

**Equity Advisory Group –
Equity Lens Session**

Meeting Date: February 17, 2023
 Time: 7:30am – 9:00am
 Location: Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

Facilitator:	EAG Members:
<i>Amber Lenhart</i>	<i>Clyde Abrahamson</i>
Avista:	<i>Tami Dillon</i>
<i>Tamara Bradley</i>	<i>Rowena Pineda</i>
<i>Jaime Majure</i>	<i>Will von Bracht</i>
<i>Ana Matthews</i>	<i>KJ January</i>
<i>Renee Zimmerman</i>	<i>Margee Chambers</i>
<i>Kelly Dengel</i>	
	Guests:

Agenda

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|------|---|--------------------|---------------|
| I. | Welcome & Introductions | Facilitator | Amber Lenhart |
| | – Overview of Meeting: Rules and Intent | | Amber Lenhart |
| II. | Partner Share | | Amber Lenhart |
| III. | Named Communities Investment Fund – Project
Prioritization | | Amber Lenhart |
| IV. | Your Support Team and Next Meeting | | Amber Lenhart |

Meeting Notes

Welcome & Introductions

Introductions and Meeting Rules and Intent and review of today’s agenda.

Partner Share

Any upcoming relevant community events or opportunities? Pressing issues facing the community, or challenges your organization is facing?

Member: March 11th, Tracks to Success, to help those with disabilities navigate a very complicated system.

Member: ATNI (Affiliated Tribe of Northwest Indians) putting on an event at Tulalip Tribal Resort and Casino, has to do with alternative energy and exploring funding opportunities. Will be sharing info about our microgrid. Info: **ATNI Tribal Clean Energy Summit, June 12-14.**

The Summit will engage Tribal leaders, citizens, staff, youth and collaborators in conversation about navigating the cultural, economic, and social challenges of implementing clean energy projects. Our goals include:

- Ensure that Tribes have the information, support, capacity and resources necessary to plan for and implement Tribal Energy Projects;
- Increase Tribal awareness of opportunities and challenges faced by other Tribes in developing energy projects and when partnering with outside partners for planning, policy development and project implementation;
- Improving project success by appropriately engaging and consulting with Tribes;
- Assess Tribal needs interests, and priorities related to Energy sovereignty, while providing listening opportunities for intertribal collaboration to move those priorities forward

Member: Our levy passed! [Previously shared: Othello was voting on a school levy and looking for bonds for school buildings, which is an equity concern when you look at little school districts such as Othello, and many of these levies have been failing (require 60% vote).]

Company: Don't forget about Girl Scout cookies! There's a raspberry chocolate flavor, you can only get online.

Named Communities Investment Fund – Project Prioritization

We are really letting this group drive the bus on this prioritization, so we're looking for your engagement here. If you remember back in December we brainstormed ideas; January we reviewed initiatives, and now we're looking to prioritize these ideas so we can move forward with implementation.

Showed original list of brainstorm ideas, some moved forward into initiatives, some did not meet the scope or intention of energy efficiency. From the list came the initiatives:

Initiative	Notes
Increase tree canopy and shade in NC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Plant trees in named communities ▪ Plant more trees ▪ More native plants ▪ Planting native shade trees (Gonzaga has data to help guide location – City of Spokane partnership in planting of the trees) ▪ More plant diversity ▪ Community gardens to increase greenspace and provide food
Increase access to energy efficient products and appliances for NC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide energy efficient light bulbs to named communities ▪ Increase rebates for appliances – gave furnace example ▪ Battery operated light bulbs ▪ Electric blankets for elderly
Focus efforts on improving energy efficiency for community members without stable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Get support via the city ▪ Energy efficiency for homeless/warming shelters
Focus efforts on improving energy efficiency for schools, community centers, and other places where NC spend time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Schools – infrastructure upgrades and education ▪ Schools in NC through EE efforts ▪ Appliances – community centers ▪ Elder facilities
Increase awareness of and engagement in energy efficiency programs while also meeting whole-household needs through community-based partnerships and referrals to services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tap into existing referral systems to include questions about energy efficiency needs (e.g., Spectrum's system, Northeast Community Center's intake forms, etc.) and connect people to energy efficiency programs ▪ Ask named communities about their energy efficiency and other household needs and refer to outside services (such as rental assistance, peer support, etc., similar to Spectrum's existing process) ▪ Fairly compensate CBOs for their help ▪ Partner with existing service providers, schools. Education on EE kits being handed out
Focus efforts on improving energy efficiency for Spokane Tribe partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with Spokane Tribe on energy efficiency, fleet electrification, etc. ▪ Spokane Tribe Housing Authority microgrid projects – have enough for 3 buildings but would like to include the senior housing buildings in the project
Improve energy efficiency in multi-family and mobile home communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Multiple Mobile Home Communities – weatherization ▪ Work with large multifamily dwellings for EE regards to both heat and cold. Creates higher rent – hard to flex with.

Member: Was there any discussion of installation of ductless heat pumps, mainly for mobile homes? Rather than putting in a wood stove, for example. I did it in my home, not

thinking it really would be energy efficient—but it has proven efficient, and I would assume that it would be in mobile homes as well.

Company: Initiatives are very broad right now, I think that “improve energy efficiency in multi-family and mobile home communities”—DHPs in mobile homes could definitely fall under that initiative.

Prioritization Criteria, comes from results-based accountability:

Leverage: Does the activity address the most important root cause and/or have the greatest potential impact? If you need to pick 100 peaches, you could pick one at a time (low leverage) or you could cut a whole branch (high leverage).

Feasibility: Do we have the resources, tools, abilities to get it done? Low feasibility = bring in new partners, etc.; high feasibility = Avista has the time, resources, expertise to get it done.

Specificity: Do we know who/what/where/when/how it is to be done?

Values: How well does the initiative align with the values of the group? Equality versus equity [bike example]. Named Communities, those with barriers to participation, under-resourced, geographic, or those in older homes, etc.

Member: Feasibility – maintenance. Are we able to maintain what’s being installed in the long run?

High/Medium/Low matrix for each priority in each initiative. Internally, at Avista we will take the results from this session and Wednesday’s, talk through them, and share the rankings from the combined sessions.

Possible NCIF Initiatives	Leverage	Feasibility	Values	Specificity	Rank
Focus efforts on improving energy efficiency for Spokane Tribe partners	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	1
Increase access to energy efficient products and appliances for Named Communities	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	MEDIUM	2
Focus efforts on improving energy efficiency (and EE awareness/education) for schools, community centers, and other places where Named Communities spend time	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	MEDIUM	2
Increase awareness of and engagement in energy efficiency programs while also meeting whole-household needs through community-based partnerships and referrals to services	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	MEDIUM	2
Increase tree canopy and shade in Named Communities (*consider tradeoffs with solar*)	HIGH	MEDIUM	HIGH	MEDIUM	5
Improve energy efficiency in multi-family and mobile home communities	HIGH	MEDIUM	HIGH	MEDIUM	5
Set aside \$ to match funds for EE grant applications for community orgs and tribal partners **NEED TO CHECK AVISTA'S ABILITY TO DO THIS, then medium or low feasibility**	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	LOW	5
Focus efforts on improving energy efficiency for community members without stable housing (could this be included in other initiatives?)	LOW	LOW	HIGH	MEDIUM	8

Leverage Results:

- 1) *Increase tree canopy and shade in Named Communities:* HIGH

Member: [High] there are already existing infrastructures in place, we can leverage programs/resources already in place.

Member: [Medium] What if, in the future, there is another organization that needs the trees removed.

Member: [Medium] Compared to other priorities, I hesitate to call this one high; If we start high we don’t have anywhere to go.

2) *Increase access to energy efficient products and appliances for Named Communities:* HIGH

Member: [High] Again, existing infrastructure (Avista, SNAP, etc.) and you have access within the communities (high reach).

Member: [Medium] Agree with infrastructure to get EE products out, but once we get it out will it be used – will it be dependent on other things?

Member: [High] I think we have people in these Named Communities that want to be energy efficient, so addressing this, finding ways to incentivize landlords and get these customers access really deals with this root issue.

Member: [High] Reducing barriers, increasing access, and dealing with that root issue.

3) *Focus efforts on improving energy efficiency for community members without stable housing:* LOW

Member: [Low-Med] I wonder if #2 and #3 can be combined.

Member: [Low] I don't think it does anything systemically to help us.

4) *Focus efforts on improving energy efficiency (and EE awareness/education) for schools, community centers, and other places where Named Communities spend time:* HIGH

Member: [High] You could put funds towards education and supporting systems (low cost).

Member: [Medium] Unless we're specifically calling out that education is a piece of this. *Added "and EE awareness/education" to initiative – [High]

Member: [High] Individuals in these communities need somewhere comfortable to go

5) *Increase awareness of and engagement in EE programs while also meeting whole-household needs through community-based partnerships and referral to services:*

Clarification: this is cross-pollination between programs; gentle connection to services while a customer is at an organization to get another service.

Member: [High] Are there already enough resources and we're just struggling to get them connected to them? If that's the case, then this is the answer, and it would be high. If we do the others, like #2, then we do this.

Member: [High] Meeting the needs of these communities, it depends on who the advocate is for that community. If you have a champion, then it's successful/high; it won't be the same for each community, so how can you put them all on the same playing level. Training the trainer?

6) *Focus efforts on improving EE for Spokane Tribe partners:*

Member: [High]

7) *Improve EE in multi-family and mobile home communities:*

Member: [High] See prior comments re: DHTs.

8) *Set aside \$ to match funds for EE grant applications for community orgs and tribal partners*

This idea was borne from our last meeting.

Member: [High] This is great if we can leverage these funds.

Feasibility Results:

1) *Increase tree canopy and shade in Named Communities:* MEDIUM

Member: [Medium] having folks in NCs available to water these trees, take care of maintenance and afford this upkeep.

Member: [Medium] Agreed, they may not have the resources to do so.

Member: [Medium] there is an example of this, and it's beautiful, but it's sustained by natural runoff not city water resources

2) *Increase access to energy efficient products and appliances for Named Communities:* HIGH

Member: [High] It's dependent on Avista. EE products can get expensive; does this cover bigger appliances, not just light bulbs. Those are major purchases for a lot of people.

Member: [High] Potential to be high but has to be coupled with #5. How are we communicating this, how are we getting it out into the community?

3) *Focus efforts on improving energy efficiency for community members without stable housing:* LOW

Member: [LOW] So dependent on so, so many other factors; it's not just Avista.

4) *Focus efforts on improving energy efficiency (and EE awareness/education) for schools, community centers, and other places where Named Communities spend time:* HIGH

Member: [High] In contrast to #2, it's working with orgs and not specific households. You can make higher impact connections because you have people working specifically with this.

Member: [High] Agreed. Esp. on the awareness/education with younger people; they need to be aware of how this impacts them, their centers and schools, where they spend time.

5) *Increase awareness of and engagement in EE programs while also meeting whole-household needs through community-based partnerships and referral to services:* HIGH

Member: [High] You're working with existing programs, dedicating someone to the communication/connection piece.

Member: [High] It would be easy to incorporate this communication into the list of things that Spectrum already asks, to elevate those services.

6) *Focus efforts on improving EE for Spokane Tribe partners:* HIGH

Member: [High] The tribal values align so well that they're going to be engaged.

Member: [High] the tribes have a certain advantage in improving EE; they have access to funding through different programs, esp. with new federal bills coming out. We're actually working on several projects, planning for the future, with Housing Authority and DNR. Highly feasible projects.

7) *Improve EE in multi-family and mobile home communities:* MEDIUM

Member: [Low-Med] Similar to #3, you're working with a lot of entities. Landlords, other orgs. There's too many moving parts to execute effectively.

8) *Set aside \$ to match funds for EE grant applications for community orgs and tribal partners:* HIGH

Member: [High] You're just leveraging other funding, easy.

Values Results:

1) *Increase tree canopy and shade in Named Communities:* HIGH

Member: [High] High income neighborhoods in south hill of Spokane have beautifully shaded communities and don't have AC. This could bring some of these more vulnerable communities to enjoy those same benefits; and walkable neighborhoods.

Member: [High] Mixed emotions on this one. I'm installing solar on homes – if you're installing solar, you don't want these trees. When considering solar, it's LOW.

Member: To keep solar in mind, are we limited to planting trees at a home, or could it be expanded to community centers, parks, schools, etc. Child care facilities.

Company: Just has to be NC (not just homes)

2) *Increase access to energy efficient products and appliances for Named Communities:* HIGH

Member: [High]. No discussion.

3) *Focus efforts on improving energy efficiency for community members without stable housing:* HIGH

Member: [High] No discussion.

4) *Focus efforts on improving energy efficiency (and EE awareness/education) for schools, community centers, and other places where Named Communities spend time: HIGH*

Member: [High] No discussion.

5) *Increase awareness of and engagement in EE programs while also meeting whole-household needs through community-based partnerships and referral to services: HIGH*

Member: [High] No discussion.

6) *Focus efforts on improving EE for Spokane Tribe partners: HIGH*

Member: [High] No discussion.

7) *Improve EE in multi-family and mobile home communities: HIGH*

Member: [High] No discussion.

8) *Set aside \$ to match funds for EE grant applications for community orgs and tribal partners: HIGH*

Member: [High] No discussion.

Specificity Results:

1) *Increase tree canopy and shade in Named Communities: MEDIUM*

Member: [Medium] Once we adopt them, they'll get more specific.

Company: when it comes time for the planning, are we close to a specific to-do list or are we going to have a lot to do.

Member: [Medium] I think all of them are medium. All our values are high because we used those values to develop them. We have bullet points for each of these. Except maybe #8 would be low because we added that at the end, so we haven't thought it out.

2) *Increase access to energy efficient products and appliances for Named Communities: MEDIUM*

Member: [Medium] No discussion (see #1).

3) *Focus efforts on improving energy efficiency for community members without stable housing: MEDIUM*

Member: [Medium] No discussion (see #1).

4) *Focus efforts on improving energy efficiency (and EE awareness/education) for schools, community centers, and other places where Named Communities spend time: MEDIUM*

Member: [Medium] No discussion (see #1).

5) *Increase awareness of and engagement in EE programs while also meeting whole-household needs through community-based partnerships and referral to services: MEDIUM*

Member: [Medium] No discussion (see #1).

6) *Focus efforts on improving EE for Spokane Tribe partners: HIGH*

Member: [High?] Wondering if this one should be higher than the others since the tribe has projects already in progress.

Member: [High] Yes. We do have several projects already happening, we've set up an energy team. We're working on solar, and a second microgrid which includes the admin building. We have a plan and backup plans already in place.

7) *Improve EE in multi-family and mobile home communities: MEDIUM*

Member: [Medium] No discussion (see #1).

8) *Set aside \$ to match funds for EE grant applications for community orgs and tribal partners: LOW*

Member: [Low] No discussion (see #1). Note that when doing the math, the only reason this is low is because it's new. It's really easy to get this to medium or high.

Wrap Up

Thank you all for your wonderful ideas, please feel free to send us any additional ideas.

Reminder of upcoming meetings on March 15th and 17th