

**Equity Advisory Group –  
Equity Lens Session**

Meeting Date: October 21, 2022  
 Time: 7:30am – 9:00am  
 Location: Zoom Meeting

**Attendees:**

<b>Facilitator:</b>	<b>EAG Members:</b>
<i>Amber Lenhart</i>	<i>Michele Bennington</i>
<b>Avista:</b>	<i>Margee Chambers</i>
<i>Renee Coelho</i>	<i>Will Von Bracht</i>
<i>Kim Boynton</i>	<i>Clair Trapp</i>
<i>Ryan Finesilver</i>	<i>Carmen Groom</i>
<i>Amanda Ghering</i>	<i>Rowena Pineda</i>
	<i>Tami Dillon</i>
	<b>Guests:</b>

**Agenda**

- I. Welcome & Introductions
  - Overview of Meeting: Rules and Intent
- II. EAG Member Spotlight
- III. CEIP Condition 10
- IV. Named Communities Investment Fund  
Prioritization Tool
- V. Your Support Team and Next Meeting

**Facilitator**

Amber Lenhart  
 Amber Lenhart  
 Amber Lenhart  
 Tamara/Amanda/Kim  
 Amber/Ryan  
 Amber Lenhart

**Meeting Notes**

**Welcome & Introductions**

Introductions and Meeting Rules and Intent

**EAG Member Spotlight**

Larry Matson

**CEIP Condition 10**

CEIP has a variety of conditions that Company is obligated to implement; 11 involve the participation of the Equity Advisory Group that would include consultation, input, decision making.

Reviewed the definition of Condition 10 which includes identification of a project to be pursued in a Named Community.

Reviewed the 8 projects that are being considered to satisfy this Condition. These include apartment complex renovation, rooftop solar installation, batteries for individual health devices, cooling devices for heat events, community solar, electric vehicle charger for community-based organization, global friendly air conditioning/ductless heat pump, centralized system for coordinated benefits (data exchange/centralized application and database to manage the qualification requirements).

EAG - Cooling devices for heat events/lack of greenery – Our Place does not have any trees on their street – next to Maple Street bridge – heat that comes through the bridge but further down the line. From a project perspective – could identify an area that has this situation –and then the homes that don't have the cooling piece. Systemic, lack of trees, lots of concrete – renovate an area – make improvements to the cooling.

EAG - Could pick a few projects for consideration.

EAG - if we pick a few categories – how do we recruit people/projects for these efforts.  
*Response: Still working through this internally – developing policy around it that we will bring back to EAG.*

AVA - Shade Tree program consideration for project implementation

EAG - In the city of Spokane, the Lands Council and the city have a partnership to plant shade trees in low-income neighborhoods. Maybe Avista can become a partner as well, if the EAG supports the concept.

EAG - Is there some system for ranking – front end ranking and how long this will make a difference?

EAG - I like the idea of partnering in the community on projects that fit into the categories. It stretches the investment!

- Not to mention bringing our named communities with us. Love these ideas!

Reviewed the matrix that was developed for the 8 projects that were identified for Condition 10 as well as other project considerations that include budget, schedule, resources, scope, impact to customers.

## Named Communities Investment Fund Prioritization Tool

Reviewed EAG led opportunities – amount available \$500k annually; projects must be an Avista customer, can be residential or business, project must be for energy efficiency or health safety and repair that enables energy efficiency.

How does the EAG want to approach this bucket of funds and to prioritize the projects? We want the EAG to own the process – Avista is here to support and provide guidance – the selection methodology is what will matter? If you have multiple projects – who/what goes first?

EAG – are we going to be folding in the leakage from methane and gas into this process? *Response – good question – determines what this group finds of value and what is success. There are other impacts there are other things that are benefitted by doing the project = reduction of emissions is one of them – inside or outside – is an Air Quality metric that could occur inside or outside. There is not a lot that is off the table that this group can address if it is impacting a Named Community and is within the realm of energy efficiency – there are many projects that will have multi-facet benefits; how far reaching is this project may be taken into consideration: gas emission, saving lives, reducing energy use.*

EAG - Another partnership idea is some air quality agencies in WA have grant funding to help offset some of the cost for wood stove changeouts (change out old polluting device, to new more efficient devices). And for some air agencies reserve some grant funds to pay for full replacement for low-income homeowner (or renter with homeowner approval). Tie in Avista energy efficiency upgrades with those low-income households.

Review of the Highly Impacted Community and Vulnerable Population definitions.

### Prioritization tool brainstorm

*What is Success* – reduce energy burden, improved health equity, reduce emissions, communities feel heard, and needs met,

*How will we know* – higher saturation rate of utilizing services and resources, short term and long-term benchmarks will take a long time to see, decrease in their Comfort Level Bill – received feedback that their bill is going down; number and types of projects – concern about short term gain, is it working? Is it a benefit to customers? Asthma levels. Wish we had someone from the health department that could speak to this.  
*AVA Response -there is a non-energy benefit identified linking overall health to what we offer – less missed days of work due to air quality or other things.*

EAG - How do different agencies coordinate in their collection of data? Hard for them to determine if data is being collected differently by different entities and not being shared. Avista, Ecology, State Dept Health, Local Health District and none are talking to each other – only looking at it from the perspective of each agency. Those agencies do not talk to one another. Improved coordination regard to data sharing.

EAG - Hospitals have same data base for health issues.

EPIC and ESSENCE – EPIC is the health chart and may be hard to obtain details; ESSENCE is the emergency room data and may be interesting to look at?

EAG - Urbanova, WSU, Spokane Public Schools – outdoor and indoor air quality monitors in low-income schools – measuring days missed of schools; days worked effects economic system and days missed school – affects level. Access to data for this information?

*AVA response – we are sponsoring air quality monitors; and collecting all the purple air monitoring data – use to aggregate air quality measurements in the Named Communities.*

*What type of Screening or Prioritization should be considered?*

EAG - Whatever it is - needs to be consistently used throughout all project evaluations.

EAG - Whoever is most at risk of the health indicators that we have – best way to achieve equitability with what we are trying to do.

EAG - How would we reach out to folks where English is not their first language?

*AVA Response– we are working with P3 in the process of analyzing the languages we should be utilizing – will have a playbook of how to utilize and support those needs around our communities. Will take that information and develop a plan.*

EAG - How do we capture the different dialects? Sometimes the numbers aren't there - nuances that we need to be aware of and address.

EAG – there is language access with developmental and intellectual disability – need access to other forms of communicating.

EAG – Do we look at the projects identified here and what is available – do we look at projects to collaborate with others or do we prioritize new projects?

Amber - \$500k annually – this is a lot of money or a little money – what is realistic to collaborative projects make more sense or are new projects going to be affective.

EAG - When SNAP looks to collaborate, they sub-contract with others for implementation and often use community-based agency to support; lifts others may be a criteria to reflect our values.

EAG - Does the funding need to be earmarked for a project or spent by the deadline?

*AVA response – may need to circle back with an answer – when it comes to the end of the year with the \$500k – missed the opportunity to spend the money.*

We (EAG) are not the roadblock for spending these funds – that should be considered.

## Wrap Up

Reminder of upcoming meetings on November 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

### Post meeting - Amber, Amanda, Renee

Amber can identify a process via results-based accountability – high medium and low; could be accomplished in an hour and a half.

Her sticky notes can be found:

<https://jamboard.google.com/d/1eSxnjvmiSbf6d7f2e0d0uLGvCtJozOOrvY1R2rMHAcM/viewer?f=3> for notes

Opportunity for P3 to interview Tami Dillon or others from skills-kin; and Rowena Pineda to better identify those language/dialects that do not always rise to the surface.

Verify if \$500k could be the June-to-June year due to the delay in CEIP approval. Would have dissatisfied EAG participants if the answer is no.

EAG Follow up post meeting

**Land Council and Tree initiative**

**From:** Margee Chambers <mchambers@spokanecleanair.org>

**Sent:** Friday, October 21, 2022 9:30 AM

**To:** Bradley, Tamara <Tamara.Bradley@avistacorp.com>; Coelho, Renee <Renee.Coelho@avistacorp.com>

**Subject:** [External] tree planting

Lands council & city of Spokane partnership.

<https://landscouncil.org/news/spocanopy> Low-income neighborhoods in Spokane.

If EAG is interested in pursuing, maybe Avista funds could broaden the scope of project to other Avista service areas. It ties in well with CBIs.

One challenge with trees, is that they will need to be watered for several years, and that could be a barrier.

I am just providing ideas and connections. I am not specifically advocating for certain projects.



**Margee Chambers**, Rule Writer / SIP Planner

Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency

(NEW!) 1610 S. Technology Blvd., Suite 101, Spokane, WA 99224

509.477.4727 x 114 Cell: 509.862.8255

[SpokaneCleanAir.org](http://SpokaneCleanAir.org)



**Asthma and Pollutants**

**From:** Margee Chambers <mchambers@spokanecleanair.org>

**Sent:** Friday, October 21, 2022 11:05 AM

**To:** Bradley, Tamara <Tamara.Bradley@avistacorp.com>; Coelho, Renee <Renee.Coelho@avistacorp.com>

**Subject:** [External] FW: EPA Updates EJSCREEN, Community EJ Mapping Tool

Another possible tool for identifying communities in need. Although, the communities in need are already identified.

The tool could possibly be used to for screening potential project in underserved areas. For example, Michelle brought up asthma. Maybe EAG evaluates EE projects that also reduce pollutants such as particulate matter and ozone that contribute to asthma attacks and increased asthma rates. Then we use the EJ tool to look as asthma rates in the named communities...consider the communities with the highest rates.....

Anyhow, sending tools that may OR may not be useful.

Margee

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**From:** [air\\_toxics@lists.4cleanair.org](mailto:air_toxics@lists.4cleanair.org) <[air\\_toxics@lists.4cleanair.org](mailto:air_toxics@lists.4cleanair.org)> **On Behalf Of**  
Stephanie Steigman  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 12, 2022 5:40 AM  
**To:** [air\\_toxics@lists.4cleanair.org](mailto:air_toxics@lists.4cleanair.org); [criteria\\_pollutants@lists.4cleanair.org](mailto:criteria_pollutants@lists.4cleanair.org);  
[mobile\\_sources@lists.4cleanair.org](mailto:mobile_sources@lists.4cleanair.org); [permitting@lists.4cleanair.org](mailto:permitting@lists.4cleanair.org);  
[public\\_outreach@lists.4cleanair.org](mailto:public_outreach@lists.4cleanair.org); [public\\_outreach\\_tribes@lists.4cleanair.org](mailto:public_outreach_tribes@lists.4cleanair.org)  
**Subject:** EPA Updates EJSCREEN, Community EJ Mapping Tool

To: NACAA Air Toxics Committee  
NACAA Criteria Pollutants Committee  
NACAA Mobile Sources and Fuels Committee  
NACAA Permitting/NSR Committee  
NACAA Public Outreach Committee

Below please find information from EPA about the updates and changes that have been made to EJScreen, the Agency's environmental justice screening and mapping tool. We thought these changes would be of interest to you.

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### **EPA Updates EJSCREEN, Community EJ Mapping Tool**

EPA has updated and added new capabilities to [EJScreen](#), the Agency's publicly available environmental justice screening and mapping tool. EJScreen 2.1 makes important improvements to better meet the needs of users, including the addition of new data on US territories, supplemental indexes, threshold maps, and refreshed demographic and environmental data.

EJScreen now includes environmental, demographic, and index data for the US Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands. Although EPA does not have the full complement of data for territories that are available for the fifty states, the inclusion of all currently available data is an important step forward in pushing for complete inclusion of all communities in the United States in such tools.

In addition to the twelve existing environmental indicators and corresponding EJ indexes, EPA has created a set of "supplemental indexes" as an additional method to highlight vulnerable populations that may be disproportionately impacted by pollution. The supplemental indexes use the same methodology and calculation as the EJ Indexes but incorporate a new five-factor supplemental demographic index. The five socioeconomic indicators considered are percent low-income, percent limited English-speaking, percent less than high school education, percent unemployed, and low life expectancy. While EPA will continue to primarily rely on the EJ indexes, which use an average of percent low income and percent people of color, the supplemental indexes can provide an additional perspective on potential community vulnerability and may be more relevant for use in certain situations such as awarding grants.

EPA has also included threshold maps with the release of EJScreen 2.1. The threshold maps allow EJScreen users to look across all twelve indexes at once, providing a

cumulative outlook on vulnerable populations facing higher pollution burdens. Threshold maps are available for both the EJ indexes and the supplemental indexes and are available for comparison at the national and state level, offering users the capability to take a broader view of the indexes to help highlight areas that may warrant additional consideration, analysis, or outreach.

This update also features the newest available 2016 – 2020 [American Community Survey](#) (ACS) data from the [U.S. Census](#). Some of the environmental datasets have also been refreshed. This update includes several enhancements to components of the methodology and underlying calculation for the EJ indexes and supplemental indexes. These were based upon user and expert academic feedback and will enhance the tool's ability and provide greater transparency into the inner workings of the tool.

EPA is holding multiple trainings and office hours for users on EJScreen 2.1. The trainings will provide an overview presentation on EJScreen, a discussion of the new features, a demonstration, and a Q&A session. The office hours will be a chance for the public to talk with EPA EJSCREEN experts about many topics including how to use and apply the tool, technical issues, and any other questions. These webinars will be accessible via Zoom and registration is not required. More information can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen/ejscreen-office-hours-training>. The next two opportunities are listed below:

Training Meeting Link: [October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 12:00 pm EST Meeting Link](#)

Office Hours Meeting Link: [November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 at 12:00 pm EST Meeting Link](#)

We hope that you will test out EJSCREEN 2.1 to see how it can serve your needs and [provide us feedback](#) on how we can continue to improve it. For more information on EJSCREEN, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen>.

### Grants for Reducing Pollutants

**From:** Margee Chambers <mchambers@spokanecleanair.org>

**Sent:** Friday, October 21, 2022 12:10 PM

**To:** Coelho, Renee <Renee.Coelho@avistacorp.com>; Bradley, Tamara <Tamara.Bradley@avistacorp.com>

**Subject:** PNA grant RE: [External] FW: EPA Updates EJSCREEN, Community EJ Mapping Tool

One more brainstorm. \$500,000 is a large dollar amount, but when you look at guestimated costs for some of the projects from this morning's presentation, depending on projects chosen, it could only fund a few projects. So, why not stretch the dollars by applying for a grant.

The Dept of Ecology has a grant program called Prevent Non-attainment Grants. It is intended to help reduce criteria pollutants in certain parts of WA that are on the verge of



violating the federal, health-based air quality standards. For much of eastern Washington, that pollutant is PM2.5. There is a strong focus on projects benefiting low-income areas. The next grant application cycle will be spring 2023.

<https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Payments-contracts-grants/Grants-loans/Find-a-grant-or-loan/Prevent-Nonattainment>

I do not have a project in mind. It would have to have an air pollution mitigation component though. It is just an idea. If this is something Avista/EAG is interested in, and the project is in Spokane Co, SRCAA could be a grant partner. The current grant requirements include must be a public agency. Or SRCAA could send a letter of support.

This grant uses the WA DOH health disparities map. Another screening tool that is available. <https://doh.wa.gov/data-and-statistical-reports/washington-tracking-network-wtn/washington-environmental-health-disparities-map>

Have a great weekend!