

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

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



# Equity Advisory Group – Equity Lens Session

September 2025

| [www.myavista.com/ceta](http://www.myavista.com/ceta) and [www.myavista.com/eag](http://www.myavista.com/eag)



# Introductions & Agenda

Topic	Topic Owner
Welcome, introductions overview of the meeting: shared expectations and intent	<b>Amber Lenhart, Facilitator</b>
Connections & Partner Shares	Connections/Partners
EAG Comment & Action Review	<b>Kelly Dengel</b> , Clean Energy Policy & Implementation Manager
Community Partnership Program Input Session	<b>DH</b> <b>Denys Lopez</b> - senior account executive/multicultural specialist <b>Paj Nandi</b> - vice president of equity & multicultural communications <b>Alex. Evans</b> - associate vice president <b>Megan Hatheway</b> - research director
Wrap-up and Adjourn	<b>Amber Lenhart</b>

# 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.



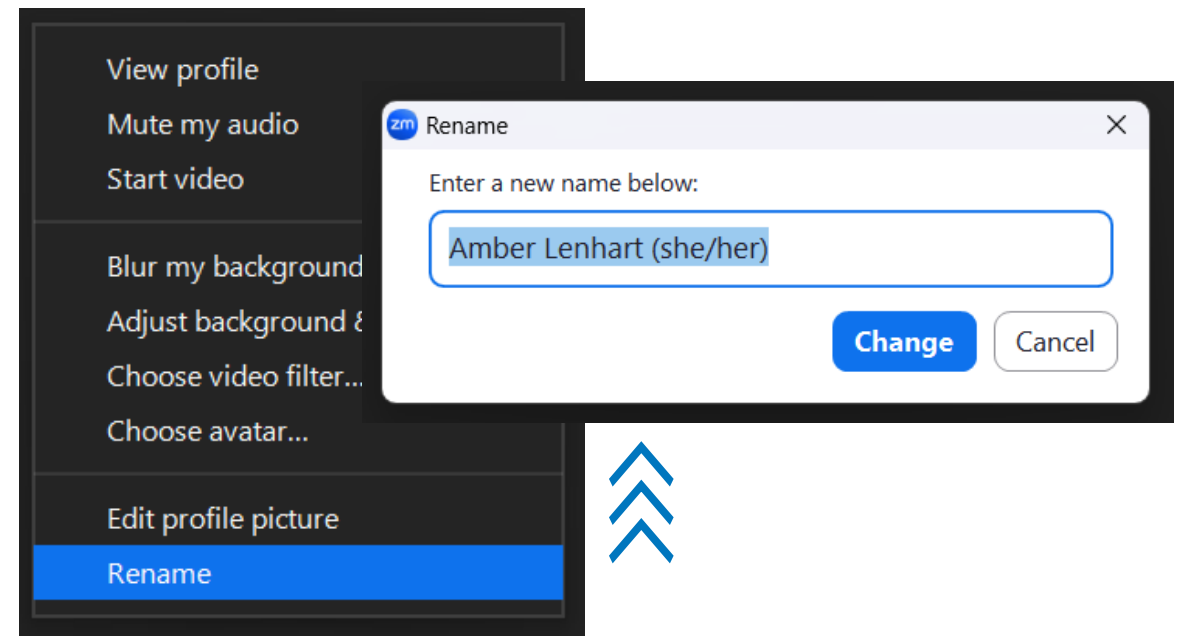
# Introductions

Please share in the chat:

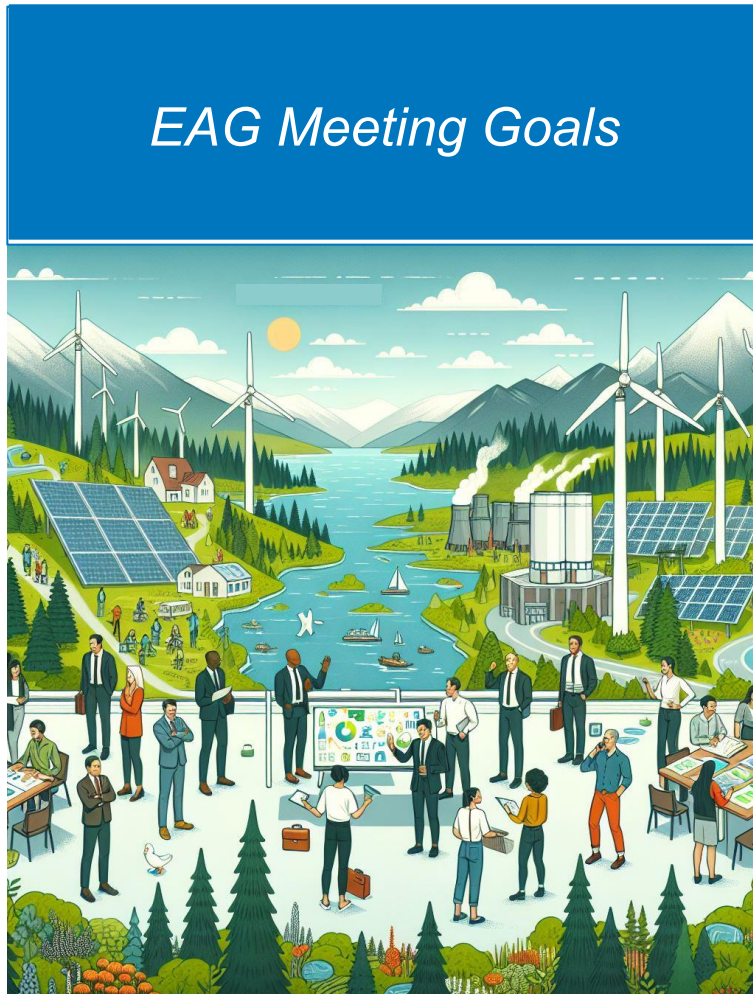
- ☐ Your name
- ☐ Organization or community

**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. Provide an overview of the outcomes and key insights from the August Public Participation meetings to inform EAG members.
2. Present findings from the Community Partner survey to inform EAG members and gather their feedback to help shape the design of the Community Partner program.

# 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)



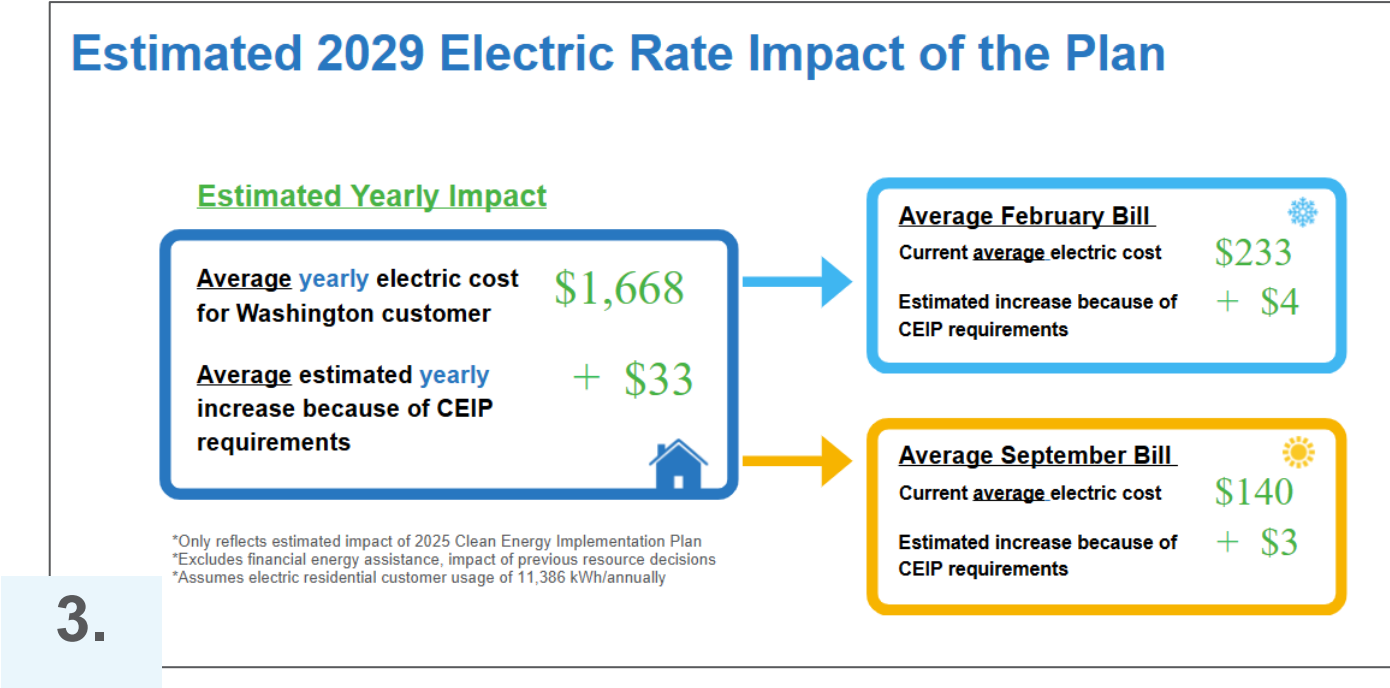
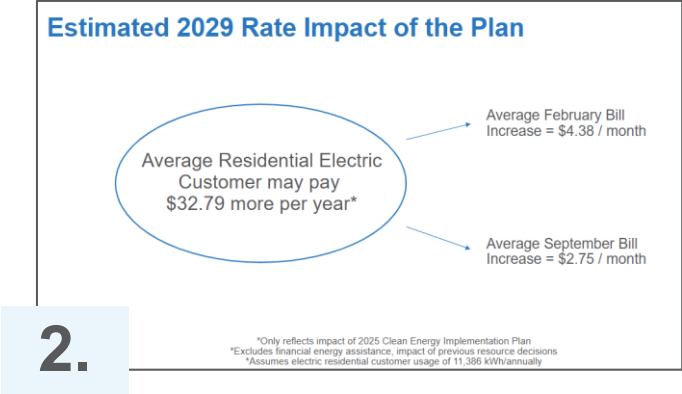
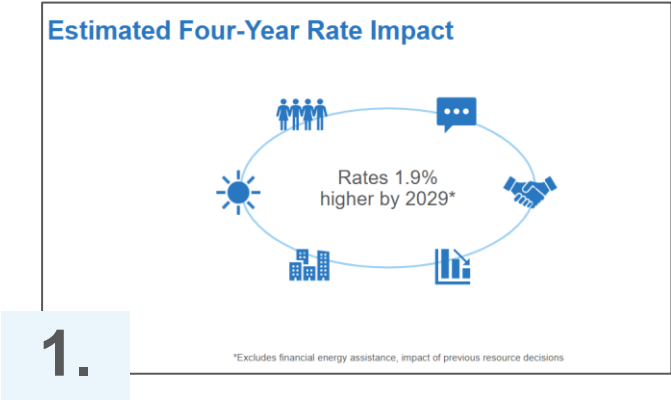


# EAG Comment & Action Review

Kelly Dengel | Clean Energy Policy & Implementation Manager

# EAG Comments & Actions

## Q3 Public Meeting – 2025 CEIP Rate Impact





# Community Partnership Program Input Session

*Avista Equity Advisory Group (EAG)*



September 17 and 19, 2025



## AGENDA

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- 1. Context and Background**
- 2. Research Themes**
- 3. Discussion**



# Context and Background



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## CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND



### ■ OPPORTUNITY:

- CETA requires that utilities in Washington state engage the communities they serve. Avista wants to go beyond the basic requirements and **create meaningful and long-lasting relationships with communities**, which both support Avista's goals and the needs of customers.

### ■ GOAL:

- To **connect and collaborate with communities in a respectful, authentic and impactful way**, where community partners are helpful connections between Avista and the communities they serve and represent.

### ■ VISION:

- **A community partnership program connecting Avista with community organizations** and/or trusted leaders that serve and represent historically underserved or overburdened communities (Named Communities) in Avista's Washington service territory **to plan and implement projects and communications activities that bring Avista and communities closer together.**

## CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

### ■ EAG ENGAGEMENT:

#### ■ Inform and Consult

- Avista will inform and consult with the EAG during planning of the community partnership program.

### ■ COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT THROUGH PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM:


#### ■ Involve and Collaborate

- The program will involve and collaborate with communities through partner-driven projects.

## IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation



IAP2's Spectrum of Public Participation was designed to assist with the selection of the level of participation that defines the public's role in any public participation process. The Spectrum is used internationally, and it is found in public participation plans around the world.

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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# CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND



## ■ SCOPE:

### ■ Phase 1: Program Strategy and Development (current phase)

- Strategy session
- Research
- **Engage the EAG (today!)**
- Develop plan

### ■ (Potential) Phase 2: Program Implementation

### ■ (Potential) Phase 3: Program Sustainability and Evaluation

### ■ (Potential) Phase 4: Potential Growth Opportunities

## CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND



### ■ DIFFERENCE BETWEEN EAG AND PARTNER PROGRAM:

- The EAG **advises** Avista on several aspects of its work, including community engagement programs like this one.
- The desired partnership program focuses more on community relationships, investment, and honoring that **community organizations are the best message carriers and connections** between community members and Avista.

### ■ ROLE OF EAG:

- Provide **input and guidance** on principles and structure of the community partnership program.



# Research Highlights: Community Organization Survey



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## OVERVIEW



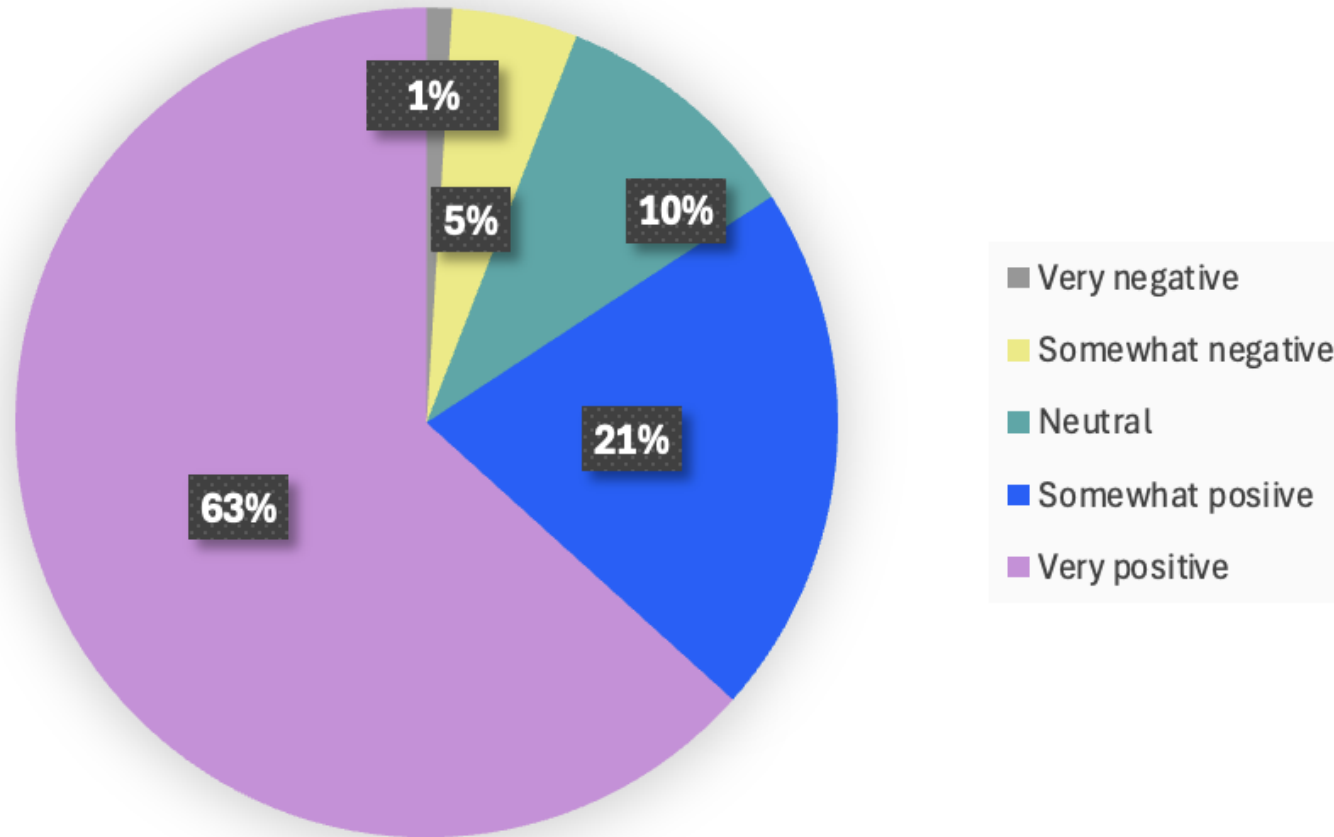
■ **106 responses** from across Avista's Washington service area

■ Communities served by respondent organizations include:

- Underserved populations
- Youth
- Military families and veterans
- Families in crisis and foster care
- People experiencing food insecurity
- Pets and animals
- Artists and other creatives
- Refugees and immigrants
- English language learners
- People with behavioral health conditions (and their families)
- Low vision + blindness
- Victims of crime and abuse
- Low-income and unhoused individuals
- Older adults
- People with physical disabilities
- LGBTQ2SIA+ communities
- Youth and young adults with cancer (and their families)
- Farmers, producers and landowners
- Outdoor enthusiasts and conservationists
- Students, school districts and educational institutions
- Faith based organizations

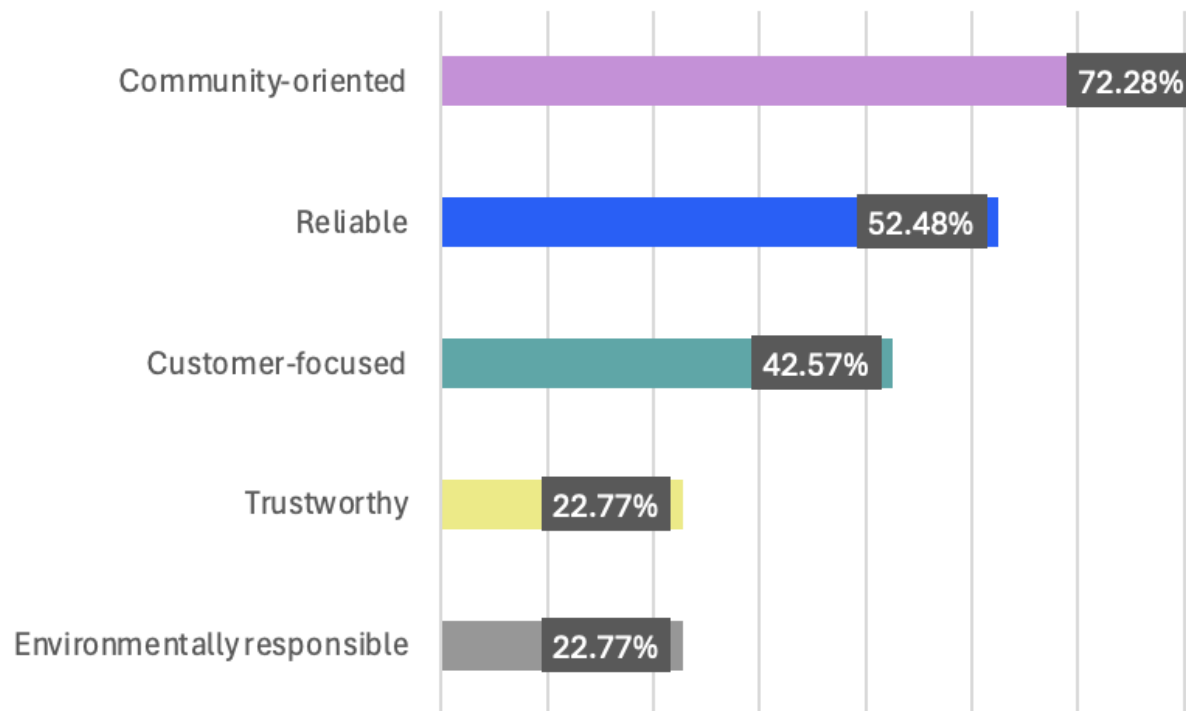
## PERCEPTION OF AVISTA

■ How would you describe **Avista's reputation** among community members?



## PERCEPTION OF AVISTA

Which of the following best describes **your view** of Avista?

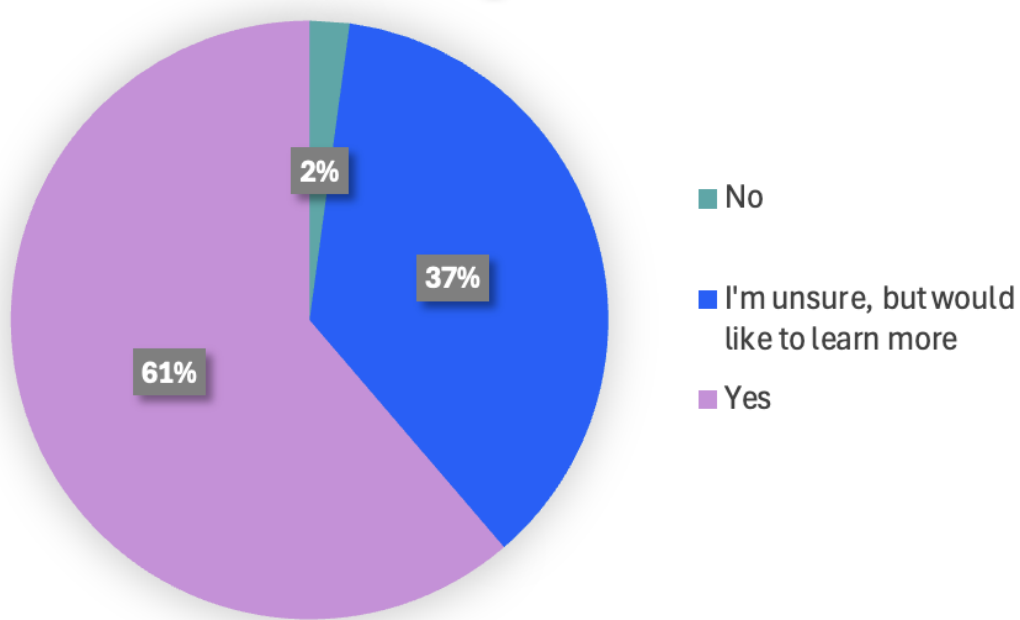


Additional responses included:

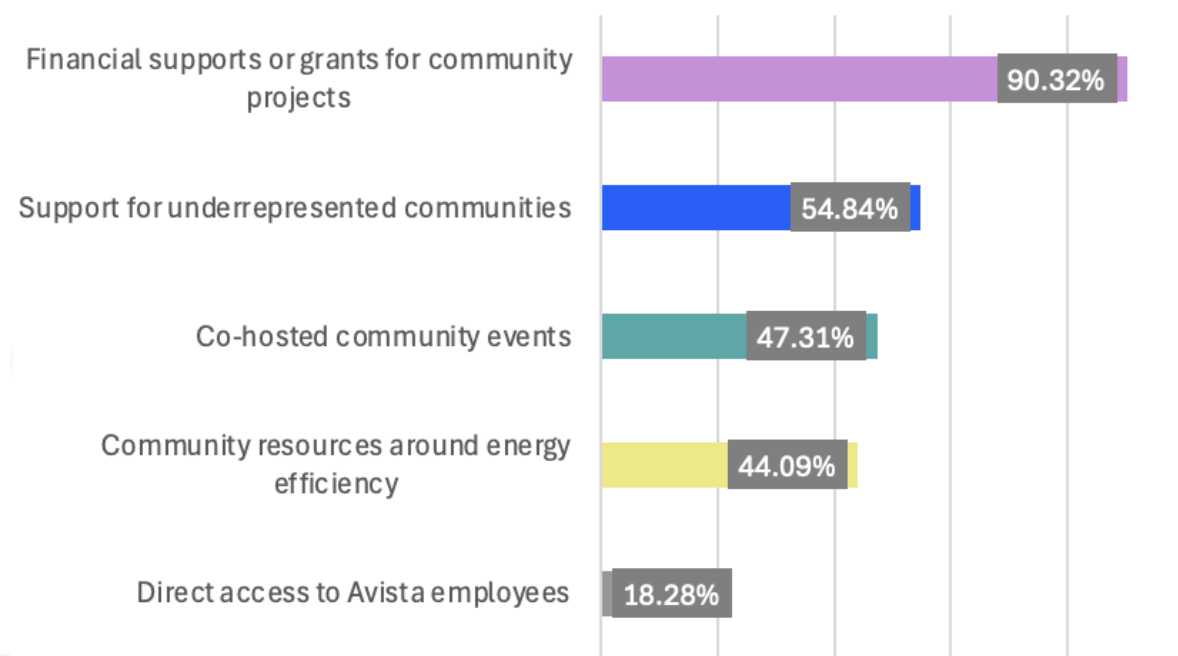
- Expensive (11.8%)
- Sustainable (5.94%)
- Other (10.89%):
  - Kind
  - Responsive
  - Genuinely interested
  - Helpful

# COMMUNITY PARTNER PROGRAM

■ If Avista were to create a **community partner program**, would you be interested in participating?



■ Which of the following **topics** would you like to see incorporated?



## COMMUNITY PARTNER PROGRAM

■ What **resources** would be necessary for the program to be feasible and/or valuable for your organization?

- Funding support
- Capacity building resources
- Volunteer support from Avista
- Co-hosted events
- Mutual promotion
- Co-development of the program
- Discounted utilities for program facilities
- Clear expectation setting of goals and mutual benefits/shared responsibilities
- Direct, dedicated contact person at Avista
- Compensation for community member participation
- Access to Avista resources for community members
- Accessibility: limited time commitment, flexible meeting expectations, multiple ways to engage
- Opportunities to connect with other community partners in the region

## COMMUNITY PARTNER PROGRAM

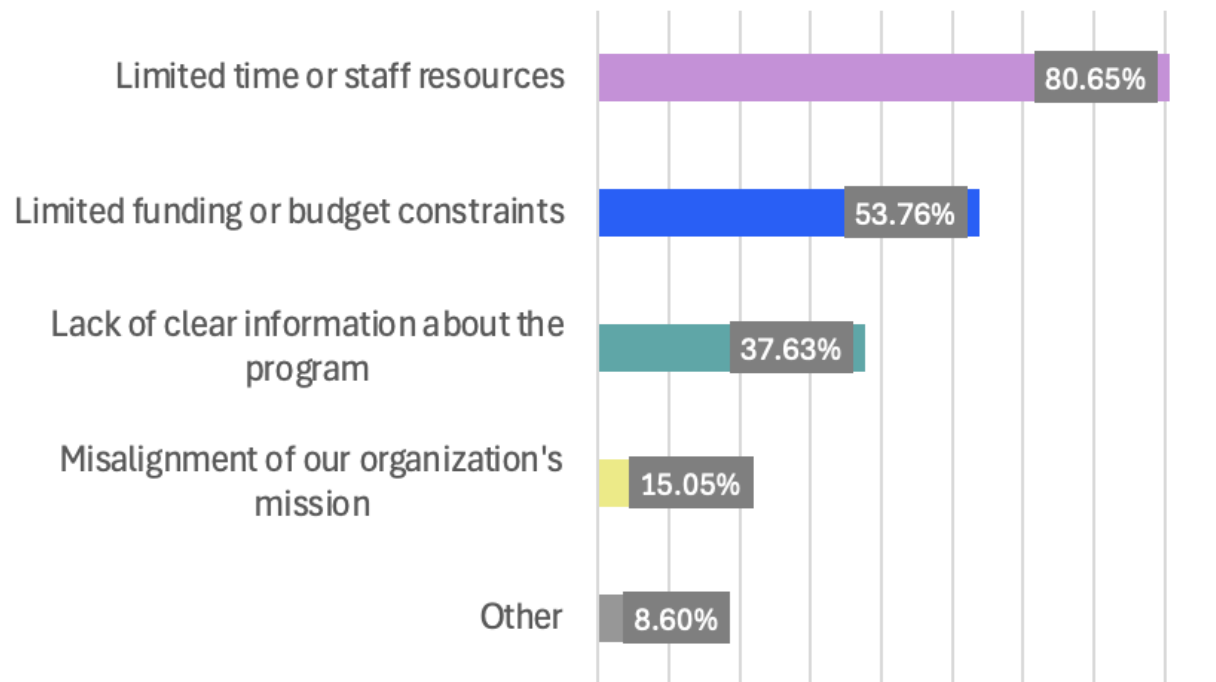


If you were to envision a **meaningful partnership with Avista**, what would it look like?

- Financial support
- Long term partnership (multi-year commitment and support)
- Workforce development programs
- Co-development of the program
- Co-hosted/sponsored events
- Dedicated staff at Avista to engage with community members
- Access to resources tailored to partner organization, especially around energy efficiency

## COMMUNITY PARTNER PROGRAM

■ What **concerns or challenges** are most likely to prevent your organization from participating?



*"There could be no concern or challenge large enough to prevent PINW from participating in a community"*



# Discussion

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What does **authentic partnership** from Avista look like?

What **actions or behaviors** will lead to successful relationships?

## DISCUSSION TOPIC

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What are the **attributes and characteristics** of a community organization or leader that will lead to a successful partnership with Avista?

(criteria for selection)

## DISCUSSION TOPIC



How should Avista consider **prioritizing** (named) communities for participation?

## DISCUSSION TOPIC

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What are **reasonable expectations** of organizations, and what are **Avista's commitments** to partner organizations?

## DISCUSSION TOPIC



What other **opportunities, concerns or risks** are on your mind?



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**Thank you!**

# Next EAG Equity Lens Session Meetings

Afternoon: 12pm – 1:30pm

**Wednesday, October 22nd**

**Friday, October 24th**

**Morning: 7:30am to 9:00am**

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