



**Equity Advisory Group –  
Equity Lens Session**

Meeting Date: July 19, 2023  
 Time: 4:30pm – 6:00pm  
 Location: Zoom Meeting

**Attendees:**

<b>Facilitator:</b>	<b>EAG Members:</b>
Amber Lenhart	Cindy Kimmet
<b>Avista:</b>	Vanessa Strange
Amanda Ghering	
Tamara Bradley	
Meghan Pinch	
David Schafer	
	<b>Guests:</b>

**Agenda**

- I. Welcome & Introductions
  - Overview of Meeting: Rules and Intent
- II. Partner Share
- III. Condition #10
- IV. Spokane Tribe Energy Partnership
- V. Your Support Team and Next Meeting

**Facilitator**

- Tamara Bradley
- Tamara Bradley
- David Schafer
- Meagan Pinch
- Amber Lenhart

**Meeting Notes**

**Welcome & Introductions**

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

**Partner Share**

**Member:** look at the events calendar on the Spokane library website and there are a lot of things going on for kids and adults. [spokanelibrary.org/events](http://spokanelibrary.org/events)

**Condition 10**

# Advisory Group Guidance

OCTOBER 2022

**Condition 10:** By December 1, 2022, in collaboration with its Equity Advisory Group (EAG) and Energy Assistance Advisory Group (EAAG) and per WAC 480-100-640(5)(a) and (c), Avista agrees to identify at least one specific action that will serve a designated subset of Named Communities, to be funded by the Named Communities Investment Fund, and to identify and track all CBIs relevant to this specific action.

The location identified for the specific action will be at the granularity of the designated Named Communities subset.

EAAG Members Choices	1 <sup>st</sup> Choice	2 <sup>nd</sup> Choice
Cooling Systems		Heat Pumps
Community Solar		Rooftop Solar <sup>1</sup>
Community Solar		Batteries for medical equipment
Community Solar		Batteries for medical equipment
Batteries for medical equipment		Cooling Systems
Community Solar		Cooling/Heat Pumps
Cooling Systems		Batteries for medical equipment
Community Solar		Batteries for medical equipment



## Battery Backup

Identify households within Named Communities where the occupants rely on medical equipment powered by electricity to provide resiliency against outages. Supply battery backup for those devices.



## Cooling Systems

Identify specific households within Named Communities that are also a part of heat islands and provide cooling appliances.

This was introduced and discussed with the EAG and EAAG, this medical power dependency program was voted on by EAG members and EAAG members as a top project to help support named communities

Here are the product and project details, we hoped to reach 100 customers and provide them with battery back up and air conditioning units for extreme heat events or extreme weather events where power goes out and they need a backup battery source.

## Medical Power Dependent

- Summer 2023 in-home visits conducted with 100 pilot qualified customers with medical equipment in Spokane and Stevens Counties
- Participants provided equipment to deal with outage and extreme heat conditions
- Pilot to gauge what it takes to provide this level of support to customers with power dependency for medical equipment



### Emergency power for home medical equipment.

An Avista Pilot Program

Extreme summer heat and power outages can put people's health and safety at risk. Avista and Aging & Long-Term Care of Eastern Washington (ALTCW) are working together to learn how best to help people who need to use home medical equipment should their power go out.

**What are the goals of this pilot?**

From the pilot program, we will learn:

- improved understanding of the needs of customers with medical equipment;
- what it would take to make a program like this full-scale;
- how to help customers feel more confident and ready for extreme heat and power outages.

#### Who will be in the study?

Avista and ALTCW will enroll 100 senior or long-term care customers who use medical equipment at home. ALTCW will ensure people who meet income requirements from their Spokane and Stevens County offices.



#### How will it work?

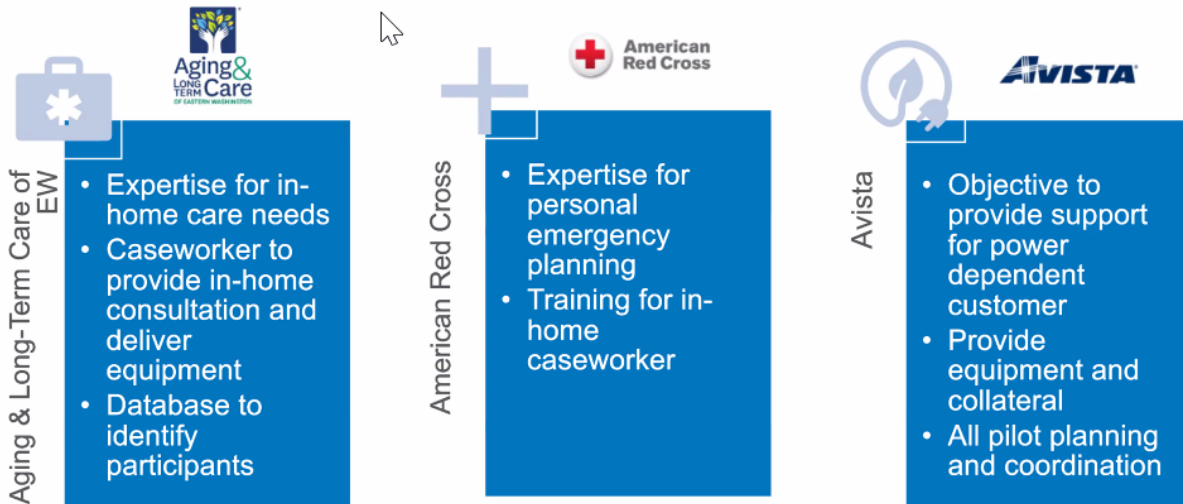
Team members will visit participants in their home to provide them with battery backup power along with a solar panel kit and create a personal emergency plan. They will also provide referrals to other essential programs.

Portable Air Conditioner	Battery Backup Power	Solar Panel Kit
Staying cool and comfortable can be critical for individual health and well-being during extreme heat conditions.	Temporary battery power is possible for medical equipment, such as nebulators, neoclear, wheelchair chargers, respirators, ventilators during power interruptions.	The solar panel kit can recharge the battery backup.
What is the timeline?		
Design & Plan	Enroll Eligible Participants	Train Team Members
Conduct Consultation	Administer Surveys	Compile Results
Final Report		
Q1 & Q2	Q2	Q2
Q3 & Q3	Winter	Q3
2023	2024	2024
For questions, please contact David Schafer at david.schafer@avistacorp.com or 509-495-4688		

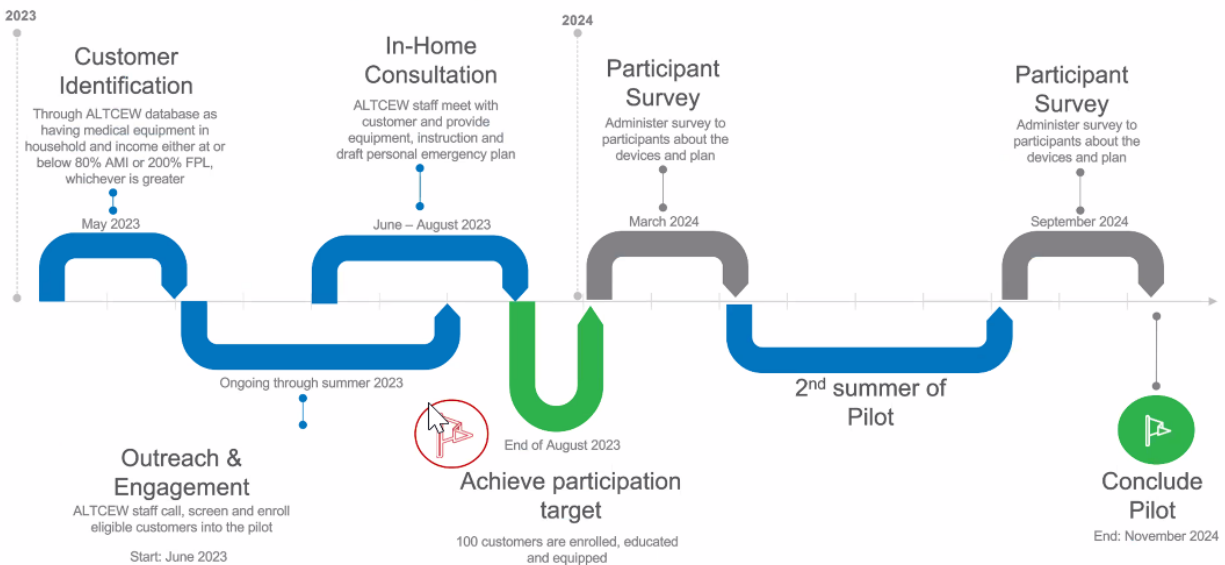
We partnered with Aging and Long-Term Care of WA to identify and reach these customers. We helped customers develop outage plans and trained them on the equipment. The objective is to take this pilot and see how we might be able to partner

with other organizations and spread out the delivery of this program on wider scale, we have installed in approximately 55 homes to date.

## Partnerships & Training



## Timeline and Reporting



We wanted to implement this before the extreme heat could kick in, but with the tight timeline we will have all 100 pilot customers installed by August 11<sup>th</sup>. We will conduct 2 surveys throughout the pilot to determine success and how to move forward.

**Member:** yes, this makes sense

## Spokane Tribe Energy Partnership

- Grid resiliency design project
- Spokane Tribe Administrative building energy audit and grant application
- Additional energy audits for Tribally owned buildings in Wellpinit
- Geothermal

We received a grid modernization award through Department of Commerce. Here is how we are using those funds

**Awarded project:** Financial support to design and engineer a clean and resilient energy storage project in partnership with the Spokane Tribe. The project will support increased energy resilience and energy sovereignty. Funding does not include construction of project.

**Project Funding:** \$480,000 in total (Avista to provide \$240,000 in-kind match to \$240,000 in funding from Department of Commerce).



Grid Modernization grants will support utilities across the state in building and integrating new technologies that support their clean energy transition plans.



We had a workshop with the tribe, their project goal is to provide sustained backup power for three “critical loads” buildings for summertime loads. Their admin building, public safety building with phone back up, and their public health clinic.

The sustained goal is 7 days of power but we are still working on that definition and what we can actually accomplish as 7 days is a hefty goal.

### Goals

“Switchable” platform that could enable power to be switched between three or more stepdown circuits during an emergency

Could replace elevated building transformers currently located behind post office

Could potentially create a “critical loads” circuit- to ensure that power is available / prioritized to buildings that are critical to Tribal operations during emergencies



Winter loads are much higher than their summer loads, this micro grid will have less capacity to support the tribe during winter outages, but that's ok since this is more around wildfire resiliency.

## Grid resiliency project- recent activities, next steps

- ✓ Verified chosen use case- resiliency for summer outages
- ✓ Decided what buildings to be prioritized as “critical”
- ✓ Identified 2 potential project sites

Next steps:

- Work with Tribe and stakeholders to decide which loads should be prioritized as “critical” (within three priority buildings)
- Model loads to see what durations are possible
- Develop load prioritization framework
- Develop funding strategy as design progresses
- Develop a project timeline that accounts for other concurrent development activity in the Wellpinit Core area

We would love your feedback on this condition on the grant award, which community benefit indicator do you feel are the most beneficial for this project that we should be using to gauge success.

## Grid resiliency project discussion- what CBIs are most relevant for this project?

Customer Benefit Indicator	Benefit Area	Measurement
Participation in Company Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction of Burden</li> <li>• Reduction in Cost</li> <li>• Non-Energy</li> <li>• Energy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in Weatherization Programs and Energy Assistance Programs (all and Named Communities)</li> <li>• Saturation of Energy Assistance Programs (all and Named Communities)</li> </ul>
Number of households with a High Energy Burden (>6%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction of Burden</li> <li>• Reduction of Cost</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number and Percent of Households</li> <li>• Average excess burden per household</li> </ul>
Availability of Methods/Modes of Outreach and Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-Energy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of Outreach Contacts</li> <li>• Number of Marketing Impressions</li> </ul>
Transportation Electrification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-Energy</li> <li>• Environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of Trips Provided by Community Based Organizations</li> <li>• Number of Public Charging Stations Located in Named Communities</li> </ul>
Named Community Clean Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy</li> <li>• Energy Resiliency</li> <li>• Reduction of Burden</li> <li>• Risk Reduction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percent Non-Emitting Energy located in Named Communities (Energy Efficiency and renewable energy)</li> </ul>

Investments in Named Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction of Burden</li> <li>• Energy Resiliency</li> <li>• Risk Reduction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incremental spending each year in Named Communities</li> <li>• Number of customers/ and/or Community based organizations served</li> <li>• Quantification of energy/non-energy benefits from investments (if applicable)</li> </ul>
Energy Availability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction of Risk</li> <li>• Energy</li> <li>• Energy Resiliency</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Average Outage Duration</li> <li>• Planning Reserve Margin (Resource Adequacy)</li> </ul>
Energy Generation Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy Security</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percent of Generation Located in Washington or Connected to Avista Transmission</li> </ul>
Outdoor Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weighted Average Days Exceeding Healthy Levels</li> <li>• Avista Plant Air Emissions</li> </ul>
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional GHG Emissions</li> <li>• Avista GHG Emissions</li> </ul>
Employee Diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employee diversity equal to communities served by 2035</li> </ul>
Supplier Diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Health</li> <li>• Non-Energy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supplier Diversity at 11 percent by 2035</li> </ul>
Indoor Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Health</li> <li>• Non-Energy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In development</li> </ul>

To us the main one is investments in named communities or energy availability etc.,

There may be some secondary ones depending on how much solar they decide to add to the project or if they decide to add solar at all. Any others?

**Member:** how long will with batteries last? Years?

**Company:** Good questions, yes years, but we do not know how many years yet, it depends on what battery technology we decide to go with. There are some newer technologies that have longer lives, but we do not know which one will be selected yet. The longer the battery lifespan would be better but depends on the pricing on the units.

## Spokane Tribal Administrative Building Energy Audit



### Systems & Equipment Reviewed:

- Rooftop Units
  - Building Automation
  - Ductwork
  - Solar Array
  - Server/IT Rooms
  - Building Envelope
  - Building Interior
  - Lighting
- 13 total opportunities identified

RESOURCE  SYNERGY

This admin building is an energy hog, it is an electrically heated building from the rooftop which are not working properly. They asked if we could do anything to support them. They need an in-depth energy audit, but we do not have the equipment for that. In January we partnered with a Resource Synergy to perform an energy audit and provides an in-depth analysis of how they can correct their energy issues which are defined below, this is easily above a million dollars in work and the tribe did not have that in their budget.

# Opportunity Summary

## Low/No Cost

- AHU Scheduling/ Demand Reduction
- Solar Panel Cleaning
- Finish LED Lighting Retrofit
- Exterior Lighting Control
- Plug Load Management
- Server Room Ceiling Tiles
- Attic Insulation/Sealing

## Moderate Cost

- Replace Building Automation System (BAS)
- Occupancy and CO2 Sensors
- Retro-Commissioning

## Large Capital

- Refurbish or Replace RTUs
- Window Replacement or Upgrade

## Department of Commerce CEF 5: Rural Clean Energy Innovation Grant

A new program to support clean energy research, development and implementation. Includes set asides for tribal energy projects.

### Project profile:



Funding for efficiency upgrades at Tribal Administrative Building as identified in ASHRAE Level II Energy Audit



Total project cost:  
**\$1.1 million**  
\$980,000 grant request  
\$120,000 required match



**Summer 2023** awards announced

### Key scope items:

Replace all 5 rooftop units, building automation system, some windows; finish lighting upgrades



Example 1500W Space Heater



Proposed 200W Panel Heater



Photographs



Carrier ASHP



Tear in Fabric Duct Transition

If we could cut their energy consumption then we can support more of the load with the microgrid, the audit predicts that we could reduce their usage by 40% with all of the upgrades defined in the audit.

The tribe was so pleased with the original audit they asked us to conduct additional audits as follows which will help them to plan for future energy projects:





## Next Meeting | Support Team

**August 23rd**  
**4:30 – 6:00 pm**

**August 25th**  
**7:30 – 9:00 am**

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