



**Equity Advisory Group –
Equity Lens Session**

Meeting Date:	December 18, 2024
Time:	12:00pm PST
Location:	Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

<i>Facilitator</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>EAG Member</i>	<i>Member Organizations</i>
Amber Lenhart	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clyde Abrahamson	Spokane Indian Housing Authority
<i>Avista Team Member</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Margee Chambers	Spokane Clean Air
Tamara Bradley	<input 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
Annette Brandon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	KJ January	Spectrum
Amanda Ghering	<input type="checkbox"/>	William von Bracht	Othello, school English as 2nd language
Ariana Barrey	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michele Bennington	Community member at large
Steven Cutter	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brook Beeler	Department of Ecology Eastern Region
Christine Tasche	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jupiter McGee	Sunrise Spokane Affiliation (youth led) (Facebook)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Vanessa Strange	Spokane Public Library
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tami Dillion	Skills'kin
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alexsander Swenson	Youth - Girl Scout
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cindy Kimmet	Takesa Village
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Carmen Groom	SNAP
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rowena Pineda	Reimagine Spokane & Asian Pacific Islander Coalition
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jean Kindem	Aging & Long-Term Care of Eastern Washington
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Karen Boone	Community Advocate
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sue Lani Madsen	Community member
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lynn Suksdorf, PhD	Community Member
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Andrew Gardner	<i>Spokane Public Schools</i>
		Guests	
		Joshua Dennis	UTC

Agenda

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EAG Equity Lens Session Meeting Notes

I. Welcome & Introductions

Overview of Meeting: Rules and Intent

II. Partner Share

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)



- Spokane Public Libraries are hosting Noon Year's Eve celebration
- Spectrum Center Spokane is having the community holiday party Dec. 19 and clothing swap Dec. 21.
- Taeska Village is looking at installing solar panels.

III. 2024 CETA Survey Results Summary



2024 CETA Survey Results Summary

Kelly Dengel | Energy Resources Project Manager
Amanda Ghering | Regulatory Affairs Analyst

- Presented by project manager over clean energy Kelly Dengel.

2022 CEIP Survey Background

Who: 151,923 Washington electric customers
What: 23 energy questions | 11 optional demographic questions
When: July 19 – August 3, 2021
How: Online survey: English
Promotion: Email
Completed Surveys: 2,801 or 1.7%



Demographic Responder Profile: White, male, 65+, homeowner, heterosexual, English, college degree

- This information on demographics was optional

2024 CETA Survey Overview

Who: 150,000 Washington electric customers
What: 7 energy questions | 13 optional demographic questions
When: April 11 – June 30, 2024
How:
Online survey: English | Spanish
Paper survey: Russian | Spanish | Ukrainian | Arabic
Promotion: Email | Events | CBOs | Avista lobby | CETA newsletter | CETA public meetings
Completed Surveys: 1,300 or 1.2%
Online: 1,299 (1 Spanish)
Paper: 34 (1 Spanish)



Demographic Responder Profile: White, male, 65+, homeowner, heterosexual, English, college degree

- These surveys were brought to community members for distribution and the survey was advertised during quarterly public participation meetings and Avista's quarterly newsletter.
- Survey got the highest response from a population that were not strategic targets.

Results

Q1: Rank what's **most important** regarding energy usage:

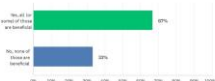
Customer Response	Avista Actions
1. Affordable energy	- Select lowest reasonable cost generation resources - \$20M in low-income financial assistance annually - Energy efficiency programs
2. Reliable energy	- Maintain generation reserve % - Deploy wildfire resiliency plan - Vegetation management for transmission & distribution
3. Clean energy	- Hydro generation - Wind generation - Retire coal generation

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- The responses were in order of importance.
- The Avista responses are things that Avista is doing and will continue to do.
- Reliable will include wildfire response strategies to reduce fire risk.
- Avista will be eliminating coal by December 2025.

Results

Q2: Do you think the **benefits are important** in the transition to cleaner energy: bringing innovation & technology, vehicle charging stations, roof top solar, clean energy jobs, decrease fossil fuel dependency, improve air quality and reduce climate change impacts



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Results

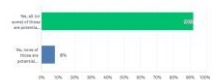
Q3: Rank the **benefits** that are most important in the transition to cleaner energy

Customer Response	Avista Actions
1. Reduce climate impacts	- Deploy renewable generation sources
2. Decrease dependency on fossil fuels	- Retire coal generation & replace with renewable energy
3. Improve air quality	- Reduce generation greenhouse gas emissions
4. Create clean energy jobs	- Offer hydro generation operator jobs
5. Bring innovation & technology	- Microgrid, solar/battery projects & EV charging

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Results

Q4: Do you think the items below could be **potential burdens** in the transition to cleaner energy: increase bill costs, fossil fuel industry job loss, reliability of renewable resources, environmental impacts from sourcing clean energy materials



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Results

Q5: Rank the **burdens** that are most concerning in the transition to cleaner energy

Customer Response	Avista Actions
1. Increased bill costs	- Select lowest reasonable cost generation resources - \$20M in low-income financial assistance annually - Energy efficiency programs
2. Reliability of renewable resources	- Maintain generation reserve % - Regional resource adequacy program - Deploy emerging technology as available
3. Environmental impacts from sourcing clean energy materials	- Prioritize actions with least environmental impact
4. Fossil fuel industry job loss	- Compensation scale on-par with fossil fuel industry - Monitor & target fossil fuel job loss areas for recruiting

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Results

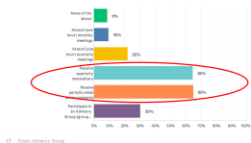
Q6: Are you interested in any of the following?



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Results

Q7: How do you want to participate in Avista's transition to cleaner energy?



Wrap Up

- Q8 – Q20: Contact details and demographic questions
- High-level results shared in the Q3 2024 CETA newsletter
- Include survey results in the 2025 public participation plan
- Conduct biennial surveys – next one Q1-Q2 2026
- Report results & trends over 4-year CEP period

- Question: If someone did not get selected?
- Answer: It was WA electric customers who had an email address with Avista
- Question: Is Avista evaluating battery storage?
- Answer: Avista is conducting an analysis including at least one open project including Connected Communities and the MLK center. Avista forthcoming RFP will likely include a plan for battery technology and integration. It is also important to recognize that CETA was an electric related legislation, and so that is why only electric customers were engaged.
- Question: if a landlord pays utilities in the rent charge, those users were not included in the survey. Is that correct?
- Answer: Yes, the survey would have gone through the landlord

IV. 2026-2029 CBI Update

2026-2029 Customer Benefit Indicators (CBI) Update
 Kelly Dempski | Avista Energy Resources Project Manager
 Amanda Ghering | Avista Regulatory Affairs Analyst

CBIs & Metrics

8 Equity Areas | 14 CBIs | 78 Metrics



- The EAG has been very involved in identifying these CBIs
- Most recently Avista and EAG discussed vulnerable populations and reviewing these CBIs.

2026-2029 CBIs & Metrics Timeline



Metric Modifications for the 2026-2029 CEIP

Benefit Area	Existing CBI	Metric
Environmental	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Regional greenhouse gas emissions Avista greenhouse gas emissions
	Outdoor Air Quality	Weighted average days exceeding healthy levels Avista plant air emissions Decrease use of wood heat for home heating

- Remove "Regional GHG emissions" metric
- Avista has no control over the region
- Not enough data to support
- Remove "Weighted average days exceeding healthy levels" metric
- WA Department of Ecology air quality map for the state

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2026-2029 CEIP: Considering Metric Alignment

- | | |
|--|--|
| Performance Based Rate Metric (PBR) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2022 Washington General Rate Case 58 metrics reported quarterly & annually Gas & electric customers | Customer Benefit Indicator Metric (CBI) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2022 Clean Energy Implementation Plan 78 metrics reported annually Electric customers |
|--|--|



Stay tuned for more CBI conversations into 2025...

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- Question: Might there be a correlation, even if small, between regional measurements and Avista's outputs and efforts?
- Answer: Yes in that everyone contributes to regional factors, but everyone is an emitter and all industries contributors to these factors. Avista is trying to reduce measurements to what Avista has direct control.

V. Equity Capital Planning Update

Equity Capital Planning Update

Annette Brandon | Avista Resource Marketing Manager

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- Question: To what address do I send a note about Equity Capital Planning meetings?

Planning Requirements

"Avista agrees to make a compliance filing... at the end of the 2024, demonstrating how it considers equity in its capital planning process..."

"Avista agrees to work with its Equity Advisory Group and interested stakeholders to:

- develop new equity-related measures,
- costs, and benefits to be included in its benefit-cost analysis for future Business Cases.

Including, but not limited to: qualitative and quantitative measures related to societal impacts, resiliency benefits, business, labor and outdoor air quality, Social Cost of Carbon, and Named Communities."



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Capital Investments Strategy

Balancing priorities, asset management, operational constraints, etc.

- Considering impact to Named Communities
- Customer Benefit Indicators as part of project impact assessment
- Strategic method to determine engagement level
- Additional data points for evaluation and prioritization
- Consistent tracking and monitoring



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Capital Project Considerations & Equity



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- Question: In Avista's case, does "Capital" in Capital Planning mean financial capital, capital assets, labor capital, or something else?
- Answer: Yes., it means financial capital, capital assets, labor capital

Capital Investment Evaluation and Prioritization

How Energy Equity Components are considered and incorporated:

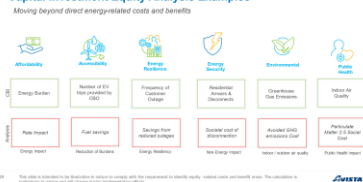
- Financial: Tracking actual costs and estimated benefits.
- Non-Financial: Prioritization based on customer priorities to ensure decision are made that reflect what is important to Avista customers.

Intended to be used as a comparative tool to ensure equitable investments.



- A benefit ratio will eventually be created to set the first steps to allow other areas that are important to customers be considered.
- For non-financial there are nationally accepted practices available for use.

Capital Investment Equity Analysis Examples



- During the year, Avista has been diligently working to analyze indicators of the CBIs.
- CBIs will be used as part of cost benefit analysis.
- Examples: energy burden: Avista would quantify projects like a windfarm by analyzing how different customers would be impacted. Fuel savings would be another example like having an electric vehicle.
- Question: Are other environmental impacts considered (e.g. salmon and hydro, raptors, and industrial wind)?
- Answer: Yes. Climate impacts are considered. A third party helped support Avista in this.
- Each of the areas in the red boxes are not finalized and may or may not change during implementation.
- UTC requested that Avista consider economic, environment, and non-energy.
- A challenge that Avista has is the diverse body of projects that they undertake each year.
- Avista will continue to check in with Advisory groups for input.

Equity in Capital Planning – Summary



- This planning will impact gas and electric customers.
- Avista will continue to modify this plan with Advisory input.

VI. Your Support Team and Next Meeting

Next EAG Equity Lens Session Meetings

Amber Lenhart
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Dan Blazquez
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VII. Wrap Up

Thank you!

Avista Clean Energy Future Newsletter:
Click Here ↓
Sign up for our quarterly CEP newsletter

Special Note:
Please watch for the 2025 EAG Scheduling Survey that will be emailed with the December 2024 EAG Meeting Recap.

- Question: As Avista goes into the New Year, with public meetings and surveys, will EAG have an opportunity to input?
- Answer: Yes, the next survey will be offered in another two years, but EAG feedback will be gladly received.
- Participant: Avista could perhaps host events, lunch and learns at community centers or senior centers where the Zoom meeting could be broadcast.
- Participant: It is important to meet people where they are at, where they are comfortable.

VIII. Additional Resources

Resource Link	Description
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