

EAG (Equity Advisory Group) January 12, 2022, Meeting Notes

Attendees: Shay Bauman (Public Council), KJ (Spectrum Center), Samantha Cutter (girl scout from girl scouts of America), Molly Brewer (WUTC), Clyde Abrahamson (Spokane Indian Housing Authority), Keith Kueny (TEP), Annette Brandon, Renee Coelho, Tamara Bradley, Amber Lenhart, Joni Bosh (Northwest Energy Coalition (NWECC))

Populations that face barriers to the transformation of clean energy.

Equity Discussion

Providing people with what they need to thrive.

Member: shared that what caught his eye in the statement in bold on slide 6 is that “based on current conditions” it is important to remember that a person’s condition can change because so many external factors. Some people need something to get back on the even playing field with everyone else.

Named Communities Discussion

Defined Highly Impacted Communities and Vulnerable Populations per WAC 480-100-605

48 census tracts are identified as Named Communities within Avista’s Washington service territory out of 142 census tracts

Member: asked why Slide 11 map does not reflect the data in slide 16 for the vulnerable populations vs highly impacted communities. Tamara has an overlay map that she will send to Clyde to show how those communities overlap each other so there was not overlap between the two maps. Looks like there is also a cropping issue on slide 11.

Amber: asked for thoughts of the group on the definitions and maps of named communities. Are there areas that are missing?

Annette: asked, "What is a situation or barrier that may really prevent someone from fully receiving the benefits of the transformation to clean energy?"

Tamara: asked if there are areas on the map that are highlighted pink that should not be highlighted? Should we revisit areas and dig into those areas to see why they were defined as being in a named community?

Member: on the map there is an area in NC Spokane that does not seem to be a vulnerable population zone, but it is surrounded on all 4 sides of it with true VPs. Is there a certain percentage of the population that makes the whole area VP? Annette states that potentially the area did not receive a 9-10 rating, but they are an 8 so they rounded the whole area up. She would like to do a little more research on that area to make a better determination.

Future Conversations

Work that Avista and the Spokane tribe will be doing in Wellpinit, CEIP (Clean Energy Implementation Plan) Comment review, Energy Efficiency identified projects. We want these meetings to be valuable for EAG members and we want to share information that is beneficial to the team, so please share your thoughts on what you would like presented at future meetings.