

**Equity Advisory Group –
Equity Lens Session**

Meeting Date: May 18, 2022
 Time: 4:30pm – 6:00pm
 Location: Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

Facilitator:	EAG Members:
<i>Amber Lenhart</i>	<i>Clyde Abrahamson</i>
Avista:	<i>Jupiter</i>
<i>Tamara Bradley</i>	<i>KJ</i>
<i>Rendall Farley</i>	<i>Rowena Pineda</i>
	Guests:
	<i>Shay Bauman – Public Counsel</i>

Agenda

- I. Welcome & Introductions
 - Overview of Meeting: Rules and Intent
- II. EAG Spotlight
- III. Transportation Electrification
- IV. Your Support Team and Next Meeting

Facilitator

Amber Lenhart
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 Rendall Farley
 Amber Lenhart

Meeting Notes

EAG Spotlight

Tami Dillon – Works at Skills’kin as the Director of Communications and Governance, lives in Colbert, WA.

Transportation Electrification

Electric transportation overview and how the low-income community fits into that. The transition to electrification will bring economic and environmental benefits, reducing emissions, by 4 tons of carbon emission each year. Which will continue to get cleaner as Avista pursues its clean energy goals.

Economic benefits – electric vehicles are equivalent to \$1 per gallon and that remains steady where the price of gasoline changes often. Electric bill will go up slightly, but the money is staying in the region and not going to major gasoline companies.

Approximately ½ of the vehicles sales will be electric vehicles by 2030 and by 2050 it is very likely that 90% of vehicle sales will be electric.

If we can get more charging to occur off peak, it will greatly reduce the infrastructure upgrades needed and the additional revenue will help to offset the costs of the fixed grid and helping to keep electricity affordable in the long term.

Most people drive about 40 miles a day and most electric vehicles need to charge for an hour which can occur during the night while there is less energy consumption. We ran a pilot program from 2016-2019 we installed over 429 charging stations throughout our service territory. This was beneficial to helping design the long-term electrification plans and programs Avista can offer.

I encourage you to visit our site and review our TE plan.

We are aiming to spend about 30% of our budget for TE to go towards benefiting named communities. Most likely we will get more funding through the clean energy fuels program and will enable us to expand the low income and community programs.

Member: Fleet electrification for low-income business owners, are those included in that program? We have a fleet of vehicles and would love to go electric with some of our fleet, the housing authority, and the tribe both have transportation systems that would benefit, the bus runs into Spokane at least 3 times a day and it would be nice if those vehicles were electric also. How is that program set up for a fleet of vehicles?

Company: This is meant to accommodate any business customers that have an interest in consulting with Avista to help analyze their operation and what is feasible now and what might be feasible next year or in a couple of years and help to develop a plan on how to proceed further and how Avista can install chargers. If tribe or low-income community support, there are grants from the federal government that we can use to help bring in those programs.

Key areas to highlight, we are partnering with community-based organizations (CBOs) which is essential to support this program. We have 5 active partnerships with CBOs right now. Depending on the building site We offer free AC charging others cost around 10,000-\$12,000. We currently do not have authorization or funding to bring in DC Fast charging since the cost is approximately \$80,000. Libraries and community centers, we are actively looking into installing the DC fast chargers to support the communities. We have program where we are actively engaging small and rural communities where we support charging stations for public use.

Public transit, buses, car sharing, apartment complex charges,

Member: Do you have outreach to those owners?

Company: We need to get better outreach in this area, we have a meeting tomorrow with several organizations related to housing on that list. Encourage anyone interested to attend and could use help in that area and ideas on how to spread the word.

Member: Yeah, its tough at first because you can't feasibly get an EV without securing charging

Company: We provided the Spokane Valley library with an electric mobile van for books, and it is utilizing one of Avista's charging stations while their building is being remodeled. Avista also provided an agency with one of our old EVs and they use it to make sure their clients get to their medical and other appointments and other needs to support their clients.

Member: Car share in the Netherlands.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OObwqreAJ48>

Now soliciting applications for additional companies to participate in this program. The Chevy Bolt is the best on the market now for longer distances, but they did have some recalls and now the cheapest vehicle is still around \$35k, we are asking for innovative ideas for car share pilots.

Education and outreach, we look for opportunities to get people inside the EVs we call it the EV experience where public can come in and learn about EVs, sign up for short term rentals and take test drives. We held workshops over the past year and has students for eastern design the education materials. This is not an attempt to sell EVs, we are just trying to get good information into people's hands, many people have a lot of questions or miss perceptions on EVs, so this helps to remove that.

The city of Spokane is actively electrifying its fleet of buses and shuttles.

We are doing what we can to design programs that are still affordable and easy for low-income customers and communities.

Member: I was looking through the internet and I saw that even some of the car enthusiasts are starting to build their classic cars and electrifying them and that is getting more people excited to electrify their vehicles.

Facilitator: we would love your reactions, how are you feeling, what are your thoughts on how we can help people to continue to benefit from these programs? Are there organizations that could benefit from charging stations or Electric fleet? Would love to hear your thoughts

Member: one barrier is just the availability of electric vehicles; the used vehicles have even been going up in price and there is a chip shortage so less inventory available. You can't get a car if you can't secure charging, but if there is not enough inventory then there is no reason for apartment buildings to get charging stations, it is a cycle.

Member: Great presentation what Avista is doing around electric cars. There are challenges around how to adopt it if you are lower income, the affordability of the car itself. I appreciate your insights and thinking through the barriers.

Company: There is a lot to learn, and this space is evolving rapidly, the more we can partner with others and learn the better these programs will be.

Member: If you have not tried to drive an EV, you should try.

Member: Great presentation and it makes me excited because I was shopping for an EV and I will be attending the meeting tomorrow.

We can continue to provide Cleaner, cheaper, electrification and this is one great way to reach that better future.

Wrap Up

Next meeting in June is scheduled for June 22nd and June 24th to accommodate the Meeting with WUTC on June 16th and this gives us time to digest the feedback for us to be able to share that in this setting.

We appreciate everyone's engagement, are there any last-minute thoughts or questions before we wrap up?

Thank you and good evening.