



**Equity Advisory Group –
Equity Lens Session**

Meeting Date:	Wednesday, July 17, 2024
Time:	12:00 PM
Location:	Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

Facilitator	Present	EAG Member	Member Organizations
Amber Lenhart	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clyde Abrahamson	Spokane Indian Housing Authority
Avista Team Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	Margee Chambers	Spokane Clean Air
Tamara Bradley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Connie Kliewer	NEWESD101
Dan Blazquez	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clair Trapp	Rural Resources
Kelly Dengel	<input type="checkbox"/>	David Tietz	Salem Arms Community Housing
Ariana Barrey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	KJ January	Spectrum
Annette Brandon	<input type="checkbox"/>	William von Bracht	Othello, school English as 2nd language
Kristine Meyer	<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 type="checkbox"/>	Vanessa Strong	Spokane Public Library
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tami Dillion	Skills'kin
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alexsander Swenson	Youth - Girl Scout
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cindy Kimmet	Takesa Village
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Carmen Groom	SNAP
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rowena Pineda	Reimagine Spokane & Asian Pacific Islander Coalition
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jean Kindem	Aging & Long-Term Care of Eastern Washington
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Karen Boone	Red Cross
		Guests	

Agenda

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EAG Equity Lens Session Meeting Notes

I. Welcome & Introductions

Overview of Meeting: Rules and Intent

II. Partner Share

- Jean Kindem: Anyone interested in serving on the board of aging and long-term care, contact Jean at 509-535-8063.

III. Customer Benefit Indicators (CBIs)

- Reviewed the CBI timeline (Slide 8)
- Attendee question: How will elections impact Avista's Work
 - Answer:
 - Avista is more impacted by WA state elections. The election of the president
 - Avista will be more impacted by the November elections in WA and less impacted by Presidential elections.
- Attendee question: What is it about Gas petitions that I'm seeing?
 - Avista Answer: The CCA is more than likely what is being seen. Cap and Invest program: there is a tax on companies that emit Green House Gases. The tax is used to subsidize clean energy efforts.
 - Avista Answer: There is an effort to get customers to convert from Natural Gas to electric.
 - Avista Answer: The climate commitment act (CCA) is part of it, but there is an effort separate from this this would look to ban natural gas in new buildings.
 - Avista Answer: Low-income customers are not to be impacted by these policy changes as referenced and mandated in the law.
- Slide 10
 - Avista: Discussed how the ideas were categorized and how the Avista next steps would be to address what was needed for Additional Review and Potential new CBIs or those that would be modified.
- Slide 11:
 - Slide question: "What are some ways clean energy could benefit people, especially people in Named Communities?"
 - Attendee thought job opportunities would be an ideal CBI.
 - Attendee Potential new CBI generating job or training opportunities would be good.
 - Attendee: Does Avista go out local areas like high schools to talk about job opportunities
 - Answer: Yes. Which includes access to the utility industry
 - Slide question: "Thinking about the ways clean energy can benefit or unintentionally harm communities.?"
 - Attendee Response: Take the info to neighborhood or organization and do more than a one-time presentation. Find ways to engage with them around the info and give them easy steps (1,2,3,4,5) and then after action has been taken, engage again.
 - Avista is not known in the community. Avista must help the community understand the deeper impact that Avista provides to the community. There should be trusted messengers from Avista into the community.

- Attendee Response: People with disability may not have the same access. Avista must go into the community to meet them where they are at.
 - Attendee response: Where are the schools and programs for utility training.
 - Avista Answer: North Idaho College in Coeur d'Alene has a program.
 - Attendee questions: Is there a way that Avista can “close the circle” when they deliver information. How does Avista show that they are doing something with the community.
 - Attendee response: CHW and Gap programs bring people in to address a specific need then follow up with understanding what else might be a need.
 - Attendee response: Community Health Workers are a great example of meeting people where they are at. Is there a way that Avista can provide a “train the trainer” to share more about Avista programs that serve Named Communities.
- Slide 12
 - Relevant to access to “Third Spaces”.
 - Although Avista cannot impact access, Avista can provide energy efficiency improvements (which it already tracks) but narrow the focus of
 - Attendee: “This sounds more complicated than it has to be”. CBO could give the info from Avista directly to their staff.
 - (Amanda) Does it feel like it would be a useful CBI to track CBO providing “belonging space” and Avista’s support of those programs and places with Energy Efficiency?
 - Attendee: I think it would be a win-win.
 - Avista Action: Avista currently tracks this but will come back to the EAG with updates after an internal review.
- Slide 13 – Jobs
 - Avista recently purchased some software that calculates jobs per investment opportunity, but paying for the software on an annual basis would become costly. (up to \$120K/year)
 - Avista’s question: Could we consider utility jobs and not just clean energy jobs?
 - Attendee Comments: I think about influencing job opportunities at Avista when I think about Named Communities. I want to see more people more reflective of me. Attendee wants to see all jobs.
 - Attendee Comments: Attendee:: All jobs are necessary.
 - Two Ideas
 - Clean energy is not necessary
 - Diversity of staff at Avista (which is tracked by Avista)
 - Attendee: Can envision a hiring and promotional materials at the Carl Maxi center and then the leader of that organization can talk with a potential candidate about opportunities at Avista.
 - Attendee: It needs to be engaging and not just informative
 - Potential CBI Jobs at Avista.
- Slide 14 – What are some ways that people might be affected by clean energy?

- Avista: There is no specific effort for Avista to go to schools, but Avista can track educational visits under the existing CBI.
- Avista Question: Is the EAG OK with including educational visits into this CBI?
 - Attendee: Yes.
 - Attendee: Could Avista incorporate an exist survey or drop information into attendee hands. You can go an “inch deep and a mile wide or an inch wide and a mile deep”.
- Amber: Three types of metrics: How much, How well, and Is anyone better off as a result
 - Did the metric have an impact on people.
- Action: add school visits to CBI but find a way to identify impact on customer.
- **Slide 15 and 16**
 - Avista does not have ability to access this but would like to
 - EAG is in support

IV. Your Support Team and Next Meeting

V. Wrap Up

VI. Additional Resources

<i>Resource Link</i>	<i>Description</i>
Washington's Clean Energy Future	Avista page for CETA related activities
Clean Energy Transformation Act	Clean Energy Transformation Act - Washington State Department of Commerce
Chapter 19.405 RCW	Laws and Regulations: Revised Code of Washington Investor-owned utilities
Chapter 480-100 WAC	Laws and Regulations: Washington Administrative Code Investor-owned utilities
WA Energy Strategy	Washington State Energy Strategy
CETA Overview	CETA overview and interim assessment