

**Session 1:** Wednesday, May 21, 2025, 12:00pm

**Session 2:** Friday, May 23, 2025, 07:30am



# Equity Advisory Group – Equity Lens Session

May 2025

| [www.myavista.com/ceta](http://www.myavista.com/ceta)



# Agenda

Topic	Topic Owner
Welcome, introductions overview of the meeting: rules and intent	<b>Amber Lenhart</b>
Connections/Partner Shares	Connections/Partners
EAG Comment and Action Review	<b>Amanda Ghering,</b> Regulatory Policy <b>Tamara Bradley,</b> Manager Social Impact
Strategies to improve community participation in meetings, presentations, and surveys	<b>Amber Lenhart,</b> Facilitator
Questions & Discussion	<b>Amber Lenhart</b>
Wrap-up and Adjourn	<b>Amber Lenhart</b>

# Ground Rules

- ☐ **Stay present** mentally and physically when possible.
- ☐ **Listen** with an open mind and be open to new ideas.
- ☐ **Participate** in discussion, share concerns and ideas, and give others space to do so.
- ☐ **Ask questions** at any time. Use Zoom's "raise hand" feature or chat during presentations.
- ☐ **Work together** to consider different perspectives and support the meeting goal(s).
- ☐ **Respect** the role of the facilitator to guide the group process.



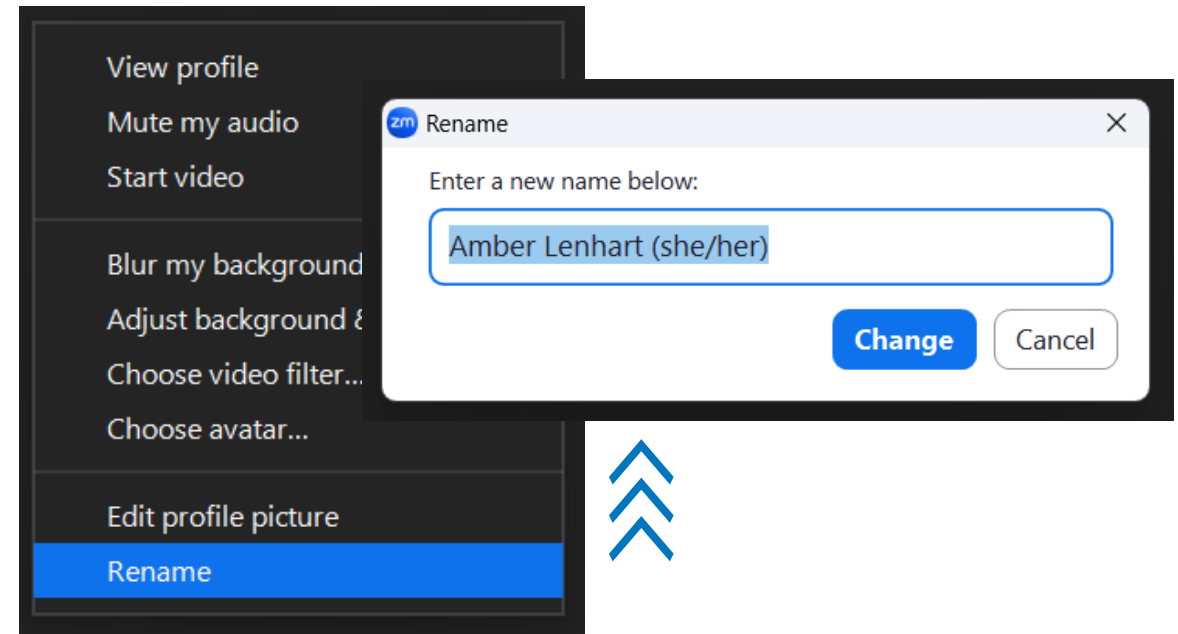
# Introductions

Please share in the chat:

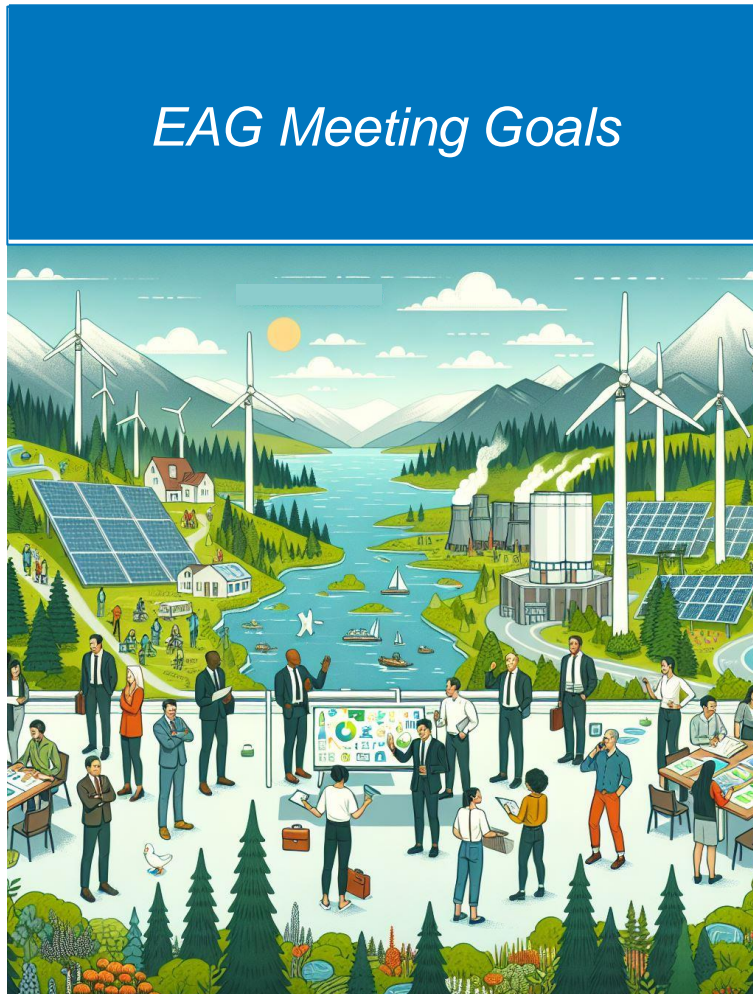
- ☐ Your name
- ☐ Organization or community

**Optional:** Consider including >>> your pronouns in your Zoom name

We're so glad  
you're here!



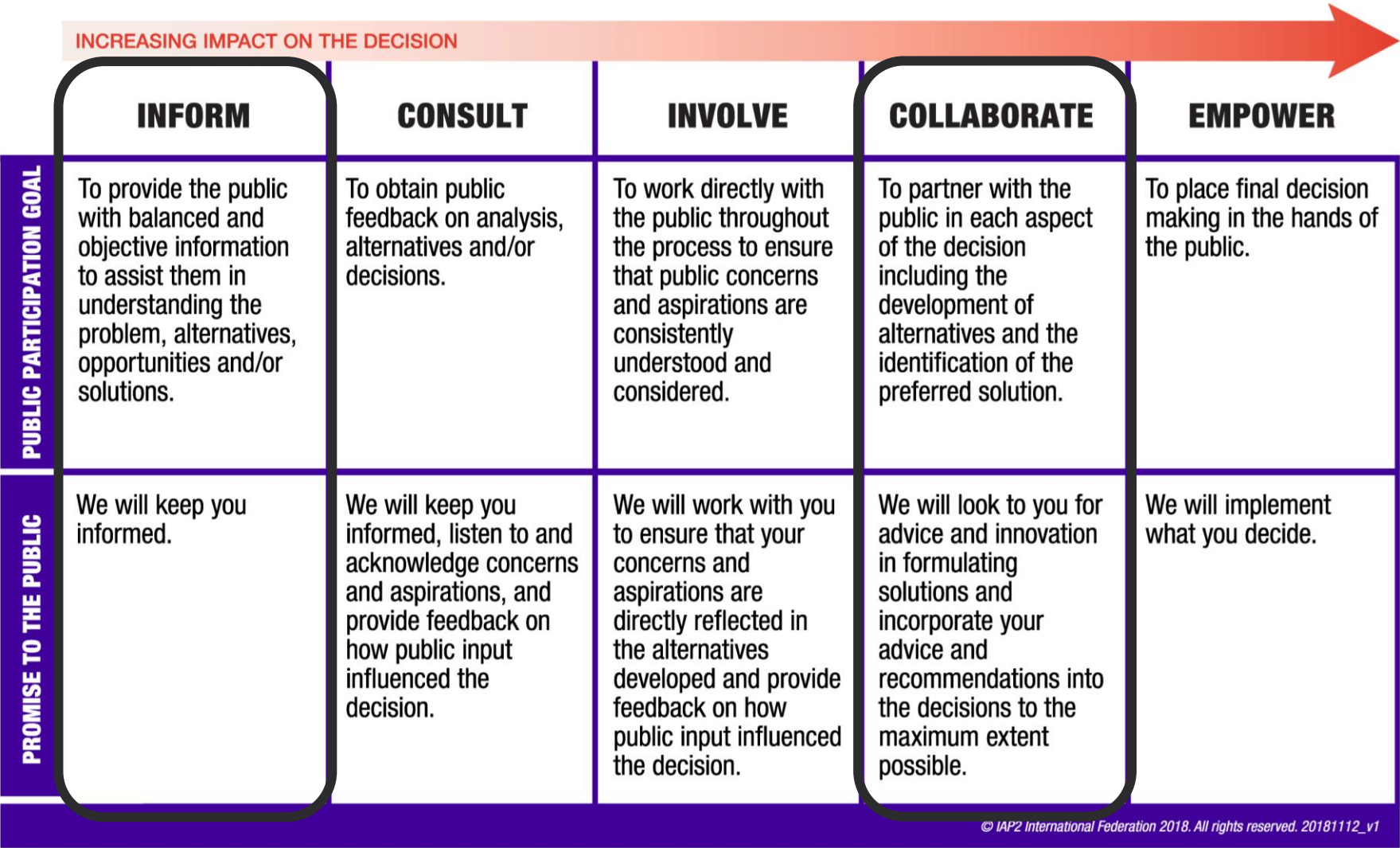
# Today's Equity Lens Session Goals



## EAG Equity Lens Session Meeting Goals:

1. Inform EAG members about April comments and actions.
2. Collaborate with EAG members to brainstorm solutions to improve community participation in meetings, presentations, and surveys.

# Spectrum of Public Participation





# Connection Question

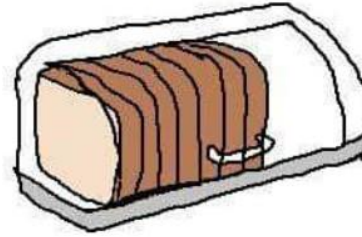
Which are you?

Why?

What does this help us learn about you?

lawful good

using a bread box



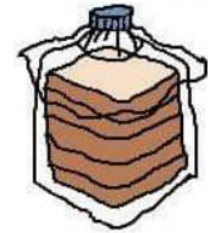
neutral good

using a bag clip



chaotic good

using the 'bottle hack'



lawful neutral

reusing the bag clip



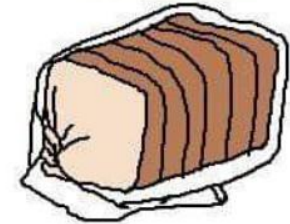
true neutral

rubberband



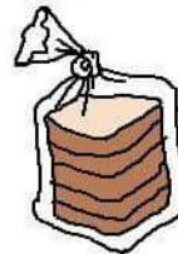
chaotic neutral

twist and tuck



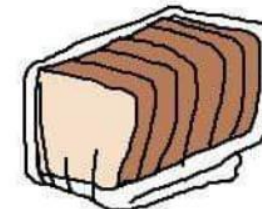
lawful evil

tying a knot



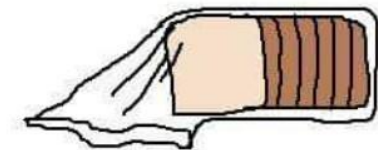
neutral evil

just tucking



chaotic evil

leaving the bag open



# Partner Shares

- Upcoming relevant community events or opportunities
- Pressing issues facing our community or a need someone might be able to address
- Challenges your organization is facing (especially around equity)







# EAG Comment & Action Review

# EAG Comments & Actions

Area	Comment	Avista's Response
<b>Customer Benefit Indicators &amp; Supplier Diversity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is Avista using OMWBE (Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises) list to determine supplier diversity? If you limit recognition to this list you will limit understanding of diversity in this region.</li> <li>State OMWBE certifies companies as minority or women owned, but not all companies eligible participate particularly in Eastern WA.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avista does utilize OMWBE as one resource for supplier diversity. Additional resources include, but not limited to: The Native Project, Hispanic Business Professionals Association, Spokane Independent Metro Business Alliance, Tribal Employment Rights offices of the sovereign nations, AHANA, and Inland Northwest Business Association.</li> </ul>
<b>Community Events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I would like to encourage more participation at community events and thinking about minority institutions, giving the example of the Filipino organization.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This will be part of today's discussion.</li> </ul>

# EAG Comments & Actions

Area	Comment	Avista's Response
<b>Alternative Customers Energy Sources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does Avista track if a household uses alternative energy sources?</li> <li>Are there potential dangers of individuals not informing Avista?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes, Avista tracks households with alternative energy sources that generates power who have returned an application for interconnection.</li> <li>Yes, there are potential safety concerns of power feeding back to the grid if the system is not connected properly and inspected.</li> <li>Additionally, customers who do not inform Avista, are not receiving all the financial benefits Avista's net metering program offers.</li> </ul>
<b>Outreach/ Comms</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does Avista have something for people with hearing impairment?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avista does have a call in line for hearing impaired customers. Digital Public meetings also include closed captions.</li> <li>We will keep hearing impairments in mind when making communication decisions.</li> </ul>



# Strategies to improve community participation in meetings, presentations, and surveys

Amber Lenhart | Facilitator, Social Impact Partners Northwest

# Who participates most?

## 2022 CEIP Survey Background

**Who:** 151,923 Washington electric customers

**What:** 23 energy questions | 11 optional demographic questions

**When:** July 19 – August 3, 2021

**How:** Online survey: English

**Promotion:** Email

**Completed Surveys:** 2,601 or 1.7%



**Demographic Responder Profile:** White, male, 66+, homeowner, heterosexual, English, college degree

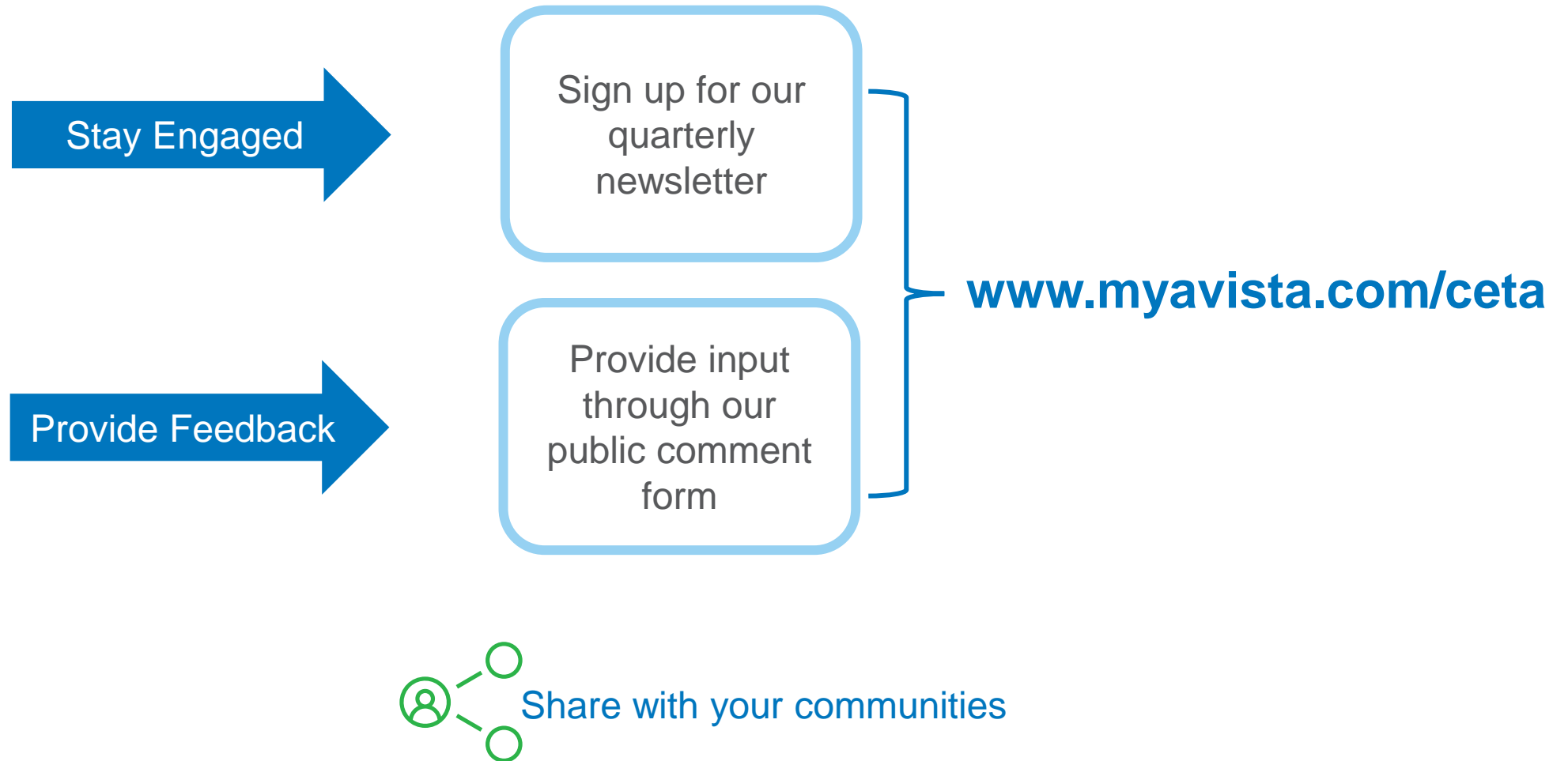
(From December 2024 EAG meetings)

# Time to brainstorm!





# Thank you



# Next EAG Equity Lens Session Meetings

Afternoon: 12pm – 1:30pm

**Wednesday, June 18**

**Friday, June 20**

Morning: 7:30am to 9:00am

**Amber Lenhart**  
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