

Session 1: Wednesday, September 17, 2025, 12:00pm

Session 2: Friday, September 19, 2025, 07:30am



Equity Advisory Group – Equity Lens Session

October 2025



www.myavista.com/ceta and www.myavista.com/eag



Introductions & Agenda

Topic	Topic Owner
Welcome, introductions overview of the meeting: rules and intent	Amber Lenhart , Founder & Principal, Social Impact Partners Northwest
Connections/Partner Shares	Amber Lenhart
Comment & Action Review: 2025 Clean Energy Implementation Plan	Kelly Dengel Clean Energy Policy & Implementation Manager
Named Communities Investment Fund	Ariana Barrey, Kristine Meyer & Ana Matthews
Questions & Discussion	Amber Lenhart
Wrap-up and Adjourn	

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.



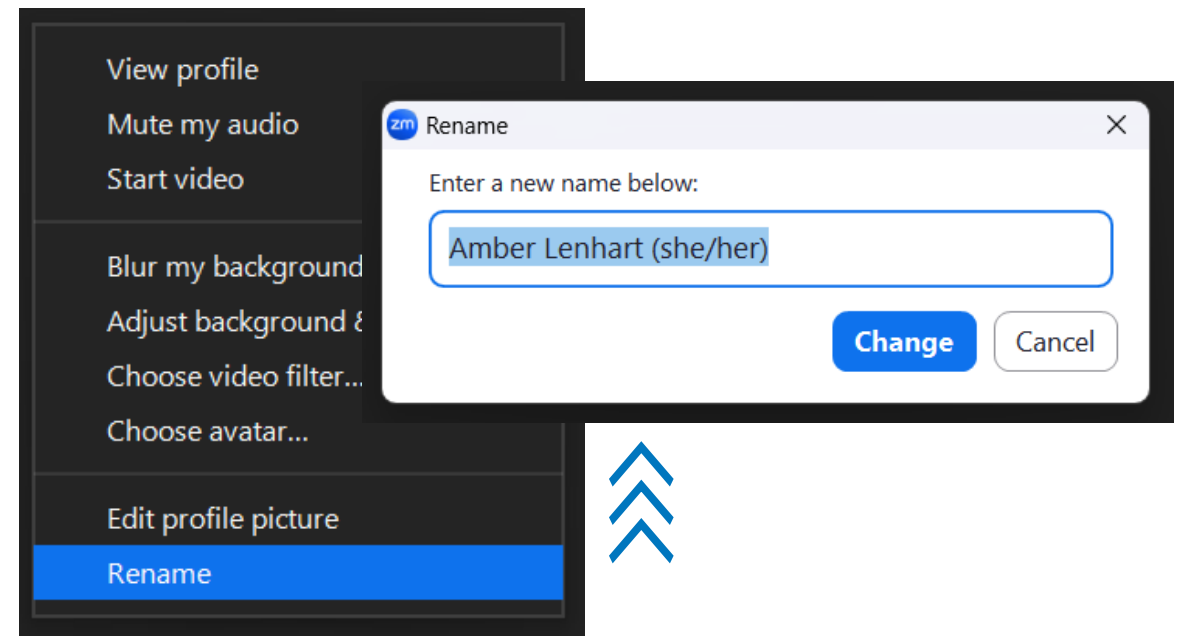
Introductions

Please share in the chat:

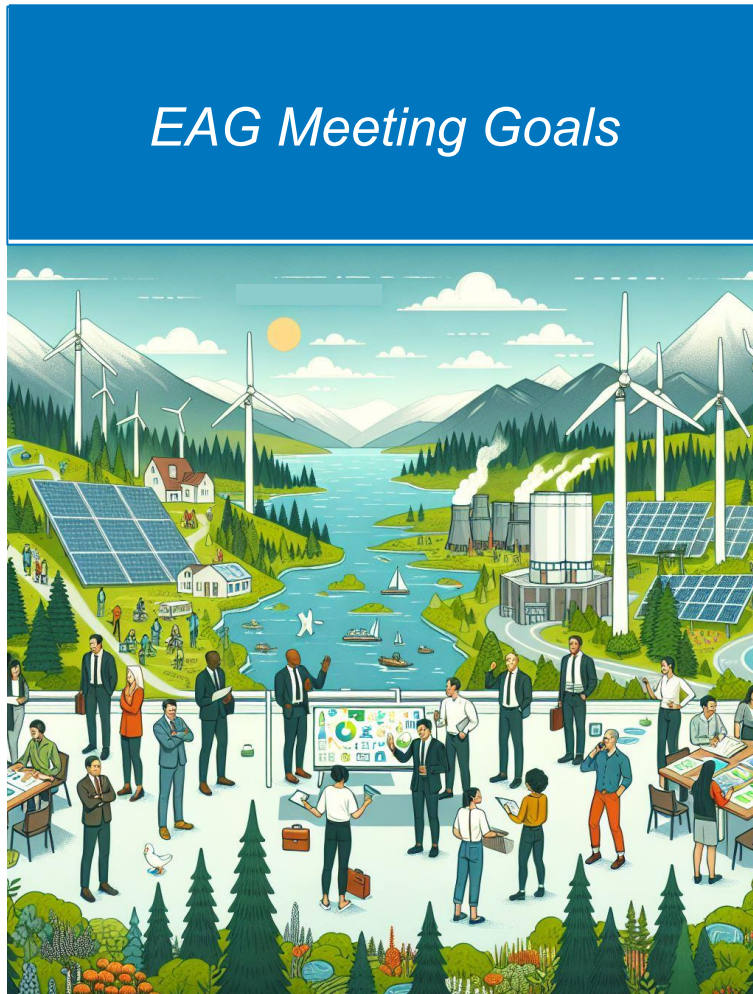
- ☐ Your name
- ☐ Organization or community

Optional: Consider including >>> your pronouns in your Zoom name

We're so glad
you're here!



Today's Equity Lens Session Goals



EAG Equity Lens Session

Meeting Goals:

1. Review questions that were posed at the August EAG on the topic of the Clean Energy Implementation Plan
2. EAG informed about the Named Communities Investment Fund
 - Provide input on the program

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.

© IAP2 International Federation 2018. All rights reserved. 20181112_v1

© IAP2 International Federation 2018. All rights reserved. 20181112_v1

Connection Question

Do you have any Fall traditions?



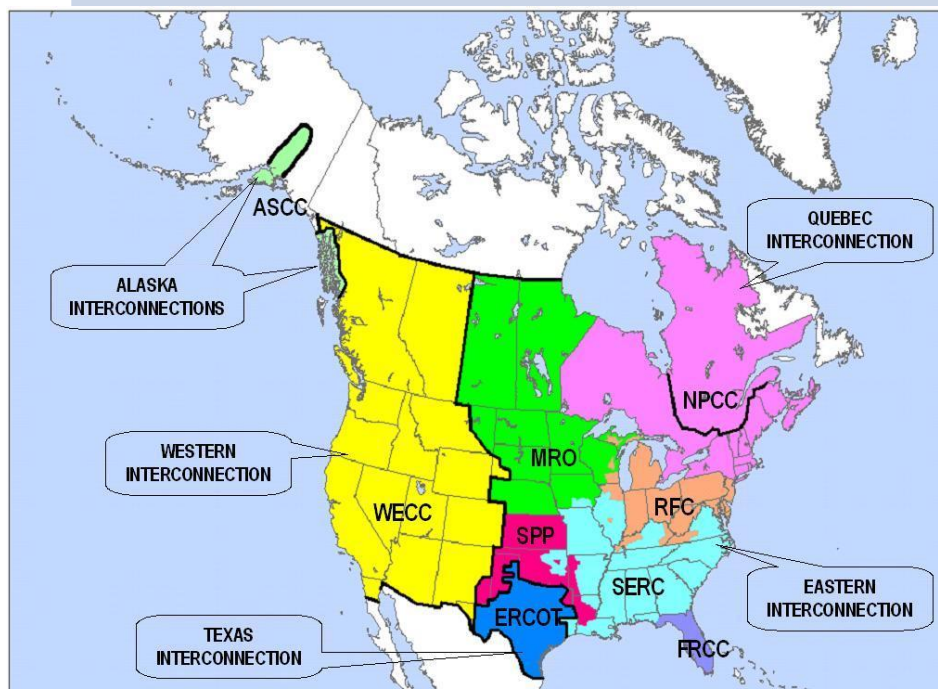
Partner Shares

- Upcoming relevant community events or opportunities
- Pressing issues facing our community or a need someone might be able to address
- Challenges your organization is facing (especially around equity)



EAG Comment & Action Review

Member Question	Response
What lessons have been learned from the Iberian Peninsula grid shutdown* in April 2025 relevant to implementing the 100% renewables goal?	Iberian Peninsula Grid Shutdown: 2.2-gigawatt outage affecting Spain, Portugal, Andorra and parts of France ~ 60 million without power for 10 hours North American grid operates very differently than the European grid - Iberian units <i>operate to a fixed power factor</i> - North American grid <i>operates units to control voltage</i> - Iberian had <i>limited synchronous generation</i> online → low inertia & voltage control <i>Solar is not synchronous generation</i> (Iberian – 59% solar) - Hydro, thermal, coal, wind is synchronous generation - Western Interconnection has <i>large amounts of synchronous generation</i> (hydro) online → strong inertia & voltage control



EAG Comment & Action Review

Member Question	Response
What is the assumption behind focusing on non-geographically defined communities relating to energy use and clean energy impact?	▪ Assumption: Vulnerable Populations (non-geographic communities) may have a disproportionate and negative energy-related impact ▪ Income, renters/homeowner status, disabled, non-English speaking, etc. ▪ CETA Requirement: Educate & communication with all customers ▪ Benefits of clean energy ▪ Reducing energy consumption ▪ Financial bill assistance ▪ Solicit and make available platforms for feedback

EAG Comment & Action Review

Member Question	Response
What is the benefit of CETA to the consumer ? Is there one, other than Avista gets to stay in business?	Environmental & Health: ▪ Reduced greenhouse gas production = cleaner air/water Transparency: ▪ Community education & engagement Economic & Financial: ▪ Increased amount and participation in low-income bill assistance programs ▪ Expanded participation in energy efficiency programs Access: ▪ Multi-language translation services ▪ Named Community Investment Fund Reliability: ▪ Use of non-clean resources under specific conditions to prevent compromised reliability during the transition to clean energy ▪ Supports & encourages Distributed Energy Resources

EAG Comment & Action Review

Member Question	Response
Would Avista consider rejecting projects permitted through Washington's Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) in favor of local/county permitting, which is more responsive to rural communities?	Washington's EFSEC: ▪ Review & recommend proposed energy facilities ▪ Ensures developers/owners follow environmental requirements for building, operating, decommissioning and site restoration ▪ A resource developer chooses the permitting path ▪ Avista is not a developer
How does Avista consider the disparate impact and inequity of siting process for industrial wind and solar on rural communities?	Resource Selection Process: The All-Source Request for Proposal (generation) scoring process considers: ▪ Social and community impacts (positive & negative) ▪ Environmental impacts (positive & negative) ▪ Opposition lowers project scores, but doesn't automatically disqualify



Named Communities Investment Fund

Ariana Barrey, Kristine Meyer & Ana Matthews

Update: Named Communities Investment Fund

I. Overview of NCIF

II. Process

III. Lessons Learned

IV. Marketing

V. Summary

Named Communities Investment Fund

- Specific Action dedicated to the equitable distribution of electric energy and non-energy benefits and reduction in burdens to Named Communities
- Funding is limited to \$5M annually

\$2M
**Supplement Energy
Efficiency**

\$3M
Community Investments

Energy Efficiency NCIF

*The cleanest energy
is the energy that is
never used.*

Supplement and support **energy efficiency** efforts targeted to Named Communities

Community Identified
Projects

Multifamily Building
Split Incentive

Health & Safety for
Manufactured & Mobile
Homes

Named Community
Single Family
Weatherization

Community & Small
Business Energy
Efficiency

Community NCIF

Community
Identified
Projects

Distribution
Resiliency

Targeted
Outreach &
Engagement

Other

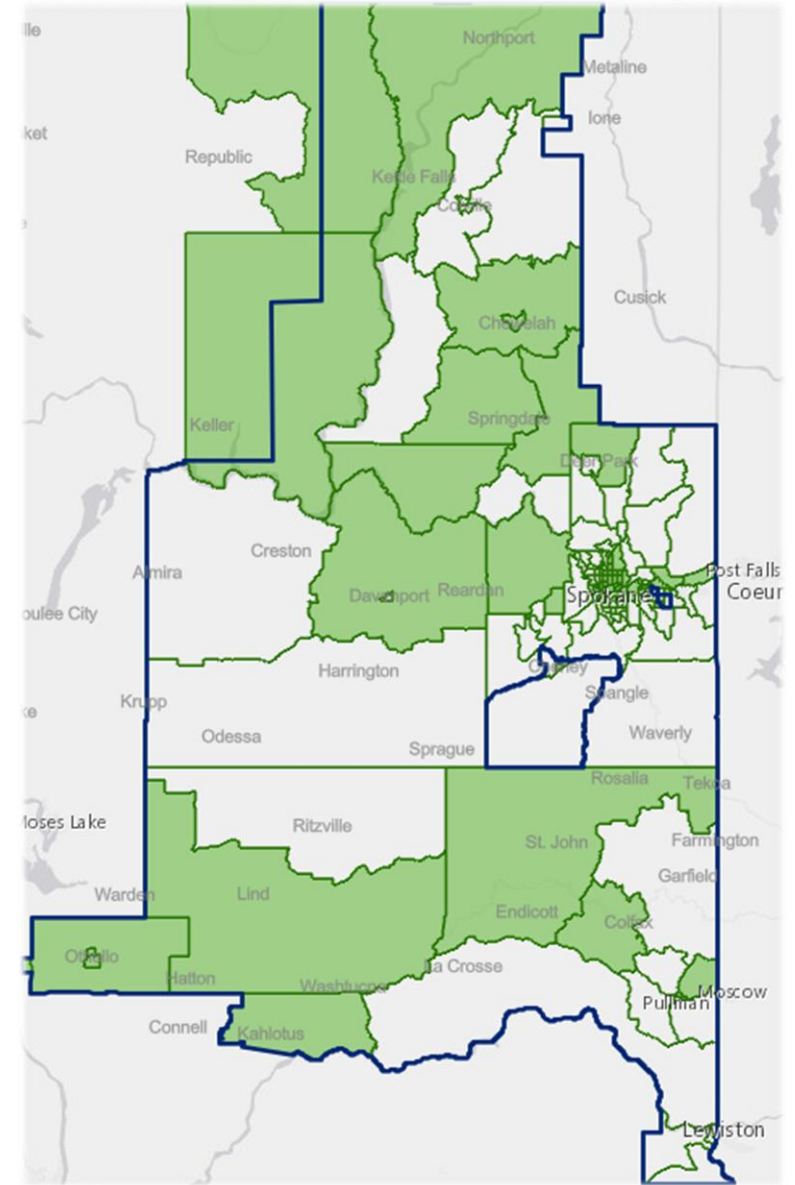
EAG NCIF Prioritization

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)

The process

Our Approach

- I. Assurance for equitable distribution of NCIF awards throughout Avista's service territory
 - Committed action toward underserved groups and rural inclusion and development
- II. Community Identified Projects
 - Grounds program in community reality
 - Mechanism for community input and support
- III. Comprehensive assistance with application and proposal submission from start to finish
- IV. Accountability and Feedback
 - Reporting internally and externally
 - Oversight Group
 - Participant Survey

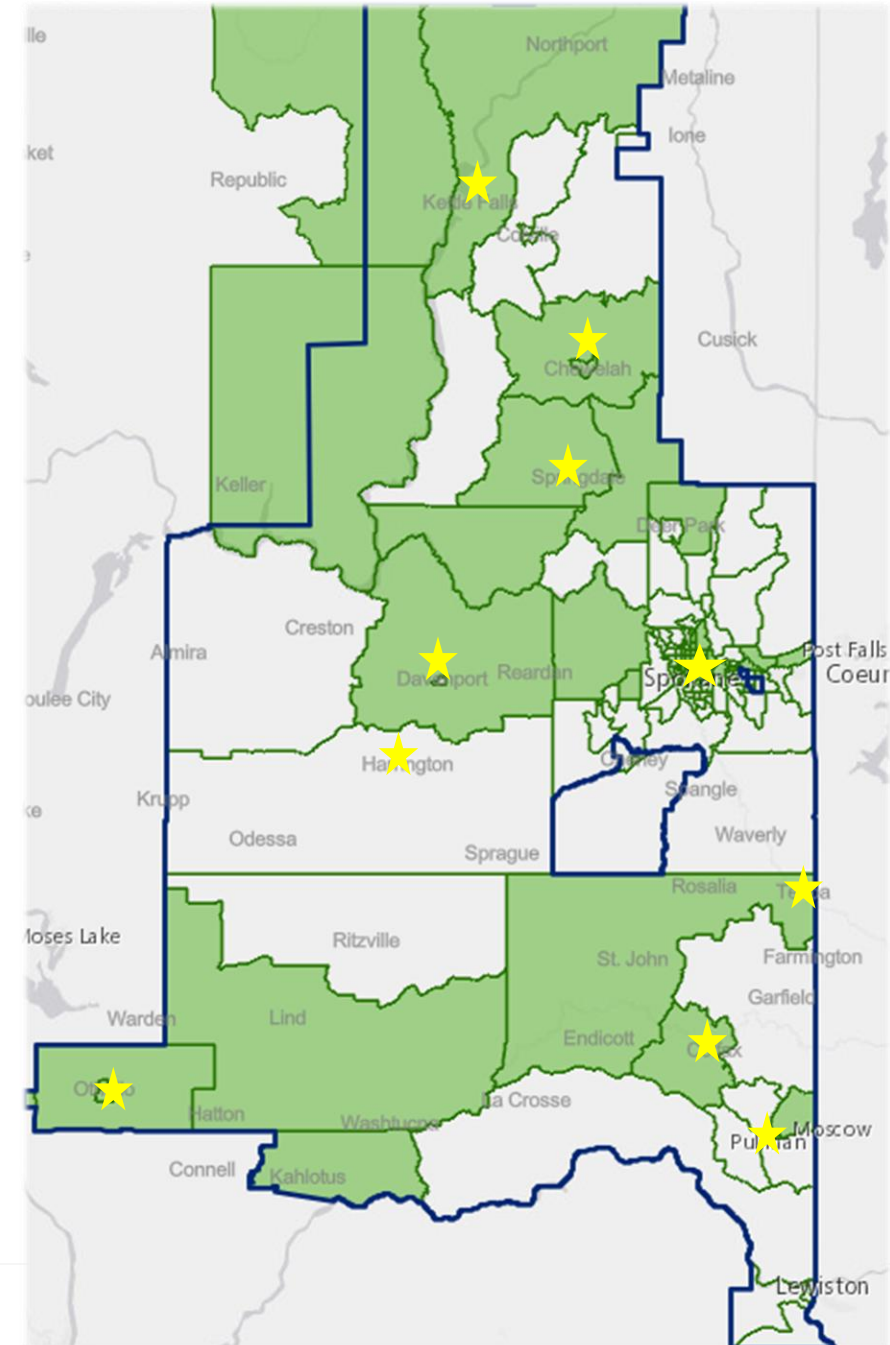


Factors for NCIF Consideration

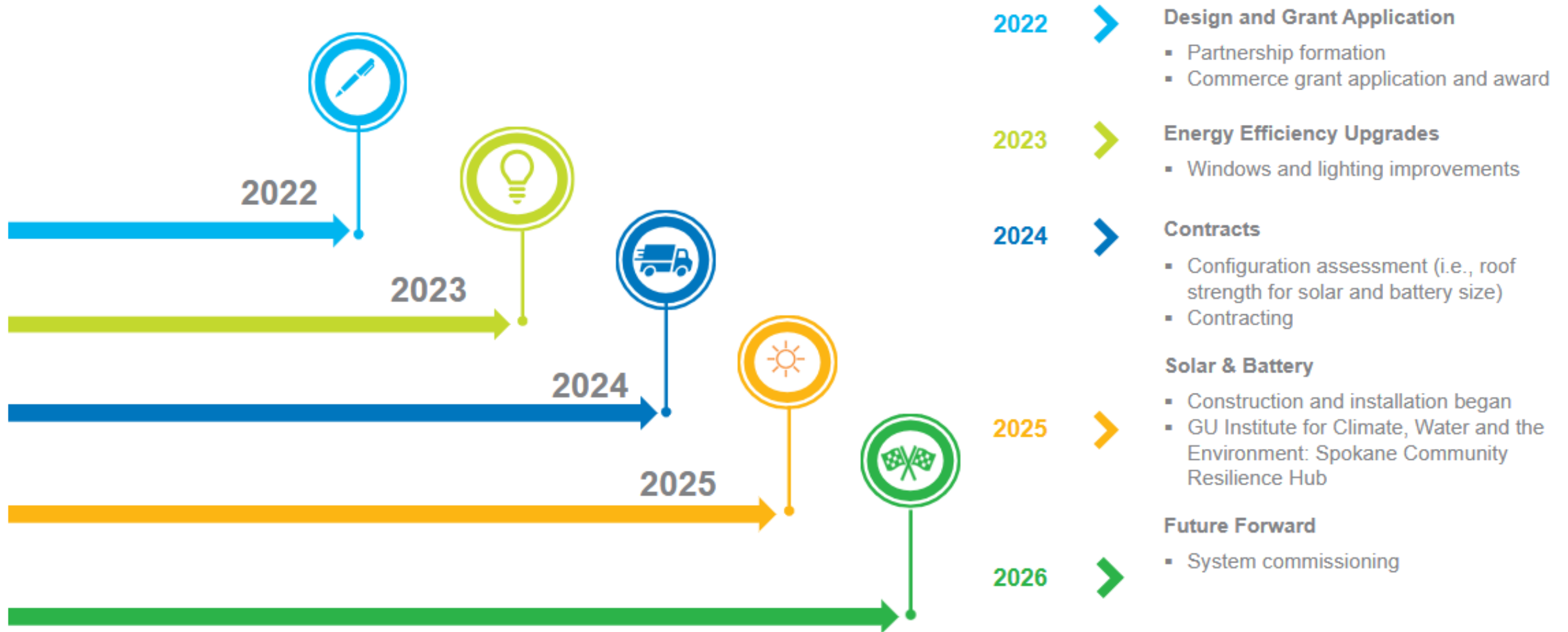
Equity	Customer Benefit Indicators	Implementation Plan Specific Actions	Equity Advisory Group Initiatives
▪ Affordability ▪ Access to Clean Energy ▪ Community Development ▪ Energy Security ▪ Environmental ▪ Public Health <i>Equity lens requires unique consideration for each proposed project</i>	(1) Participation in Company Programs (2) Number of households with a High Energy Burden (>6%) (3) Reduction in disconnections (4) Availability of Methods/Modes of Outreach and Communication (5) Transportation Electrification (6) Named Community Clean Energy Investments (7) Energy Availability (8) Energy Generation Location (9) Outdoor Air Quality (10) Greenhouse Gas Emissions (11) Employee Diversity (12) Supplier Diversity (13) Indoor Air Quality and Non-Energy Benefits	▪ Community Identified Project ▪ Multifamily Building Split Incentive ▪ Health & Safety for manufactured and mobile home ▪ Single Family Weatherization ▪ Community Energy Assistance ▪ Small Business Energy Assistance	Energy Efficiency in Named Communities (1) Improved awareness and energy efficiency for Spokane Tribe, multi-family and manufactured homes (2) Increased Tree Canopy (3) Increased access to products and appliances (4) Increased awareness and engagement in EE programs (5) Matching funds for EE grant applications (6) Improved EE for those without stable housing

Lessons Learned

- Lead times vary
 - Capital projects
 - Equipment supply
 - Blended funding sources
- Organization capacity constraints



Martin Luther King Community Center Resiliency Project



Spreading the Word

- General Outreach
 - Existing Partners
 - Public Meeting(s)
- Communications & Marketing
 - New NCIF web page
 - Social media
 - Local news outlets
 - Customer emails
 - Quarterly clean energy newsletter
 - Avista website articles
 - Avista internal newsletter feature for employees
 - Video storytelling

Avista website feature



Avista brings energy efficiency training close to home for nonprofits

Discover how Avista is making it easier for community-based organizations to level-up their skills and expand their resources to reach more people

Partner newsletter feature



Avista Utilities
19 hours ago · 🌐

The housing crisis is real, but so is the power of community... See more



Spread the Word:

New Videos on Social Highlight our Work

Avista Utilities' Named Communities Investment Fund has underwritten heat pumps for each of our homes, & substantial rebates to benefit our buyers. That generosity

Local media mention



Independent, nonprofit
newspaper and resource directory
in the Island Northwest

Home Articles News Directory Advertise Support Us Videos About Us

Access on Google

Dignified Workday serve homeless people



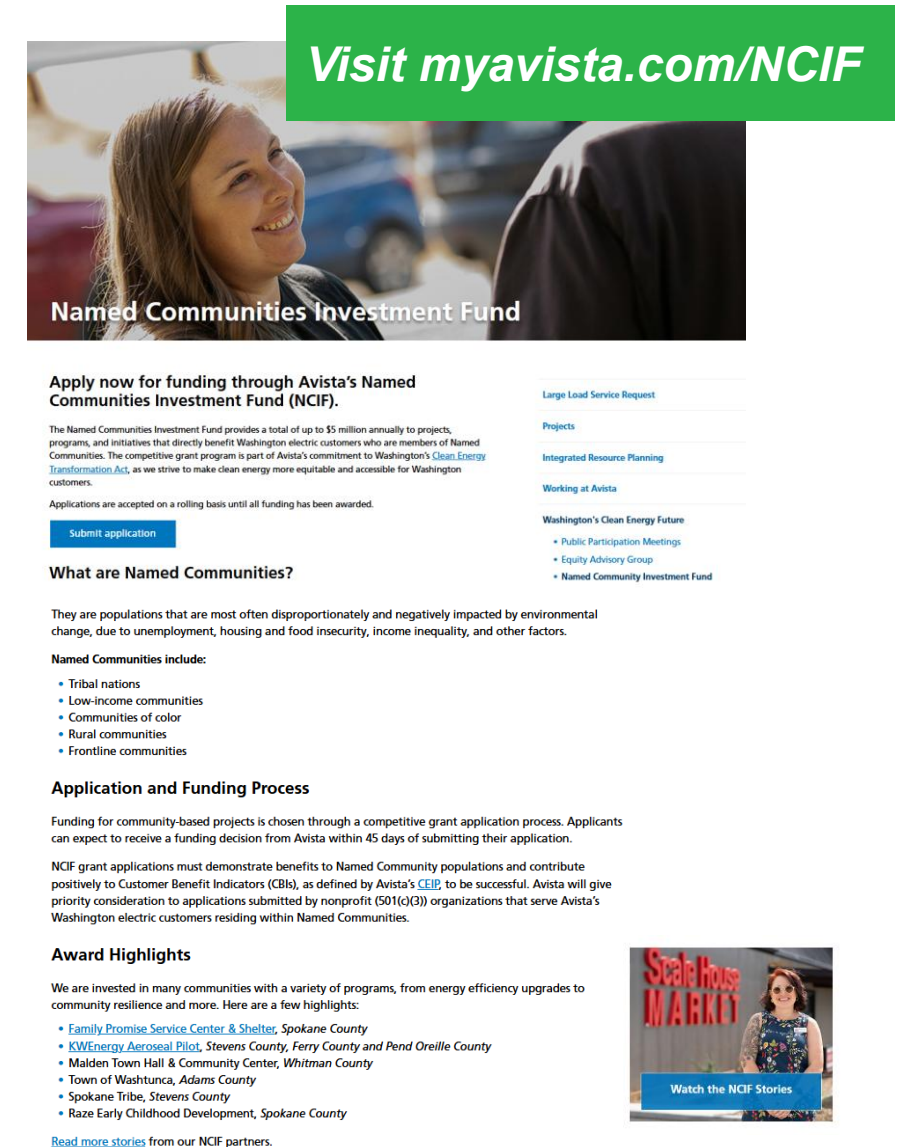
By Ariana Barrie

St. Ann's Catholic Church and Career Path Services co-founded Dignified Workday to bring change to lives of people, including addressing a basic need of homeless people for a place to do laundry for free. Avista's Named Communities Investment Fund (NCIF) stepped in with a grant to help St. Ann's remodel to install commercial-grade washers and dryers.

Karen Mead, who had felt abandoned most of his life, was able to step away from living on the streets addicted. He wanted a better life but didn't know how or who could help him. That changed when he discovered Dignified Workday in Spokane.

New NCIF Webpage

- Updated Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) webpage in 2025 to enhance user experience, engage visitors, support multiple languages, and comply with regulations.
- This led to a new, standalone page for the Named Communities Investment Fund.
- This project meets an objective identified in Avista's first Public Participation Plan (PPP).
- *New! Impact* report video coming in 2025



Visit myavista.com/NCIF

Named Communities Investment Fund

Apply now for funding through Avista's Named Communities Investment Fund (NCIF).

The Named Communities Investment Fund provides a total of up to \$5 million annually to projects, programs, and initiatives that directly benefit Washington electric customers who are members of Named Communities. The competitive grant program is part of Avista's commitment to Washington's [Clean Energy Transformation Act](#), as we strive to make clean energy more equitable and accessible for Washington customers.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until all funding has been awarded.

[Submit application](#)

What are Named Communities?

They are populations that are most often disproportionately and negatively impacted by environmental change, due to unemployment, housing and food insecurity, income inequality, and other factors.

Named Communities include:

- Tribal nations
- Low-income communities
- Communities of color
- Rural communities
- Frontline communities

Application and Funding Process

Funding for community-based projects is chosen through a competitive grant application process. Applicants can expect to receive a funding decision from Avista within 45 days of submitting their application.

NCIF grant applications must demonstrate benefits to Named Community populations and contribute positively to Customer Benefit Indicators (CBIs), as defined by Avista's [CBI](#), to be successful. Avista will give priority consideration to applications submitted by nonprofit (501(c)(3)) organizations that serve Avista's Washington electric customers residing within Named Communities.

Award Highlights

We are invested in many communities with a variety of programs, from energy efficiency upgrades to community resilience and more. Here are a few highlights:

- [Family Promise Service Center & Shelter](#), Spokane County
- [KWEnergy Aerosol Pilot](#), Stevens County, Ferry County and Pend Oreille County
- [Malden Town Hall & Community Center](#), Whitman County
- [Town of Washtunca](#), Adams County
- [Spokane Tribe](#), Stevens County
- [Raze Early Childhood Development](#), Spokane County

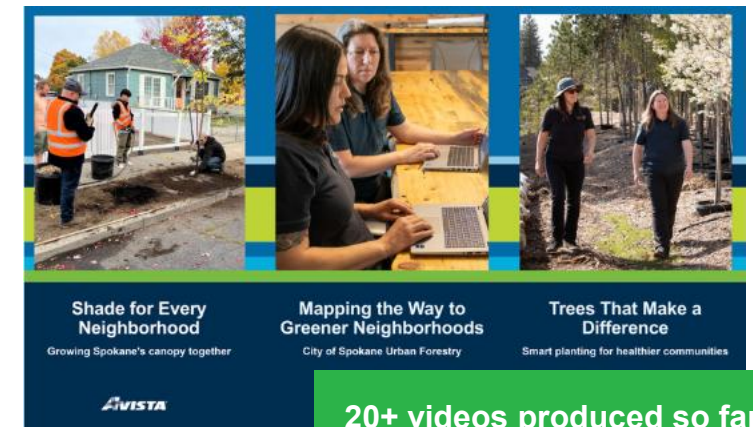
[Read more stories](#) from our NCIF partners.

Watch the NCIF Stories

NCIF Social Media Storytelling

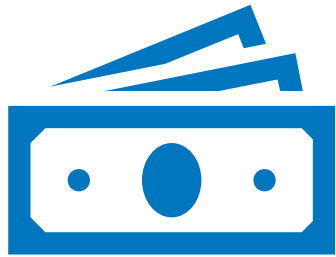
- **Year-long story series** featuring a new partner (almost) every month.
- We share **multiple videos** about the same nonprofit to help make the story easy to understand and memorable.
- Using **social media ads** to increase reach and target key audiences.
- Videos go with longform **written stories** that already exist on the Avista website.
- Provides a **resource for our community partners**.

Six partners featured so far!



20+ videos produced so far!

Support for a Video Strategy



Cost-Effective Option

We're averaging cost of **3 cents each** time it appears on someone's feed (impression).²



Modern Approach

91% of consumers want to see more online videos from brands.¹

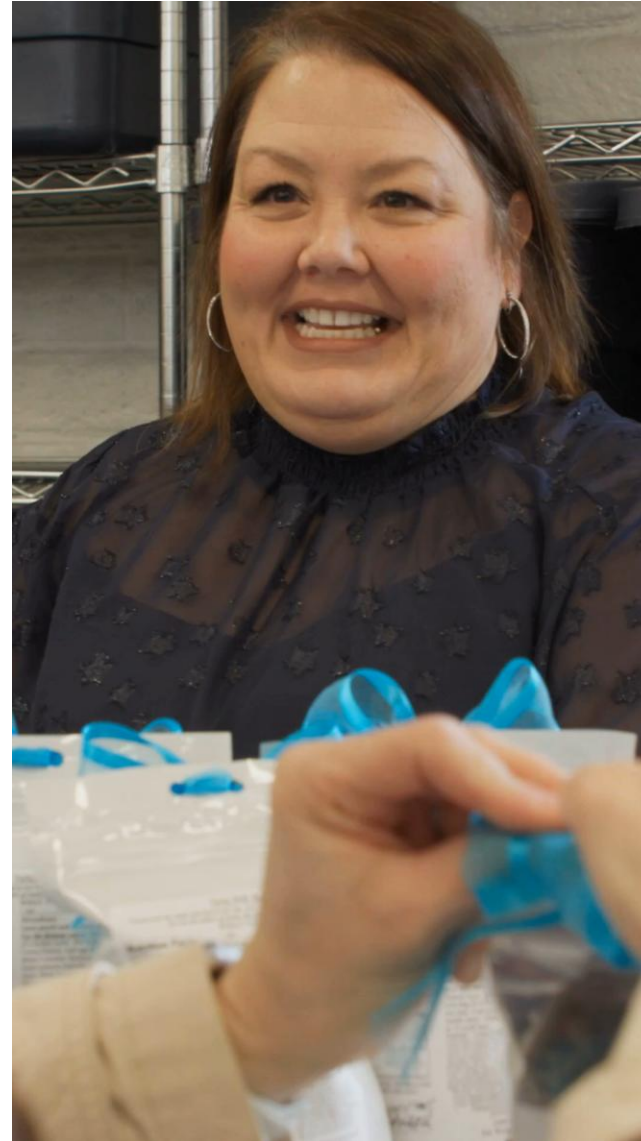


Engaging Format

66% of viewers will watch the entirety of a video if it's less than 60 seconds long.

Fewer than half of readers finish an entire online article.¹

Story Examples



Early Results



193,000 Views

This is **above average** for Avista's typical social media content.



43,000 engagements

This includes **likes, shares, comments** to help us gauge if the content is resonating with people.



393 NCIF Page Views

157% increase compared to Q1 of 2025.

Summary

Energy Efficiency

- Lighting
- Windows
- HVAC
- Duct air sealing
- Insulation
- Energy Star appliances
- Efficiency audit
- Building Efficiency Education

Distribution Resiliency

- Microgrid Battery Storage
- Solar array
- Critical study for load

Community Identified Projects

- Tree Canopy (planting and software)
- Workforce Development
- Health & Safety
- Infrastructure renovation (e.g., electrical and ductwork)
- Clean Air education at schools

Outreach & Education

- Online, Spanish and paper application
- Outreach & Engagement Strategy
- Story-telling
- Social Media
- Language Strategy

Other Projects

- Survey of pilot participants

Q&A

Questions and Discussion

- ☐ What clarifying questions or curiosities do you have about the presentation?
- ☐ What disparities, root factors, or inequities (historic and current) are related to this topic?
- ☐ How could Avista improve engagement strategies related to this topic, if at all?
- ☐ What new ways could help measure and track benefits and reduced burdens related to this topic?
- ☐ What steps, practices, or policies could help reduce future inequities related to this topic?

Thank you



Next EAG Equity Lens Session Meetings

Afternoon: 12pm – 1:30pm

Wednesday, November 19

Friday, November 21

Morning: 7:30am to 9:00am

Topic: Demographic Collection Framework for Distributed Energy Resource Programs

Amber Lenhart
amber@sip-nw.org
509.475.9575

Ana Matthews
Ana.Matthews@avistacorp.com
509.475.7979

Avista's EAG Team Email
ceta@avistacorp.com