

**Equity Advisory Group –
Equity Lens Session**

Meeting Date: October 19, 2022
 Time: 4:30pm – 6:00pm
 Location: Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

Facilitator:	EAG Members:
<i>Amber Lenhart</i>	<i>Alessandra Swenson</i>
Avista:	<i>Dave Tietz</i>
<i>Renee Coelho</i>	<i>KJ</i>
<i>Kim Boynton</i>	<i>Larry Mattson</i>
<i>Ryan Finesilver</i>	<i>Connie Kliewer</i>
<i>Amanda Ghering</i>	
	Guests:
	<i>Molly Brewer</i>
	<i>Shay Bauman</i>

Agenda

- | | | | |
|------|--|--------------------|-------------------|
| I. | Welcome & Introductions | Facilitator | Amber Lenhart |
| | – Overview of Meeting: Rules and Intent | | Amber Lenhart |
| II. | EAG Member Spotlight | | Amber Lenhart |
| III. | CEIP Condition 10 | | Tamara/Amanda/Kim |
| IV. | Named Communities Investment Fund
Prioritization Tool | | Amber/Ryan |
| V. | Your Support Team and Next Meeting | | Amber Lenhart |

Meeting Notes

Welcome & Introductions

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

EAG Member Spotlight

Larry Mattson works for Jacob Solutions an international architecture and engineering firm. Equity means that everyone has access to equal opportunity.

CEIP Condition 10

We would like your thoughts and feedback pertaining to condition 10, There are many topics that are encompassed within our conditions. Of the 38, 11 impact the EAG and we need your input, or you will help to make decisions around those 11. Read the Condition outlined on slide #11. Internally we have developed ideas that could be possibilities of a specific action that could serve a designated Named Communities. Kim will review these 8 projects. These are not the final list; we would love to hear from you this is really the starting point. We want to review our criteria and see if we are hitting the mark or if you have alternate items we should be tracking.

Projects that Avista has discussed internally that may qualify for condition 10 are:

- 50-unit apartment complex in the Mead area and could use some upgrades
- Rooftop solar, help to reduce energy burden for low-income housing
- Batteries for individual health devices (outage resiliency)
- Cooling devices for heat events
- Community solar
- EV & Charger for based organizations (CBOs), extend the reach of Avista's current programs through additional funding
- Global friendly AC/Ductless heat pumps
- Centralized system for coordinated benefits

We wanted to be able to rate the projects and so we reviewed how each project would impact our customer benefit indicators. We weighted each equity area first and went through each project and provided a score for each, from a negative 3 to a positive 9 scale, how much would it move the needle or help the metric for each CBI. We then multiplied the score by the weights and then we could decide how those projects would rank based on the CBIs alone, these do not include the budget, how soon can the project start and complete and the overall impact to customers, it is isolated that helps few but in a big way or a smaller impact but helps many customers. This will not be the final decision for selecting projects, but this would help add to a matrix for scoring.

EAG members, are there any of these projects that stand out to you? Are there other project ideas? And then we can move into scoring them.

Member: For each of them, I think oh yeah that is good, and then the next project seems good, so it will be hard to decide what and how we prioritize.

We are specifically talking about condition 10 but the EAG has \$500k annually to allocate which means we could move forward with the projects in other areas as well.

Company: Going back to things like affordability, access to clean energy, community development, energy security, etc., are there some you would rank higher than other equity areas?

Member: it seems like there are a couple of ways to slice this, I like the graphic with the weights and wonder if we can tweak the weights is that a possibility.

Company: Yes, we just added those for internal use, and we would love to hear your input to ensure we are using what customers would feel we should use, we are also open to other project ideas beside the 8 projects outlined in the slides,

Member: Tribal Energy working with the Spokane Tribe to bring in solar and I thought that was cool, they are putting solar on rental housing on the reservation to help offset the cost of heating and cooling and bring in additional resiliency. If there is a way to score projects that meet many equity areas, that would be great.

Company: community solar to be used for illustration, the idea there is that you put large solar panels in place and those feed the grid and if it is done locally, then if it has battery backup and large ones can, then that power can be stored and if there is an outage in substation then that battery stored power can be used to serve those houses that connected to the battery. Community solar can help with resiliency, energy burden, and impacts GHG and these large generation solar, wind etc., would positively impact many CBIs. Where EV is smaller in scale, and does not impact very many C BIs, does not impact energy burden, but moves the needles slightly in GHG but it moves the needles a lot for our EV CBI. We must look at many factors for each project, timeline, cost, CBI impacts, Customer impacts etc., We just wanted to put a tool in front of everyone to react to so we can get feedback and improve it.

Batteries for individual health may be a project that we can stand up easily and quickly. There are devices on the market that we could purchase.

We would like you to noodle on these projects, please feel free to reach out to Tamara, Renee or Amber with thoughts or project ideas.

Member: Is there other financing available to obtain for some of these programs.

Company: yes, community solar, would qualify for government funding, but that is the only one on this slide, there may be others out there. We primarily want to focus on energy assistance or energy efficiency programs, if they are outside that purview, we may need to discuss the projects in more detail.

We will be talking about this again in November.

Named Communities Investment Fund Prioritization Tool

Company: this tool is designed to help identify energy efficiency projects to use the EAG allocated \$500K from the Named Communities Investment Fund. The projects must be energy efficiency related or health, safety and repairs that enable energy efficiency projects to occur. How do we prioritize these projects that we will use these funds for? So that is what we are looking for. Avista can help guide and support projects, but the selection methodology is really where the EAG comes in and we need your help.

Facilitator: Named Communities refresher Highly Impacted Communities (defined by the department of health) and Vulnerable Populations (communities experiencing disproportionate risk) jointly referred to as Named Communities.

What does success look like? How do we know that we have been successful with the EAG directed projects?

Company: for me, success is felt when we receive customer letters stating that we made a difference in their community and how it has improved their lives.

Member: A decrease in energy use by the end user.

Member: There is a change, we can see and quantify the change, it did not stay the same.

Company: we have customers that we call hard to reach customers, the first-year financial burden for installation of energy efficiency can be hard, if there are customers that we can help to improve the efficiency in their home, that is something that should be celebrated.

Member: We helped or benefited XX number of customers in My neighborhood by doing Z.

What screening or prioritizing criteria should we consider?

Members:

- Energy efficiency related
- Is it sustainable? If money goes away, is there a way to keep the project going?
- One time investment?
- Impacts last longer than the projects
- Meets a need in a named community
- The project would be felt within the named community selected
- Within budget, meets scope
- Makes meaningful change within the community,
- Balance of portfolio projects
- Projects with measurable metrics
- Leave room to make changes as we learn and grow through this process, strive for transparency

Next steps for the NCIF, the prioritization is important as we need some kind of metric around the projects we chose. We do not want to halt projects that could go through this year. So, there is opportunity in this year, even in parallel with what we are working on for prioritizing. These funds are going to continue, we have this \$500K allocated for at least the next four years, please think about how would want to prioritize.

Wrap Up

Reminder of upcoming meetings on November 16th and 18th