

**Equity Advisory Group –
Equity Lens Session**

Meeting Date: April 21, 2023
 Time: 7:30am – 9:00am
 Location: Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

Facilitator:	EAG Members:
Amber Lenhart	Margee Chambers
Avista:	Carmen Groom
Tamara Bradley	Will von Bracht
Annette Brandon	Connie Kliewer
Kim Boynton	Vanessa Strange
Amanda Ghering	
Ana Matthews	
Christine Selby	
Stephanie Sanders	
	Guests:
	Shay Bauman

Agenda

- I. Welcome & Introductions
 - Overview of Meeting: Rules and Intent
- II. Partner Share
- III. CEIP Condition #38
- IV. Equity Refresher
- V. Energy Justice
- VI. Your Support Team and Next Meeting

Facilitator

Amber Lenhart

 Amber Lenhart
 Kim Boynton
 Amber Lenhart
 Annette Brandon
 Amber Lenhart

Meeting Notes

Welcome & Introductions

Introductions, Meeting Rules/Intent, and review of today’s agenda. We have a new member tonight, Jean Kindem, Welcome Jean.

Partner Share

Member: There is a program called senior assistance fund of WA, it provides things for people who need to have a certain amount of money to apply for housing and things that would make their housing more homely, like pots, pans, dishes, bedding etc., I will provide an email to someone at the Company, to Tamara, so others can learn more.

Company: Aging and Long-Term Care is doing wonderful things.

Member: I am hosting an event in the month of May either the 18th or 25th, this will be our kick-off event for our 699 KW solar installs for our residential project of 120 homes. This should be at the two rivers resort and marina, speakers will be there from the department of energy, the state, the tribal council, and myself.

Member: SNAP was able to give out 1.7 million in funds last month and had a great fund raiser with the department of corrections and we have a power of connection event with an ALICE simulation. SNAP Power of Connection: <https://www.snapwa.org/connect/>

Member: Just finishing the last 3 chapters of the books we have been reading, the power of feeling like you belong is so important.

Company: We did have a virtual public participation meeting around our CEIP and focus on low-income energy assistance, one meeting at noon with about 72 participants and another at 5pm which was not as well attended, but we are going to have another large meeting June 27th and we will make sure you receive the invite. We will also be filing our Public Participation Plan on May 1, so we will share that will you once it is filed.

[CEIP Condition No. 38](#)

Condition 38 directs:

“Avista must choose at least two of its current CBIs which it will track for at least five subsets of named communities, at a granularity to be determined by agreement with Staff, stakeholders, and the Company’s Equity Advisory Group. Avista will incorporate relevant updates in its 2023 Biennial CEIP update.”

We reviewed our 14 CBIs and which ones would be the best do dig into for named communities, so we started the following process

Process for selecting CBIs and subset criteria

1. [Determine which CBIs lend themselves to further sub-categorization](#)
2. Brainstorm possible sub-categories
3. Review internally
4. Identify data sources for sub-categories
5. Develop new metrics

CBI
(1) Participation in Company Programs
(2) Number of households with a High Energy Burden (>6%)
(3) Availability of Methods/Modes of Outreach and Communication
(4) Transportation Electrification
(5) Named Community Clean Energy
(6) Investments in Named Communities
(7) Energy Availability
(8) Energy Generation Location
(9) Outdoor Air Quality
(10) Greenhouse Gas Emissions
(11) Employee Diversity
(12) Supplier Diversity
(13) Indoor Air Quality
(14) Residential Arrearages and Disconnections for Nonpayment

Through a lot of internal review, we landed on energy burden and CEMIO

Condition #38 subsets

1. Highest Income Named Community Census Tract
2. Lowest Income Named Community Census Tract
3. Named Community households identified with occupants over Age 65*
4. Named Community households identified with homes built before 1980*
5. Named Community households with identified Home Owners*
6. Named Community households with identified Renters*
7. Named Community households calculated as Low Income

Burden - NC Households	
Highest Income Census Tract	149+
Lowest Income Census Tract	1,021+
Occupants Over Age 65	529 ↗
Home Built Before 1980	723 ↗
Home Owners	13,189 ↗
Renters	9,282 ↗
Low Income	27,379 ↗

CEMIO - NC Households	
Highest Income Census Tract	80.8%+
Lowest Income Census Tract	6.5%+
Occupants Over Age 65	30.3% ↘
Home Built Before 1980	24.1% ↘
Home Owners	35.9% ↘
Renters	27.3% ↘
Low Income	24.6% ↘

CEMIO means the customers experiencing an outage greater than 0 times a year. And we looked at the information above within each of the 2 CBIs, CEMIO and High Energy Burden. Remember CBI stands for Customer Benefit Indicator - Avista has 14 CBIs in our Clean Energy Implementation Plan. Our CBIs help us measure our transition to a cleaner future and ensure equitable benefits are being received by all customers. Named Communities are made of two populations - Highly Impacted Communities and Vulnerable Populations. We tried to keep these categories useful and large enough that the data is measurable. There was a lot of thought that went into this data, and we want to make sure we are hitting the mark with these additional metrics. When we developed the CEIP, the WAC said we had to identify Named Communities vs all customers. They did not think we were digging deep enough into the named communities, and they did not want us to miss pockets, so this is our way of digging deeper.

That was a lot of information, are there any questions? categories, do they feel like they make sense or would you dd others?

Facilitator: Is there a reason that the burden numbers are raw numbers where the outage data are proportions?

Company: In burden we are counting the number of households that have an energy burden and CEMIO is expressed as a percentage across the industry.

Facilitator: How will Avista use these metrics or tracking for programing or decision making?

Company: The CBIs are designed to show the equity transfer of benefits for the move to a carbon free generation. It would follow that year over year would lead to some expectation of action for Avista to take from the CBIs. For instance, we may find that certain areas or CBIs are indicative of not an equitable transition, so the EAG, the Commission, the Company may decide to change course or offer programs to ensure we

affect change. Those metrics are supposed to show us if we are moving in the right direction.

Member: These subsets make sense. Were there other categorical considerations like households with children, or households with occupants that have a disability or are medically fragile?

Company: Yes, we thought of others, but we needed to use targets that we know we have data for and that we can maintain for a 20-year span of time. Some data is harder to get than others and so, yes, we did consider others, but we need sustainable data for the metrics we are calculating.

Member: Can you explain the burden, what the numbers represent.

Company: Energy burden is a calculation, the percentage of your annual income that you spend on energy, so if you spend \$2000 a year on energy and you make 50k a year, then you are spending 4% on energy, anything above 6% is considered high energy burden.

Member: I think the metrics make sense.

Facilitator: Please send emails for questions to Kim, we are running short on time, if we have time at the end we can come back around to additional questions.

If you have questions or want to talk about data kim.boynnton@avistacorp.com

Equity Refresher

Recognizing that we all have different ideas and perspectives on equity and what it means to each of us.

Member: Equity is fairness

Member: Equity means that everyone gets what they need because that may be different for everyone so they can access what they need.

Member: That everyone is acknowledged and seen

Member: Justice and recognizing that not everyone starts at the same place equity looks different for everyone.

Definition:

equity [ek-wi-tee] [SHOW IPA](#)  

[See synonyms for equity on Thesaurus.com](#)

 Elementary Level

noun, plural eq-ui-ties.

- 1 the quality of being fair or impartial; fairness; impartiality:
the equity of Solomon.
- 2 something that is fair and just:
The concepts and principles of health equities and inequities are important to society as a whole.
- 3 the policy or practice of accounting for the differences in each individual's starting point when pursuing a goal or achievement, and working to remove barriers to equal opportunity, as by providing support based on the unique needs of individual students or employees.: Compare [equality](#) (def. 1).

It is an ongoing active process, accounting for differences in each individual starting point. We are all starting at different starting points in life and that needs to be accounted for.

Accounting for differences in each individual's starting point:

- Rural/urban neighborhood
- Race and ethnicity
- Educational attainment
- Income

Equity means getting rid of the barriers people face along the way. Making a place safe and accessible for all.

EQUALITY:

Everyone gets the same—regardless if it's needed or right for them.



EQUITY:

Everyone gets what they need—understanding the barriers, circumstances, and conditions.



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Equity is around us all the time even if we do not notice or look for it. Providing support based on unique needs

EQUALITY:

Everyone gets the same – regardless if it's needed or right for them.



EQUITY:

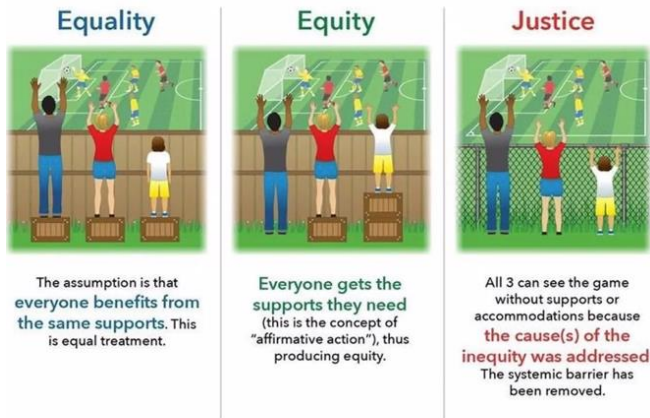
Everyone gets what they need – understanding the barriers, circumstances, and conditions.



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Energy Justice

We are not here to change your point of view on equity, we want to share the justice lens with you and how it fits into equity. Justice is addressing the cause of the inequity. Just treatment of all members of society about specified public issues, including equitable distribution of resources and participation in decision making.
Energy Justice =



justice [juhs-tis] SHOW IPA

See synonyms for justice on Thesaurus.com

Elementary Level

noun

- 1 the quality of being just; righteousness, equitableness, or moral rightness: to uphold the justice of a cause.
- 2 rightfulness or lawfulness, as of a claim or title; justness of ground or reason: to complain with justice.
- 3 the moral principle determining just conduct.
- 4 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.
- 5 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 the integration of justice principles, fairness, and social equity into energy systems and energy system transition (including clean energy transition). Focus on ensuring equity in energy systems from production through consumption.

- Built upon the traditions of environmental justice and climate change movements.
 - Environmental justice focused on civil rights, social, inclusion
 - Climate Justice focus on social, racial, environmental
- Key Concerns are:
 - Access, Distribution of harms, Fairness of decision making, Informed participation
- Considers human element:
 - Is fair in how people and communities are treated in energy decision making;
 - equitably shares both the benefits and burdens involved with production and consumption of energy services.
- Incorporates racial, economic and social justice aspects
 - Safe, reliable, accessible energy for all individuals



(Sovacool and Dworkin 2014; Sovacool et al. 2017; Bouzarovski and Simcock 2017; Heffron and McCauley 2017).

AVISTA

How has energy justice evolved?

1970's – 1980's Environmental Justice

1970
1980

- Roots in Civil Rights Movement
- Inclusion in Decision Making,
- Public Health, Remediation of Harm
- Public Health, Social Justice – concerned with the distribution of benefits or reduction of harms
- Anti-Racism, Environmental Racism

1990's and 2000 - Climate Justice

1990
2000

- Inclusion to decision making
- Shaping policy efforts to avert disproportionate climate harms
- Connection of Social, Racial and Environmental issues
- Consideration for those who are most adversely affected

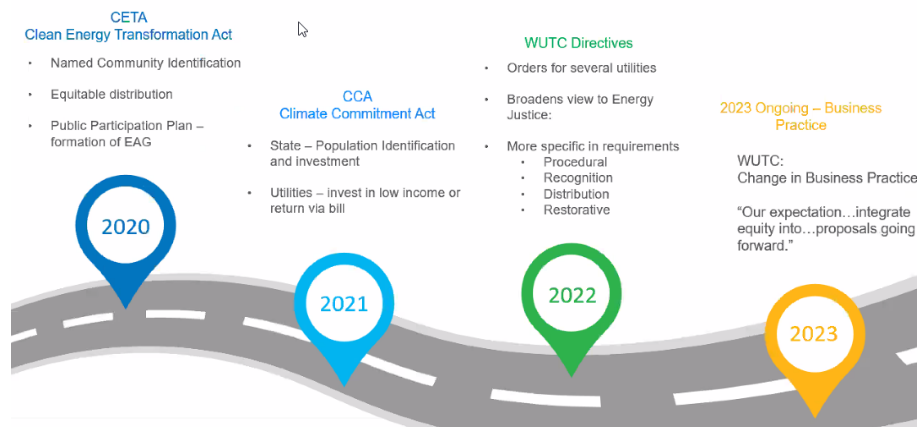
2000's forward – Energy Justice

2000+

- Same focus areas as Environmental and Climate Justice
- Human Centered
- Equitable
- Fairness in Energy Systems

How did we get to energy justice within our utility guidance from the Commission? CETA started the inclusion of equity within the utility system, the CCA brought additional equity because CETA was electric only and CCA is applicable to electric and natural gas systems, we may expand this group a little bit to also discuss natural gas and not only electric to ensure the decisions we are making benefits all customers and not just electric customers. Next, the Commission has provided directives to three WA utilities through orders in their general rate cases that broadens the view of energy justice even further.

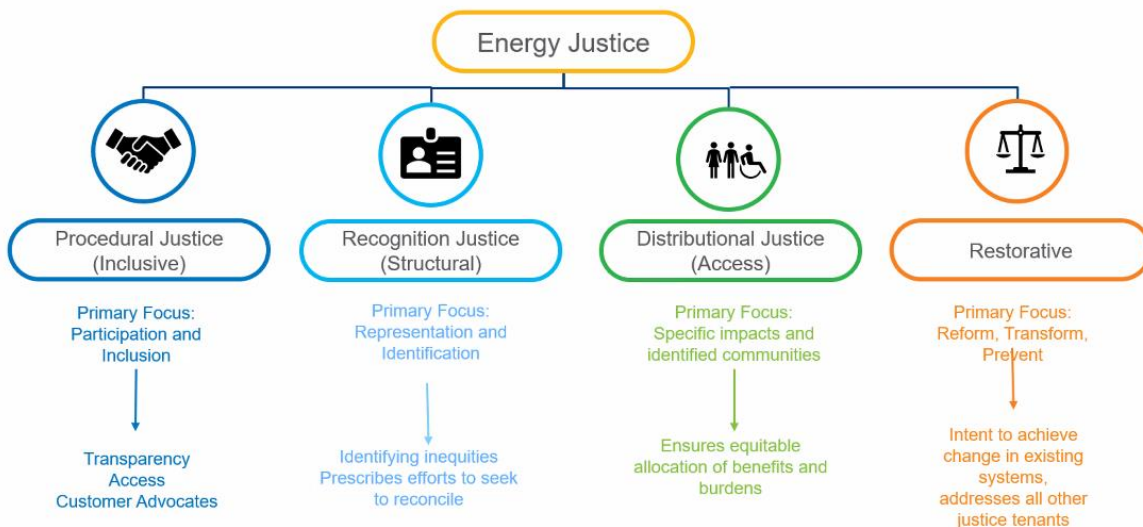
Evolution of Energy Justice For Utilities



We will dig into procedural, recognition, distribution, and restorative justice. We will be looking at our policies deeper and ensure that the programs we implement are not inadvertently impacting our customers disproportionately. We are ensuring all companywide initiatives take this into account.

Member: Ecology has completed one piece of that work from the Climate Commitment Act. We've identified 16 communities across the state that are overburdened (health, social and economic inequities) AND face high levels of air pollution. Learn more:

Focus Areas (“Tenants”)



How can we as the utility make information more readily available, more transparent, and help ease of understanding. Customers feel they do not have advocates, we heard this during our public meeting last week, but there are customer advocates, and how can we share this information more broadly, so customers know they have a voice. The Attorney General’s office is there to support customers and advocate for customers, here is the link to provide input or comments to Public Counsel <https://www.atg.wa.gov/public-input> Or reach out to the Commission through the Washington Utilities and Transmission Commission's comment form. <https://www.utc.wa.gov/consumers/submit-comment/public-comment-form>

Guest: That is true. My office's primary task is to represent and advocate for all residential customers. Thanks for the nod, Annette. Agree that we need to figure out how to better communicate the role of the consumer advocate.

Utilities need to make sure they are looking to see who they are not calling out in policies and programs as well, and it should be a normal question we ask every day. We often talk about using the equity lens, but did we ever define what that means, so we are bringing you our new acronym, DRIP, intentionally use all 4 components of the DRIP from production to consumption of energy, how can we keep energy equity at the forefront.

Equity Advisory Group “Call to Action”

<p>D Distribution in a purposeful manner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • does not exasperate historical or current inequities • considers who and how benefits/reduced risks are allocated 	<p>R Recognizing and understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considers individual characteristics, values, assumptions, and starting spot • Inequities embedded in historical and current policies/programs
<p>I Inclusive Participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fair, transparent decision making, • deliberately seeking to include those previously not represented in decisions 	<p>P Process that involved a fair evaluation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outcomes • and measurement for success • Justice principles*

28 *was the cause of inequity addressed?

Equity Lens

Putting it all Together

How does this Impact the EAG?



- ✓ Broaden “equity lens” to intentionally consider all four components of the DRIP equity areas (the UTC will look for this feedback)
- ✓ Consider impacts from “production to consumption.
- ✓ Consider indirect impacts.



Facilitator: I have work for years to get organizations thinking about equity so to see it come full circle and companies are working on it is great.

Wrap Up

Thank you all for your wonderful ideas, please feel free to send us any additional ideas. In May we will discuss wildfire impacts and initiatives.

In May we are discussing wildfire and Amanda and Amber will be facilitating. On June 1st we are looking at hosting a meeting to go over Condition 23, would you prefer to keep our June sessions and still go June 1, or would you like to cancel our June meetings and only attend the June 1 meeting? This will be recorded and sent to all advisory groups after the fact in case. We will send out an email poll as well for those were not able to attend.

Reminder of upcoming meetings on May 17th and 19th

Member: It make my heart happy to see all the work Avista is doing around equity, so thank you for including me. I can tell a lot of work went into this.