

**Equity Advisory Group –
Equity Lens Session**

Meeting Date: August 25, 2023
 Time: 7:30am – 9:00am
 Location: Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

Facilitator:	EAG Members:
Amber Lenhart	Karen Boone
Avista:	Cindy Kimmet
Tamara Bradley	Vanessa Strange
Amanda Ghering	Tami Dillon
Kristine Meyer	Margee Chambers
Stephanie Myers	Claire Trapp
David Schafer	Carmen Groom
Kelly Dengel	
	Guests:
	Sofya Atitsogbe
	Mason Burley

Agenda

- I. Welcome & Introductions
 - Overview of Meeting: Rules and Intent
- II. Partner Share
- III. Named Communities Investment Fund
- IV. Renewable Energy Projects
- V. Martin Luther King Center Partnership
- VI. Your Support Team and Next Meeting

Facilitator

- Amber Lenhart
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- Kristine Meyer
- Stephanie Myers
- David Schafer
- Amber Lenhart

Meeting Notes

Welcome & Introductions

Introductions and Meeting Rules and Intent

Partner Share

Member: RAZ- Community event for central valley school district was successful about funds and programs available. Also have lots of events coming up this month, link here: <https://razethenarrative.com/about>

Member: Clothing drive offering from shelters for people in need where people can pick out gently used clothes. The intent is to help people impacted by both the Gray Rd Fire and the Oregon Rd Fire. This is through Red Cross. Volunteer ran so always in need of volunteers.

Low-cost way to filter the air in your home, are there any resources or tips for those that cannot find filters in town.

DIY link: wildfire smoke, create a clean room: <https://spokanecleanair.org/wp-content/uploads/Wildfire-Smoke-Create-Clean-Room.pdf>

preparing of wildfire smoke website: <https://spokanecleanair.org/air-quality/wildfire-smoke/>

Named Communities Investment Fund

Overview

Avista's Named Communities Investment Fund was approved by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission and will **invest up to \$5 million annually** in projects, programs, and initiatives that directly benefit our Washington electric customers residing in historically disadvantaged and vulnerable communities.

The fund enables Avista to **partner directly with community organizations** to help achieve the goal to serve its customers with 100 percent clean electricity by 2045 and to have a carbon-neutral supply of electricity by the end of 2027.

Eligible projects must **benefit populations located within Named Communities** and **impact the Customer Benefit Indicators**.

NCIF Breakdown:

- Specific Action dedicated to the equitable distribution of energy and non-energy benefits and reduction in burdens to Named Communities
- Funding is limited to 1% or approximately \$5.0 million annually

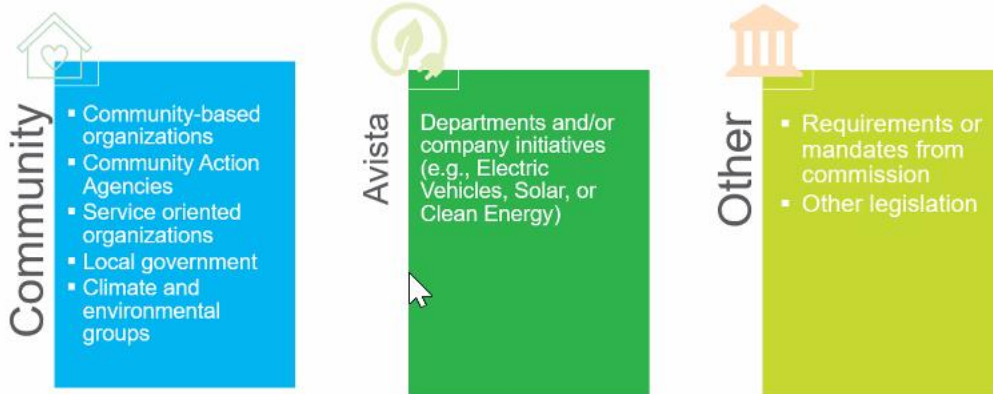


Energy Efficiency NCIF Breakdown

Approximately \$2M per year with any unspent funds carried forward into the next year

Community Identified Projects \$500K	Wood Stove Replacement	Multifamily Building Split Incentive \$750K	Health & Safety for Manufactured & Mobile Homes \$400K
Named Community Single Family Weatherization \$250K	Community & Small Business Energy Efficiency \$100K	Always-On Behavioral Pilot	Midstream Incentives

Here is how we are hearing about programs for the \$3 million program options:



Here is how we are hearing about programs for the \$2 million program options

EE NCIF Opportunity Sources



Application Process

- Applicants are directed to a landing page with program basics and eligibility, then they are taken to the application start.
- Applicants establish a user id and password so they can come and go to the application portal.
- The application form gathers information necessary for us to understand how the project will impact the Customer Benefit Indicators and Named Communities.
- The application is open continuously and award decisions will be communicated within 30 days of submission.

Kristine and Ana will review all applications and determine initial eligibility.
Engage subject matter experts and stakeholders to review:

- CBI impact and project viability
- identify any additional resource needs, partners, etc.
- identify any potential barriers to success

All participants will receive communication within 30 days.

Scoring and Prioritization

Equity Areas & Weights	CBIs	CBI Metrics
Affordability (30)	1,2,14	participation, saturation, rebates, households, energy burden, disconnects, arrearages
Access to Clean Energy (20)	3,4,5	contacts, marketing impressions, translations, EV trips, miles, chargers, MWh, sites
Community Development (15)	6	spending in named communities, customers served
Energy Security (15)	7,8	outage frequency and duration, planning margin, generation in WA
Environmental (10)	9,10	outdoor air quality, wood heating, GHG emissions
Public Health (10)	11,12,13	employer and supplier diversity, indoor air quality

Scoring System: each metric within each CBI is assigned a score, then multiplied by the weight
 small impact 1-3 points
 possible impact 4-6 points
 measurable impact 7-9 points

This is not an exhaustive list as the list is very large, each equity area has a weight and affordability is the highest priority and has the highest weight and so we use that to gauge which programs should have a higher priority.

Are these priorities still, correct?

Member: is it possible to get more information beyond this meeting around this whole process?

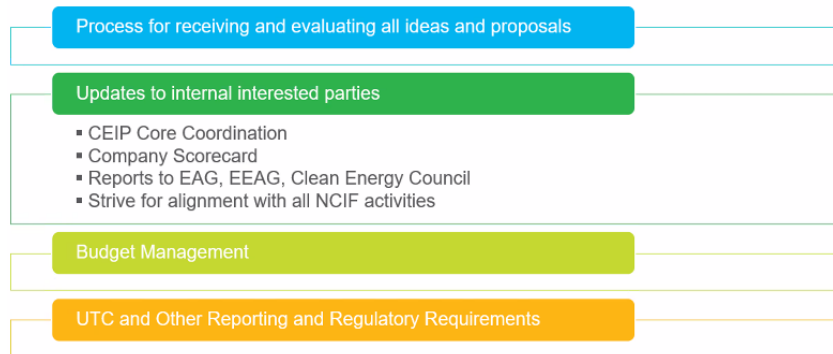
Company: will send you the scoring matrix in full so you can see the whole thing and we can decide if we need to change. We do not need to make a decision now, we can soak on it a little and decide at the next meeting.

Member: I support the Scoring

Member: I think these weights look good too

Member: I think the weights and areas look good

Governance Framework



Member: The applications, how do community organizations made aware of the opportunity? I am looking at the American Indian community center that serves many tribes and Hispanic business association etc., and I am wondering if you guys have had a chance to reach out to them and show them what the application looks like.

Company: We sent out emails to many organizations and we have been out in the community and have been having meetings and sharing information and doing site visits to share and answer questions one on one. We are also going to have a workshop that will be held virtually to keep sharing these opportunities.

Facilitator: Does anyone else have any ideas on how we can equitably get the word out. Or any questions for Kristi?

Participant: Great presentation Kristi - is there an anticipated close date?

Company: Mason there's no close date. we'll keep entertaining applications, responding with decisions, and we may be slotting projects for the next year's funds as a pledge.

Member: I would love to be involved the conversation of programs selection etc.,

Member: Great presentation! Super informative.

Renewable Energy Projects

Reminder that our team manages our renewable product portfolio, and we also get to work on larger projects like the one we are going to discuss. If someone knocks on your door to sell solar, email us at solar@avistacorp.com

As agreed to in our general rate case Avista is doing the following:

Renewable Energy Project: Solar



General Rate Case: Identify a new renewable energy project(s), e.g., community solar, for the direct benefit of low-income customers or for customers residing in Named Communities.



Funding for such programs, if not provided by an outside funding source (i.e., Second Substitute House Bill 1814) may come from the Company's Named Communities Investment Fund or from the LIRAP tariff Schedules 92 and 192. Any funding from Schedules 92 and 192 must be directed to projects benefiting eligible low-income customers.



[No later than 12/1/2023, Avista will need to file a work plan describing its plan to facilitate the development of this new renewable energy project(s), including the budget, funding sources, timeline, and community partners.] *This requirement is independent of and incremental to Avista's CEIP condition #10.*

We reviewed several community centers and entities such as SNAP to see if we can partner together for this program. Install solar on the roof of a building to keep their energy bill lower and offset some of the use in the building. They would be owning and operating that solar array and we would help them apply for funds through grant opportunities. We are also working with SNAP to add solar panels on buildings that they are building or in need.

Renewables Project – Proposed Plan

Partner with non-profit (MLK Center, SNAP)

Maximize the value, size < 100kw

Solar owned and operated by the non-profit

Funding: Named Communities Investment Fund + Low Income Community Solar



Next Steps

- Find a partner and discuss the project
- Start drafting a work plan to include:
 - Budget
 - Funding sources
 - Timeline
 - Community partners
- Deadline to deliver the work plan: **December 1, 2023**



Any Questions:

Member: What are the names of the named communities.

Company: Avista has 48 Named Communities within their WA service territory. Named Communities are defined as Highly Impact Communities defined by the state of WA that include tribal land. The second population is vulnerable customers. The EAG defined characteristics back in Spring of 2021 of vulnerable customers. The 2 different populations make up Named Communities.

https://www.cybergrants.com/pls/cybergrants/quiz.display_question?x_gm_id=5440&x_quiz_id=11888

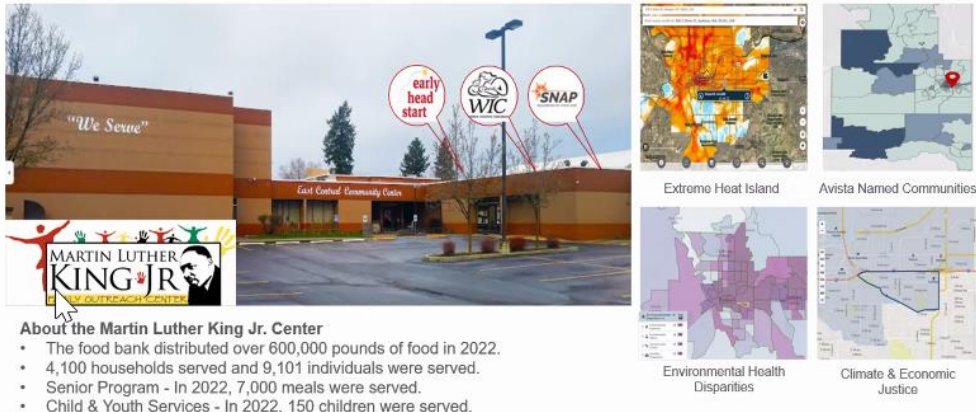
you can access pictures of the maps at that link

[Martin Luther King Center Partnership](#)

MLK center supports many programs and customers, as follows:

About the Community Center

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center & food distribution center is located at 500 S Stone in Spokane's east central district.



About the Martin Luther King Jr. Center

- The food bank distributed over 600,000 pounds of food in 2022.
- 4,100 households served and 9,101 individuals were served.
- Senior Program - In 2022, 7,000 meals were served.
- Child & Youth Services - In 2022, 150 children were served.

MLK center is also part of a heat island and is located in a named community.

We submitted an application through the department of Commerce for solar plus storage, max grant amount is 1.5 million and we received that amount and with that we want to stretch the dollars as far as we can, so we are using federal, state, local, grants etc. to support this project.

Project Scope

Solar Array, Battery, Energy Efficiency, and Electric Vehicle Charging



100kW Solar Array

To seek maximum benefit to the MLK center, the project aims to install the maximum allowable PV installation size under net-metering, a 99kW PV array.



500 kW battery

The BESS proposed is 500kW 1100kWh, which will have the energy capacity required for serving the community center during an outage and the power capacity to provide grid services.



Energy Efficiency

Audit performed March 3rd, 2023, to find out what potential measures could be implemented in addition to identifying no-cost/low-cost energy efficiency measures that could be carried out in order to conserve energy.



DC Fast Chargers

Avista is also planning on installing EV charging stations at the MLK Center during the implementation of the solar and battery storage project. Phase one of construction includes: Installation of new transformer. Initial install will be a 225-300kVA transformer

This center will also be used as a facility for emergency response in the event of an emergency since it will have such a large back up system in the case of an outage. We are working with the City to develop an emergency response plan that uses this center for support.

Community Resilience Shelters

Development of additional emergency resources



When the Spokane area is experiencing a severe weather emergency (e.g. snow or ice storm, severe heat, or fires), at certain thresholds the City and County will start operating cooling or warming shelters for our community members who need a safe space.



Heating & cooling area



Rest rooms, showers, Landry

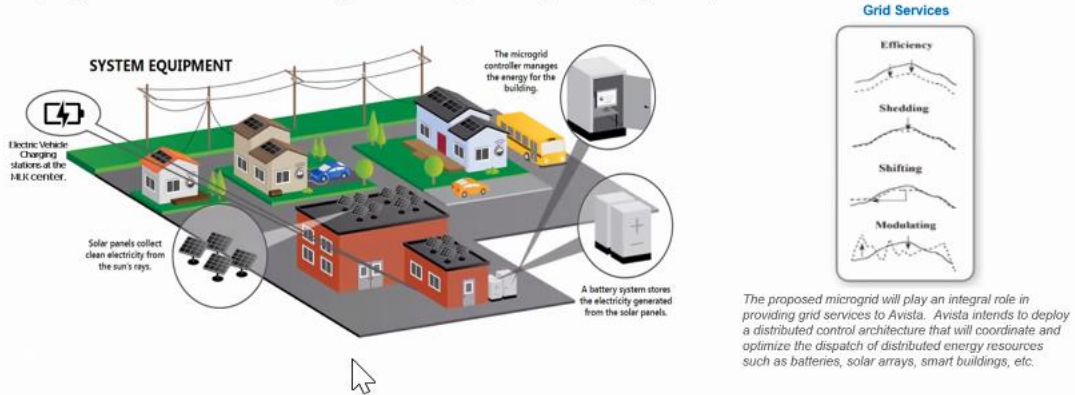


Event	Critical Load	Maximum Outage Duration
Summer Peak (Jun-29th)	100%	8 hrs
Summer Peak (Jun-29th)	50%	27 hrs
Winter Low Solar (Dec-13)	100%	24 hrs
Winter Low Solar (Dec-13)	50%	56 hrs
Winter Low Solar (Dec-13)	150%	12 hrs

Future Goals

Connected Communities & Grid Resilience

Provide technical assistance to private financed or non-profit organizations property that integrate on-site renewable generation, energy storage, and EV charging. Through first-hand experience and empirical data, model upfront and ongoing costs and benefits to the utility, the site-host, and the general body of utility customers.



Any questions or comments:

Member: This is amazing!

Facilitator: are there plans for other spaces or organizations for the future?

Company: Resiliency is becoming more and more prevalent in conversations and yes, this model can be used in the future and we are looking for ways we can integrate into our community.

Member: Great information from everyone!

Wrap Up

Reminder of upcoming meetings September 20th and 22nd

Next Meeting | Support Team

September 20th

• 4:30 – 6:00 pm

September 22nd

• 7:30 – 9:00 am

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