



Equity Advisory Group – Equity Lens Session

Meeting Date: 03/22/2024
 Time: 7:30-9 am
 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
Kelly Dengel	<input type="checkbox"/>	Connie Kliewer	NEWESD101
Ana Matthews	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clair Trapp	Rural Resources
Dan Blazquez	<input type="checkbox"/>	David Tietz	Salem Arms Community Housing
Kristine Meyer	<input type="checkbox"/>	KJ January	Spectrum
Tamara Bradley	<input type="checkbox"/>	William von Bracht	Othello, school English as 2nd language
Amanda Ghering	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michele Bennington	Community member at large
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brook Beeler	Department of Ecology Eastern Region
	<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	Providence
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Latrice Williams	Community Member/ WA state board of Equity
	<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	Red Cross
		Guests	
		Nico Archer	DH

Agenda

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EAG Equity Lens Session Meeting Notes

I. Welcome & Introductions

Overview of Meeting: Rules and Intent

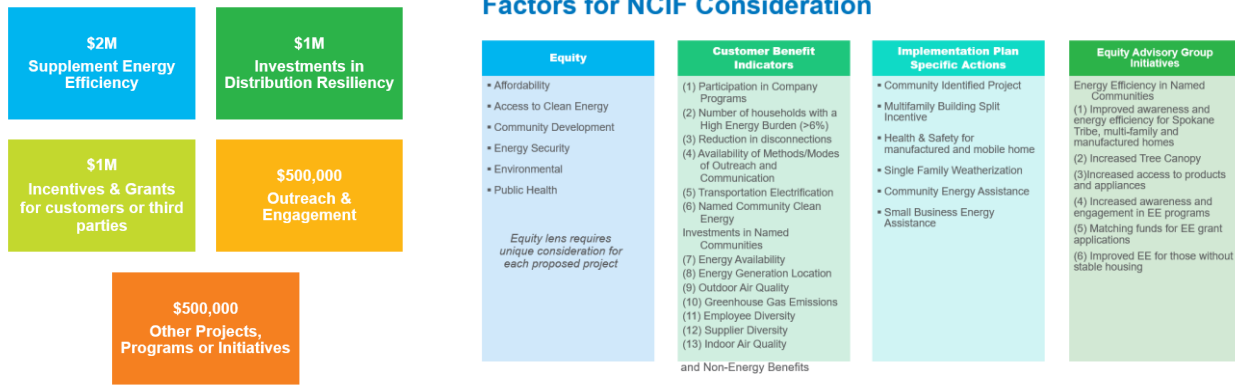
II. Partner Share

- **Avista:** Avista’s upcoming in person EAG meeting to discuss CBIs is scheduled for April 16, 2024 from 8:30-3:00, we also have a public participation meeting on March 26, 2024 that we encourage you all to attend discussing energy resiliency
- **Guest:** Steps for Autism 5k race downtown Spokane is April 27.

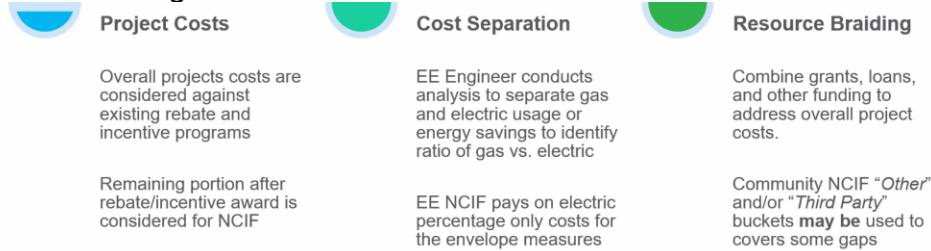
III. NCIF Review

Brief Refresher – Ana Matthews and Kristine Meyer

- Kristine shared the NCIF fund is made up of approximately \$5M broken into 5 buckets, \$2 of which is energy efficiency and the other is for community development. She reviewed the 4 buckets of factors we review when prioritizing projects based on conversations with the EAG.



- Ana spoke about the need and options for how to support dual fuel projects since the NCIF is designed for electric customers located in named communities.



Issue/Situation: No established funding source for gas efficiency improvements

- We continue to receive applications for organizations seeking NCIF funding to replace end of life gas heating systems, specifically gas boilers, how do we handle that from a company perspective and there are not guidelines around how to use the NCIF to replace a gas system with an electric system. How can we support these individuals with these conversions?

Discussion:

- Currently exploring whether NCIF can be used for new electric systems for gas heating that are no longer operational (*End-of-Life*)
- Preliminary consideration points
- Replacement for heating/cooling system
- Customer driven requests for service type (gas or electric)
- Avista may provide technical guidance for energy savings.
- Consider service impacts for electric and gas
- Efficiency Upgrades
- **Member:** I work with an organization that provides homes for women and their children recovering from incarceration or drug treatment, are those houses available for energy efficiency rebates?
 - **Company:** Yes, they're available and Ana and Kristie are available for individual discussions and needs.
- **Member:** Communication is key to helping people understand the why on this change with electricity from gas. Specific conversations with customers are needed for them understand the impact of the change.
 - **Company:** Agreed – individual discussions are needed to understand each person's unique situation and customer impact.
- **Member:** Communicating the why is important from the customers to the community leaders.
- **Member:** I was thinking along the same lines, individuals and organizations will wonder about costs, if gas or electric will be cheaper in future years. They may also wonder about outages and what will be least likely to go out in a storm or brownout, and the easiest way to mitigate when that happens.

Discussion:

- How to treat for-profit organizations?
- Or multiple proposals from one organization?
- Benefit for NC
- NCIF Considerations
- Equitability considerations include emphasis for underserved populations with verified need
- Case study – request to replace all heating and cooling units in a skilled nursing facility.
 - For-profit organization where the initial Avista site specific incentive covered 50% of the costs
 - Units are not individually metered
- NCIF Guideline: *NCIF awards are determined through a competitive grant application process. Avista will give priority consideration to applications submitted by non-profit (501(c)(3)) organizations that serve Avista's electric customers residing within Named Communities.*
- **Member:** I have a thought on that. I'd want to see their financials and their profit margin to see if they can afford to pay for the improvement. A partial or 50% coverage, seems like it would work.
- **Member:** I think the application could show how they are from a NC or having a strong partnership with a NC, would make a difference in the priority.
- **Member:** If the existing grant/application means that the for-profit qualifies, but they should have an earmarked amount for what they can receive. Ensure there is a method to dig deeper into the NC area and those monies are intended for.

- **Member:** For communities of color and non-profit, their staffing is limited and they're stretched thin, so these opportunities like the ones at Avista don't show up on their radar, but are qualified for. That's why I suggest adding a community perspective serving all side with you so that your outreach to NC continues to growth.
 - **Company:** If any of these members need help connecting or being a partner in getting the word out about NC fund, please let us know.
- **Member:** Consider adding the criteria that for-profit organizations must demonstrate investment in NC.
 - **Company:** Maybe we should add an example on the application to better understand that.
- **Member:** Maybe Avista could have a community perspective that help weigh in the decisions around funding decisions with the application.
 - **Company:** If we had a unique case to bring to you, we could do that. However, we do provide updates and quarterly updates, along with our internal group that evaluates applications.

Discussion: Assurance for equitable distribution of NCIF awards throughout Avista's service territory
 Guideline: *Aiming for 30% of NCIF awards to be in rural communities outside of Spokane, is this enough?*

- **Member:** I would hope it's at least 30%, even if there is opportunity for more, we wouldn't want to miss this opportunity. You also wouldn't want funding to be "unspent" – so I would encourage flexibility to ensure the funding is spent.
- **Member:** We have two hospitals in rural areas to ensure equitable dollars are spent well. I really like this methodology.
- **Member:** I like the rationale that there meters are out there, and the organizations may not have the ability to apply.
- **Member:** Do we have a criterion for awarding funding in the urban or the rural areas? If we do, are we sure the rural access is equitable?
 - **Company:** We have considered this and have considered how the urban areas may not cost as much as it costs for a rural area (in the cheese example with economy of scales). For the sake of equity, a rural project "may" cost more to achieve that if the project would be in a urban area, and we may award more funding to achieve equity in the rural area project.
 - **Company:** We're going to Stevens County and other rural counties to discuss the NCIF with organizations and making them aware of the funding opportunities.
- **Member:** Sometimes the rural areas lack the infrastructure with folks who are able to write good grant applications, so they miss out.
 - **Company:** We don't have a scoring system, so we're uniquely considering them and we're willing to filling out the application for them. This isn't about writing a better application or competition; it's about how can we help people be successful for getting better energy and supporting them.

Reviewed the NCIF prioritization matrix developed by the EAG

EAG Energy Efficiency 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)

We did not hit the \$5 million threshold last year, but we hope to get much closer in 2024, here is a list of our program fundings.

2023 Commitments & Funding

Energy Efficiency	Community & Resilience	Combined														
Spokane Tribe audits	Martin Luther King Community Center solar assessment	Online application														
Lincoln County Fairgrounds lighting	Medical equipment and air conditioning for customers with power dependency pilot	Martin Luther King Community Center HVAC retro-commissioning report, lighting, and windows														
Malden homes weatherization	Kids Making Sense – Spokane Clean Air	Kettle Falls Community Chest facility renovation														
KW Energy Duct Sealing for manufactured and mobile home in Stevens, Ferry and Pend Oreille counties	Outreach for public and program participation															
Walnut Corners affordable housing PTAC replacement																
Pine Villa affordable housing Phase 1 renovation (windows, insulation and doors)																
the Supper Club new refrigerator and freezer																
Health & Safety for Manufactured Homes in Spokane County																
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">2023</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Energy Efficiency</td> <td>\$ 1,034,165</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Resiliency</td> <td>\$ 30,476</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Customer & 3rd Party</td> <td>\$ 35,386</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Outreach</td> <td>\$ 63,297</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>\$ 218,805</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NCIF Total</td> <td>\$ 1,382,129</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	2023		Energy Efficiency	\$ 1,034,165	Resiliency	\$ 30,476	Customer & 3rd Party	\$ 35,386	Outreach	\$ 63,297	Other	\$ 218,805	NCIF Total	\$ 1,382,129
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- **Member:** The improvements at the Takasa Village really helped keep the home warmer.

2024 Projects currently in the queue

Energy Efficiency \$4M available funds		Community & Resiliency \$3M available funds	Combined
Residential Homes Affordable housing window replacement SNAP Pine Villa 2 nd and 3 rd Phases	Workforce Development Community Action Agency Workforce Development Training	Resiliency MLK Community Center Town of Malden Solar	Church window upgrades Corner Laundry for unhoused individuals Affordable housing with onsite social services
Buildings Nonprofit energy efficiency upgrades Education Building Spokane Tribe EE Measures Rural School District lighting	Health & Safety for Manufactured Homes KW Energy duct sealing	Community Projects City of Spokane Parks & Recreation: Tree Plotter software subscription SNAP air conditioner distribution	
	Programs Multi-Family – deep retrofits in NC <i>Insulation for All</i>	Workforce Development Christ Kitchen Workforce and non-profit career development for unhoused	

- **Member:** My husband has sleep apnea and quits breathing 75 times in an hour. At times, we've had no electricity and he's had the mask on – that's scary. How can we get into the medical battery pilot? I've called and asked if I could be first for the power restoration, but they just took my number.

- **Company:** Aging and Long-Term Care was our partner for the pilot, and we've put their contract in the chat. When it comes to outages, we need to consider the community at a whole, not individual customers.
- **Member:** Are you replacing refrigerators? My church as a food bank and maybe they could use a refrigeration system.
 - Company: Yes, trying to help food banks and then the high-efficiency rebates for an individual. If the organization is good with refrigeration, they can contact us for other efficiency efforts/opportunities.

IV. Your Support Team and Next Meeting

- Next meeting is scheduled for April 16th in person at Avista's Mission campus
- Please sign up for our quarterly newsletter if you have not already and we hope to see you all in April

V. 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