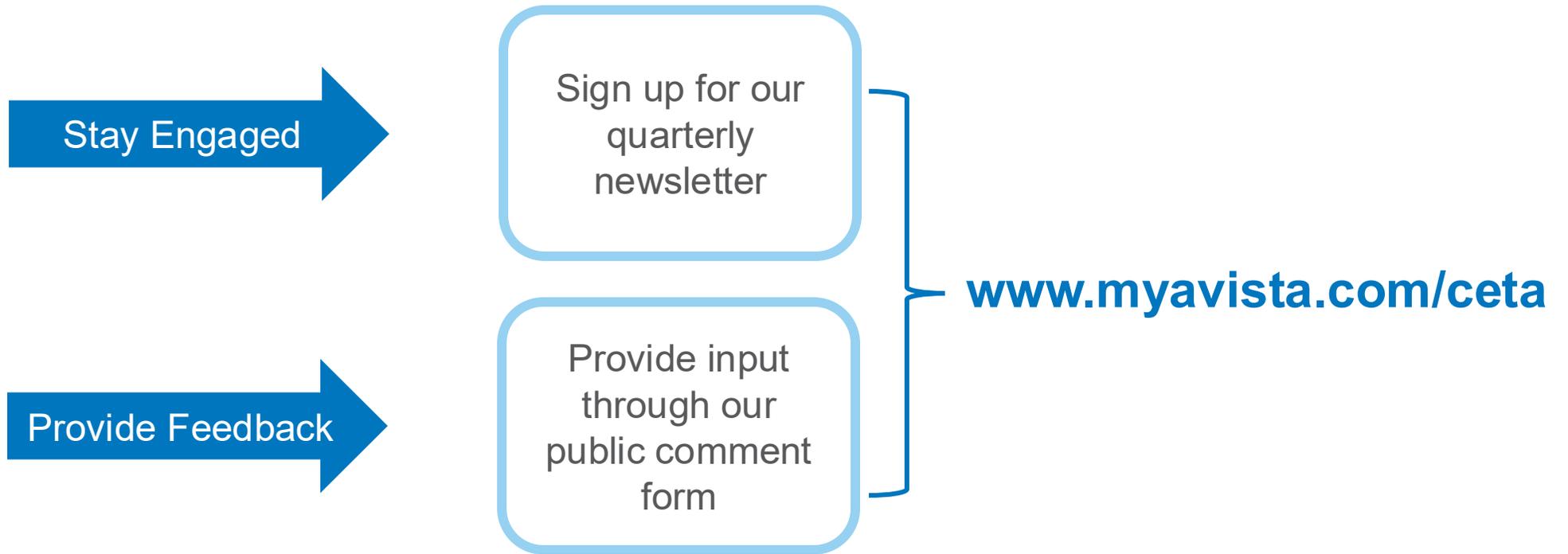
Questions and Discussion

Amber Lenhart

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?**

Thank you



Next EAG Equity Lens Session Meetings

Afternoon: 12pm –
1:30pm

**Wednesday, March
18th**

Friday, March 20th

Morning: 7:30am to
9:00am

**Mark your calendars:
In-person meeting in Spokane
on Wednesday, April 22nd**

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