

**Equity Advisory Group –
Equity Lens Session**

Meeting Date: November 17, 2023
 Time: 7:30am – 9:00am
 Location: Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

Facilitator:	EAG Members:
<i>Amber Lenhart</i>	<i>Karen Boone</i>
Avista:	<i>Cindy Kimmet</i>
<i>Tamara Bradley</i>	<i>Tami Dillon</i>
<i>James Gall</i>	<i>Claire Trapp</i>
<i>Annette Brandon</i>	<i>Jean Kindem</i>
<i>Amanda Ghering</i>	<i>Vanessa Strange</i>
	<i>Will von Bracht</i>
	Guests:
	<i>Joshua Dennis</i>

Agenda

- I. Welcome & Introductions
 - Overview of Meeting: Rules and Intent
- II. Partner Shares
- III. Rates 101 - Continued
- IV. CETA Refresher
- V. Wrap-up

Facilitator

Amber Lenhart

 Amber Lenhart
 Amanda Ghering
 Annette Brandon
 Amber Lenhart

Meeting Notes

Welcome & Introductions

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

Partner Shares

Company: Shout out to customers and partners like aging and long-term care, one of the largest natural gas outages in the nation was experienced by Avista and we were able to restore service in less than a week with the help of many other partners. Provided space heaters and blankets to communities that were impacted through aging and long-term care.

Rates 101

Member: As costs increase, Avista makes a rate case. You have investors who buy shares into investors. Is there money given back to the community? I look at Spokane and their poverty levels

Member: Want to shout out for the Washington Bill Account program. We are working on providing discounts to customers. It is a wonderful program and I have helped customers receive up to 75% of their bill.

Questions about the My Energy Discount program from EAG members – Avista provided information and phone numbers.

Amanda walked through the multiple adjustments that can be made in a year.

Member: As an Avista customer, I never really understand the rate structure. It feels like as a customer, we are just forced to accept the rate increase. I wish there was more education around rates for the community.

CETA Refresher

Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA)

- Senate Bill 5116, passed by legislature in 2019
- Applies to all electric utilities in Washington and sets specific milestones to reach 100% clean energy supply
 - 2025 – eliminate coal-fired resources from serving Washington Customers
 - 2023 – electric supply must be greenhouse gas neutral
 - 2045 – electric supply must be 100% renewable or be generated from zero carbon resources



How do we go about implementing our plan towards a cleaner energy future? We have our IRP, CEAP, and CEIP, which are described further below and come with a public process.

Clean Energy Implementation Plan (CEIP)

Integrated Resource Plan (IRP)

20-year resource plan identifying lowest reasonable cost resource mix to provide energy to customers that is clean, affordable, reliable, and equitably distributed.

Clean Energy Action Plan (CEAP)

Included in the IRP and sets 10-Year targets for complying with clean energy supply standards under CETA.

Clean Energy Implementation Plan (CEIP) 2022-2025

4-year plan establishing the actions the utility will take to comply with CETA requirements in an equitable manner, including:

- Interim Targets
- Specific Targets
 - Demand Response
 - Energy Efficiency
 - Renewable Energy
 - Other

Must include:
Customer Benefit Indicators and metrics

Informed by Public Participation Process



Avista is working towards equitable outcomes for customers throughout this implementation period.

Equity in CETA

Ensure that all customers are benefitting from the transition to clean energy through the equitable distribution of energy and nonenergy benefits and reduction of burdens to Named Communities.

“Equitable distribution” means a fair and just, but not necessarily equal, allocation intended to mitigate disparities in benefits and burdens, and based on current conditions, including existing legacy and cumulative impacts

Avista **must** consider and address:

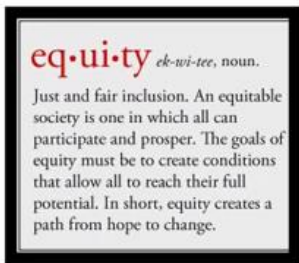
- Language Barriers
- Cultural Barriers
- Economic Barriers



Equity is being used in a lot of venues and contexts, This is Avista’s equity approach in energy. This is an active concept of understanding and delivering what customers need and how it will impact them downstream.

Common Terminology

“Equitable means
fair or impartial.”



Equity Treating all people fairly, and allocating resources and opportunities in a manner which an equal outcome

Energy Equity Ensures fairness of distribution of burdens and benefits, across determinant and outcomes correlated with **generation, delivery and consumption**

Equity in Practice Active concept of understanding and delivering what customer need
Seeking to overcome barriers to participation
Equity-focused actions are present at each stage of decision-making process

“Fair” - A fair process is ensuring that no group of people share disproportional burden associated with policies, decisions, or actions.

“Meaningful Participation” –


- people have the awareness and opportunity to participate in decisions, processes or activities that may affect their communities
- customer contribution has the ability to influence decisions
- customer input will be considered in the decision-making process
- Company outreach efforts seek out and facilitate involvement of those potentially affected.

Along with equity we are being held to a standard for energy justice

What is Energy Justice?


"Justice" is just (guided by truth, reason, justice, and fairness) treatment of all members of society

Equality




The assumption is that everyone benefits from the same supports. This is equal treatment.

Equity



Everyone gets the supports they need (this is the concept of "affirmative action"), thus producing equity.

Justice



All 3 can see the game without supports or accommodations because the cause(s) of the inequity was addressed. The systemic barrier has been removed.

justice [juhs-tis] SHOW IPA  

See synonyms for justice on Thesaurus.com Elementary Level





noun

- the quality of being just; righteousness, equitableness, or moral rightness: *to uphold the justice of a cause.*
- rightfulness or lawfulness, as of a claim or title; justness of ground or reason: *to complain with justice.*
- the moral principle determining just conduct.
- conformity to this principle, as manifested in conduct; just conduct, dealing, or treatment: *Victims of rape and sexual assault have the right to the evidence they need to seek justice.*
- just treatment of all members of society with regard to a specified public issue, including equitable distribution of resources and participation in decision-making (usually used in combination): *Environmental Justice means that all people, regardless of race or income, have the right to a clean and healthy environment. A group of moms in the Bridgeton area are advocating for health justice for those living around the landfills. When we speak of climate justice, we demonstrate our sensitivity and resolve to secure the future of poor people from the perils of natural disasters.*

Energy justice is making sure the barrier that started the inequity is addressed and resolved.

The energy justice tenets are a guide for ensuring we are hitting the mark on each of these components throughout our processes and procedures.

Energy Justice Components

	Procedural Justice	Who is vulnerable, who is privileged and how? Understanding historical and ongoing inequalities and prescribes efforts to reconcile.
	Recognition Justice	Who is at the table and what voice do they have in planning, decision making, and implementation? Ensures proceedings that are fair, equitable and inclusive.
	Distributional Justice	Who bears the brunt of the burdens and who benefits and how? Ensures Named Communities do not receive inordinate share of burdens or denied access to benefits
	Restorative Justice	How can we rectify past injustices caused by the energy system and prevent future harm?

This is the terminology we will be using that corresponds with each of the tenets above to put the terms in a more meaningful and understandable manner.



We rushed through the CBI process during the initial 2021 CEIP with the EAG and provided the following equity areas. We know that we rushed that process and now want to take a step back and look deeper at these CBIs and ensure that our values (safe, reliable, affordable) as a company are truly being reflected in the way we are making decisions, so this is setting the stage for our discussions throughout the next few months. We will dive into the original CBIs and determine if they are still accurate, should we add new ones, remove ones that don't fit any more etc.?

CEIP Customer Benefit Indicators



What are the benefits of an equitable energy system?

How well is an “action” achieving equitable access to energy and non-energy benefits or reduction of burdens related to the generation, delivery, or consumption of energy.



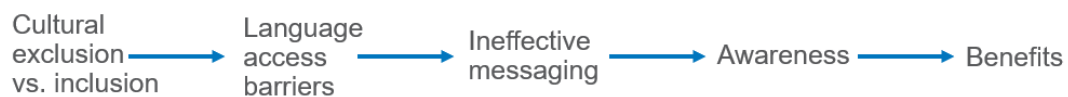
Looking upstream our Discussion Goal is:

To identify social, economic, environmental, and political factors that contribute to barriers that keep certain populations or communities from equitably benefiting from the transition to cleaner energy.

We are setting the stage for future discussions over the next several months, we had this conversation a year or two ago, we have new members, so this is a great opportunity to have these conversations again.

Future discussions for the group to reflect and discuss the “5 Why’s” which will help us to identify the root causes preventing customers from participating. We will go through this activity in a future meeting, so keep this in mind and how you can prepare and consider all the benefits.

➤ The 5 Why’s



- Consider the energy, social, economic, and environmental benefits of the energy system
- Think about the communities where you work and live
 - What barriers might keep them from reaching these benefits?
 - Why do they experience these barriers?
 - Why do the barriers exist?
 - What behaviors, social factors, economic differences, environments, and policies contribute to those barriers?

Member: This felt like a company that has a desire to engage with the community but not one that is in touch with its community. The areas that were listed do not reflect the actual barriers, the barrier is the distance between the customer and the company. Then also when I heard named communities that threw me because

there are many more people, white people which is considered the dominant, but they are also poor. It is a dominant culture they are speaking the same thing, they want the lights on and they want to be warm and they want to be able to pay the bill so they can maintain that. I would like to increase education on conservation and how to be a good partner with Avista in terms of an individual who is paying their bill and I would like to see Avista in the community as a community partner where information can flow freely, where you can get a voice from the community to impact equitable justice. You can't do that in a town hall meeting, get into the communities to get those voices that is necessary to make realistic outcomes.

Member: Thank you for the info, this is a lot to cover and is great to see Avista decide to become a partner, not just outward but inward with wanting to train its employees. People do not make the connectivity, bring plain language for how rates are driven, and how that works towards clean energy in some plain language.

Member: I am really impressed with what we have seen today, is there any way to get a copy of this to share with my org. and as a homeowner, are there things going on in my house where I am using power and I don't need to and I don't know it. Can there be an education program on that. I am impressed with everything here today.

Wrap Up

Thank you for all of your participation, we will take your feedback back to our officers to see how we can implement and include those.

We will send out an email on how you can participate in our next IRP TAC meeting.

Next Meeting | Support Team



January 17th
• 12:00 – 1:30 pm
January 19th
• 7:30 – 9:00 am

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