

## Avista Advisory Groups

Avista convenes advisory groups to engage interested parties to inform decisions that impact customers, infrastructure, and long-term planning. These groups promote transparency, equity, and effectiveness across key focus areas, including bill assistance, energy efficiency, integrated resource planning, equity in clean energy transformation, and distribution system planning.

### Energy Assistance Advisory Group (EAAG) - Washington Focused

**EAAG Intent:** This group was established as a formal forum focused on low-income energy assistance efforts. Its purpose is to monitor and explore ways to improve Avista's Low-Income Rate Assistance Program (LIRAP). This includes discussing potential program modifications, collaboratively troubleshooting challenges, and examining alternatives that may better serve Washington customers. The EAAG is guided by four primary goals:

1. Keeping customers connected to their energy service.
2. Providing assistance to more customers than are currently served.
3. Lowering the energy burden of LIRAP participants.
4. Ensuring that LIRAP has appropriate data to assess program effectiveness.

All of this is done while carefully managing administrative costs to ensure operational efficiency, allowing the maximum amount of funding to be directed to those in need.

**EAAG Members:** Participants represent the following list of organizations:

- **Utility:** Avista
- **Community & Advocacy Organizations:** Community Action Agencies, The Energy Project, and Northwest Energy Coalition
- **Government & Regulatory:** Department of Commerce, WUTC Commission Staff, and Public Counsel
- **Social Services:** Aging and Long-Term Care of Eastern Washington

**Program Webpage:** [Need help with your energy bills?](#)

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### Energy Efficiency Advisory Group (EEAG) - Washington & Idaho Focused

**EEAG Intent:** An advisory group of interested parties to advise Avista on conservation issues including but not limited to: (a) Conservation programs and measures. (b) Updates to the utility's evaluation, measurement, and verification framework. (c) Modification of existing, or development of new evaluation, measurement, and verification methods. (d) Independent third-party evaluation of portfolio-level biennial conservation achievement. (e) Development of conservation potential assessments. (f) The methodology, inputs, and calculations for cost-effectiveness. (g) The data sources and values used to develop and update supply curves. (h) The need for tariff modifications or mid-biennium program corrections.

The group also provides counsel around the appropriate level of planning for: (i) Marketing conservation programs; (ii) Incentives to customers for measures and services; and (iii) Impact, market, and process evaluations. (iv) Programs for low-income residential customers. (v) Establishment of the biennial conservation target and program achievement results compared to the target. (vi) Conservation program budgets and actual expenditures compared to budgets. (vii) Development and implementation of new pilot programs.

**EEAG Members:** Participants represent the following list of organizations:

- **Utilities & Power Providers:** Avista, Idaho Power, PacifiCorp, and Puget Sound Energy
- **Government & Regulatory Staff:** WA Department of Commerce, IPUC & WUTC Commission staff, and Public Counsel
- **Nonprofits & Advocacy Organizations:** Idaho Conservation League (ICL), NW Energy Coalition (NWECC), and Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners (SNAP)
- **Regional Energy Efficiency Bodies:** Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (NEEA), Northwest Energy Efficiency Council (NEEC), and Northwest Power & Conservation Council
- **Private Sector & Consultants:** The Energy Project and Hotstart Thermal Management

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### **Equity Advisory Group (EAG) - Washington Focused**

**EAG Intent:** Under the 2019 Washington Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA), Avista collaborates and regularly engages an external equity advisory group to advise the utility on equity issues including, but not limited to, vulnerable population designation, equity customer benefit indicator development, data support and development, and recommended approaches for ensuring that all customers are benefiting from the transition to clean energy through:

1. The equitable distribution of energy and nonenergy benefits and reduction of burdens to vulnerable populations and highly impacted communities.
2. Long-term and short-term public health and environmental benefits and reduction of costs and risks; and
3. Energy security and resiliency.

**Members:** The EAG is open to all interested customers and community representatives. Membership may evolve over time to reflect community needs and interest. Current membership includes representation from the following groups:

- **Government & Public Services:** Government agencies, public education, and Aging and long-term care
- **Health & Human Services:** Healthcare representatives and community action agencies
- **Community & Tribal Representation:** Tribal organizations and community members from Avista's Washington service area, and representatives of vulnerable and highly impacted populations
- **Business & Economic Stakeholders:** Small business owners

To learn more about the Equity Advisory Group, view its charter, complete a member interest form, see meeting dates, notes and recordings visit the group's webpage.

**Group Webpage:** [Equity Advisory Group](#)

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### **Electric IRP Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) - Washington and Idaho Focused**

**Electric IRP TAC Intent:** Each electric utility has the responsibility to identify and meet its resource needs with the lowest reasonable cost mix of conservation and efficiency, generation, distributed energy resources, and delivery system investments to ensure the utility provides energy to its customers that is clean, affordable, reliable, and equitably distributed. Avista must demonstrate and document how it considered input from advisory group members in the development of its IRP and two-year IRP progress report. Examples of how the utility may incorporate advisory group input include using modeling scenarios, sensitivities, and assumptions, and studies proposed by advisory group members, and by using data and information supplied by advisory group members as inputs to plan development.

**Electric IRP TAC Members:** This group includes a wide spectrum of stakeholders in the energy, environment, and policy sectors across the Pacific Northwest and beyond. Participants represent the following list of organizations:

- **Utilities & Energy Providers:** Avista, Idaho Power, Puget Sound Energy, Bonneville Power Administration, National Grid, Tyr Energy, Chelan County PUD, and Grant PUD
- **Renewable & Clean Energy Developers:** Biomethane LLC, Cyprus Creek Renewables, Heelstone Renewable Energy, Strata Solar, Renewable Northwest, and Clearway Energy
- **Government Agencies & Public Offices:** City of Spokane, Commission Staff (IPUC & WUTC), Washington State Department of Enterprise Services, Idaho environmental and energy offices, Pullman City Council, and Whitman County Commission.
- **Academic & Research Entities:** Academics, Northwest Power and Conservation Council, Pacific Energy Research Associates, and MRW Associates.
- **Consumer Advocates & Public Interest Groups:** Sierra Club, Idaho Conservation League (ICL), Carbon WA, Consumer advocates, Public Counsel, Climate Solutions, and NW Energy Coalition.
- **Businesses & Trade Associations:** Clearwater Paper, Inland Empire Paper, McKinstry, Building Industry Association of Washington, and Trade and Economic Development.
- **Technology & Consulting Firms:** Mitsubishi Power Americas, Innovari, Utilicom Consulting Group, and Phil Jones Consulting.
- **Interested Parties:** Tribal entities (Spokane Tribe of Indians), small businesses, utility peers, and independent power producers.

**Website:** [Integrated Resource Planning Website](#)

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### **Natural Gas IRP Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) - Washington, Idaho, and Oregon Focused**

**Natural Gas IRP TAC Intent:** Every natural gas utility bears the responsibility of meeting system demand by optimizing the mix of natural gas supply and conservation. Each utility is required to create an integrated resource plan (IRP) to fulfill this duty. These plans involve consultations with commission staff and public participation to help develop an effective strategy.

**Members:** Members can change, but current participants represent the following list of organizations:

- **Utilities & Energy Providers:** Avista, Intermountain Gas, Northwest Natural Gas, Cascade Natural Gas, and Fortis BC
- **Regulators & Government Agencies:** Idaho Public Utilities Commission (IPUC) Staff, Oregon Public Utility Commission (OPUC), Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC), Public Counsel/Attorney General of Washington, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (OR DEQ), Northwest Power & Conservation Council and the Energy Trust of Oregon
- **Advocacy Groups & Associations:** Oregon Citizens' Utility Board, NW Energy Coalition, Idaho Conservation League, Northwest Gas Association, Alliance of Western Energy Consumers, and RNG Coalition (listed twice—may indicate multiple reps or strong involvement)
- **Private Sector & Academia:** Energy Strategy, Biomethane LLC, and Lewis & Clark Law School

**Website:** [Integrated Resource Planning Website](#)

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### **Distribution Planning Advisory Group (DPAG) - Washington and Idaho Focused**

**DPAG Intent:** Established pursuant to RCW 19.280.100(2)(e), regarding participation in the Company's 10-year plan for distribution system investments and an analysis of nonwires alternatives for major transmission and distribution investments. The distribution system investment planning process should utilize a transparent approach that involves opportunities for interested parties to provide input and feedback.

**DPAG Members:** Participants represent the following list of organizations:

- **Government Agencies & Regulators:** Attorney General of Washington Office, Department of Commerce, Department of Ecology, Idaho Public Utilities Commission, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, Northwest Power and Conservation Council
- **Utilities & Energy Providers:** Avista, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation, PacifiCorp, Northwest Renewables

- **Legal & Academic Institution(s):** Lewis & Clark Law School
- **Industrial & Commercial Stakeholders:** Clearwater Paper Corporation and Inland Empire Paper Co
- **Consultants & Professional Service(s):** DeltaG Consulting
- **Advocacy & Trade Organizations:** Northwest Gas Association, Northwest Laborers' Employers Cooperation Fund, and NW Energy Coalition
- **Community Action & Nonprofits:** Rural Resources Community Action and Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners (SNAP)

**Website:** [Distribution Planning Advisory Group](#)

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