

**Equity Advisory Group –
Equity Lens Session**

Meeting Date: May 17, 2023
 Time: 4:30pm – 6:00pm
 Location: Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

Facilitator:	EAG Members:
<i>Amber Lenhart</i>	<i>Tami Dillon</i>
Avista:	<i>Cindy Kimmet</i>
<i>Matt Ulgadea</i>	<i>KJ January</i>
<i>Annette Brandon</i>	<i>Clyde Abrahamson</i>
<i>Melanie Rose</i>	
<i>Amanda Ghering</i>	
<i>Ana Matthews</i>	
	Guests:
	<i>Shay Bauman</i>
	<i>Sofya Atitsogbe</i>

Agenda

- I. Welcome & Introductions
 - Overview of Meeting: Rules and Intent
- II. Partner Share
- III. Wildfire Planning
- IV. Equity Refresher
- V. Your Support Team and Next Meeting

Facilitator

Amber Lenhart

 Amber Lenhart
 Melanie Rose/ Matt Ugaldea
 Annette Brandon
 Amber Lenhart

Meeting Notes

Welcome & Introductions

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

Partner Share

Member: Pride month is coming up and so on June 10th, the Friday before hand there is a 2 spirt pow wow and will send us the information to share with everyone. The Pow Wow will be downtown along with the pride day.

Member: there is the Greater Spokane Food access and shows where local food markets are and there is a match option to support others and help encourage sustainability.

Member: woman helping woman just provided a new report, around health equity issues. Women Helping Women Fund State of Women and Children Report 2.0 and data dashboard: www.whwfspokane.org/data-and-research

Equity Refresher

A quick refresher on the Equity focus areas or tenants of Equity as we head into our conversation today around wildfire. We want to ensure customers are receiving equitable benefits. We want to ensure we are being inclusive; do we have all of the voices at the table, are we including all of our service area, urban/rural/tribes, etc., Is the data transparent is it accessible.

Wildfire Resiliency Plan

Our goal is to reach 16 different counties in WA during this fire season to inform them of our plan and how it may impact them while collecting feedback on how we can partner with others to support our communities. Wildfire risk is increasing in our area and so it is so important to raise awareness around the risks and mitigation potentials. In 2020 we released our 10-year wildfire plan which aims to prevent, mitigate, and reduce the impacts of wildfires. We plan to spend over \$410 million dollars over the 10-year plan horizon.

Grid Hardening: replace and/or strengthen electric infrastructure, especially in fire prone areas to protect it from possible damage and reduce the likelihood of spark-ignition sources. Started to replace old copper wiring and wooden cross arms with fiberglass crossarms which are not conductive and will not catch fire. We also added plastic sleeves on the poles to the squirrels and animals cannot touch the wire and pole at the same time and cause sparks. This is a high-level overview of what we are doing to try to prevent wildfires, but it also helps to increase reliability of service which is also a huge benefit. We were able to help in 180 miles with upgrades in our highest risk areas.

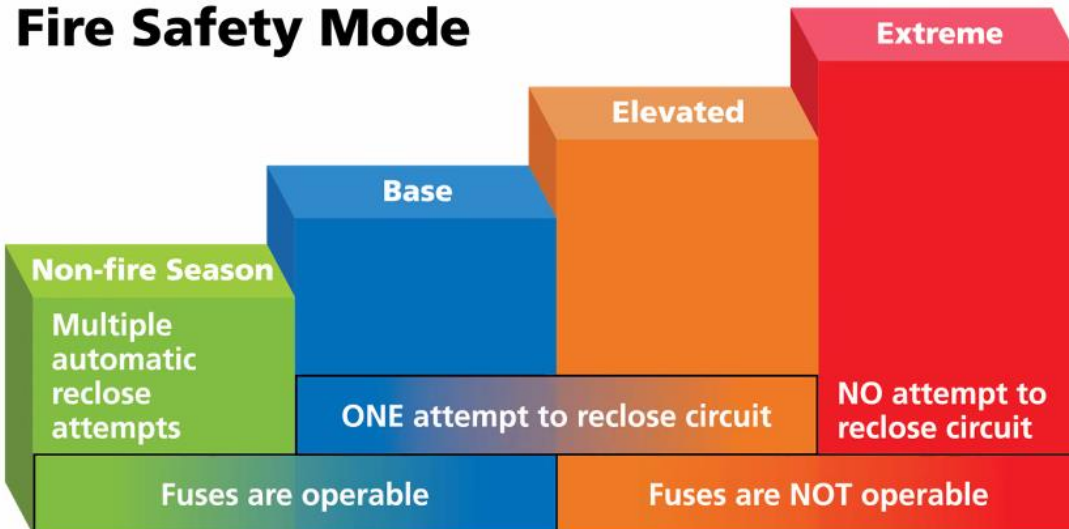
Vegetation Management: Inspect 100% of the electric system annually to identify and remove dead, dying, and diseased trees and incorporate remote sensing technologies like LiDAR and Satellite images to assist with inspections. Most lines are patrolled manually, but hard to reach areas we are able to use the LiDAR technology.

Situational Awareness: Active monitoring of potential fire risk and aligning system protection with that risk. We stream weather data into this model and calculates near real time risk score. We review a 7-day outlooks based on the forecast. This allows us to plan for potential issues and monitor where the risk is to address it quickly or figure out if we can mitigate any issues.

Operations and Emergency Response: Partnering with 1st responders to promote safety for workers and citizens. We have what we call fire safety mode which is outlined below: This may result in customers experiencing longer outages during the summer months with customers are not used to.

Full Range of Protection Settings

Fire Safety Mode



A permanent fault (circuit that won't close automatically) requires thorough inspection before reclosing the circuit. This additional step may extend the duration of a outage.

Wildfire Outreach in 2023

Key Stakeholders:

- Public Safety Partners
- Elected Officials & Municipalities
- Community Leaders

Customers:

- Commercial and Industrial
- Residential
- Medically vulnerable

Strategies:

- Telephone Town Hall Meetings
- Outreach – Regional Business Managers & Account Executives
- Communications – newsletters, email, videos, collateral materials, events



We are hosting telephone townhall meetings where we reach out to customers on their phone and see if they are able to join the conversation around wildfire plans and hear their questions and concerns. It is a great way to reach more customers and engage our community. This year we will be translating our outreach materials in Spanish, Russian, Ukrainian pertaining to our wildfire plan to reach more customers as well. There will also be live translations available during the townhall meetings.



Emergency Response in Your County

- What should we be aware of?
 - Top safety priorities
 - Critical infrastructure
 - Concerns
- How is your community preparing for wildfire season?
- If you experienced an extended power outage, what support would your community need?
- Key contacts and notification process
- Languages for translation
- Partnership opportunities for public safety and community engagement
- Next steps...

This was a really nice presentation and I know it is great to know that my home would still be standing in the event of an issue.

The justice40 map syncs very nicely with our Washington highly impacted community maps (part of Named Communities) that we have been discussing as part of CEIP.

Member: Out of curiosity, how are you using the information on how people would like to be communicated with, how are you able to keep those lines of communication open?

Company: We are using the phone system, phone calls typically.

Facilitator: I am imagining the experience of having an outage in the summer and I do not have AC/ I might take my kid to the mall, but for rural customers, are there mitigations in place to help with the disparities of customers who do not have the ability to do that,

Company: Yes, we are working with community partners to identify and locate those community resources and how might we turn that into a cooling center etc.,

Wildfire and Equity Discussion

Equity Advisory Group “Call to Action”

<p><i>Distribution in a purposeful manner:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>does not exasperate historical or current inequities</i>• <i>considers who and how benefits/reduced risks are allocated</i>	<p><i>Recognizing and understanding</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Considers individual characteristics, values, assumptions, and starting spot</i>• <i>Inequities embedded in historical and current policies/programs</i>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Equity Lens</h2> <hr/> <h3 style="text-align: center;">Putting it all Together</h3> <p style="text-align: center;">How does this Impact the EAG?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ 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.
<p><i>Inclusive Participation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>fair, transparent decision making,</i>• <i>deliberately seeking to include those previously not represented in decisions</i>	<p><i>Process that involved a fair evaluation of:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>outcomes</i>• <i>and measurement for success</i>• <i>Justice principles*</i>	

as an EAG member, lets be intentional about this discussion and ensuring we are including more people in our wildfire discussions. How can we be more intentional and make sure our words are understandable.

<https://www.myavista.com/safety/were-doing-more-to-protect-against-wildfires>

Wrap Up

Thank you all for your wonderful ideas, please feel free to send us any additional ideas. We are replacing our June meeting with this June 2nd meeting from 10am to noon where we will discuss proposed Joint Advocate CBIs that were proposed during the CEIP development in 2021 and were not adopted, We will also discuss our proposed indoor air quality metrics. This will be a joint meeting with the Equity Advisory Group, the Energy Assistance Advisory Group and the Energy Efficiency Advisory Group. This meeting will be recorded and posted to our clean energy webpage.