

Meeting Notes
Avista Equity Advisory Group Meeting
Clean Energy Implementation Plan: Customer Benefit Indicator Meeting
June 10, 2021 at 7:30 am

Attendees:

- Equity Advisory Group Members: Jordan McGee, Brook Beeler, Clyde Abrahamson, DeAnna Knope, Deaneal McKnight, Maggie Gates, Margee Chambers, Ryann Louie, Will Von Bracht, and Gretchen Chomas
- Community Members and/or Organization Representatives: Molly Brewer, Kathlyn Kinney, Rebecca MacMullan, Simon Ffitch, Corey Dahl and Amy Wheelless
- Avista Staff: Amanda Ghering (note taker), Annette Brandon, Ana Matthews, Dan Johnson, and Renee Coelho
- Facilitator: Amber Lenhart

Meeting Notes:

Meeting facilitated by Amber Lenhart with the topic for the meeting: How can the transition to clean energy benefit and negatively impact customers?

The public portion of the meeting started with an overview of the following topics presented by Amber and Annette:

1. **Public Participation:**
 - Equitable distribution of energy and non-energy benefits
 - Long term and short-term public health
 - Reductions of costs and risks
 - Energy security and resiliency
2. **Clean Energy Transformation Act:**
Applies to all electric utilities to reach 100% clean energy supply by 2045
3. **Avista's Current Supply Mix:**
Natural Gas: 34%, Coal: 9%, Wind: 4%, Biomass: 2%, Hydroelectric: 51%
4. **CETA 2021 Sequence:**
Public Participation, May 2021 through September 2021 and CEIP submit October 2021
5. **Overall Process and Progress:**
CEAP targets, Identify Named Communities, Identify Primary equity areas, Establish CBIs, Identify Specific Actions, Identify Resources and Programs
6. **Equity at the Core:**
Ensure all customers benefit from the transition to clean energy with a focus on named communities
7. **Avista's named Communities and Highly Impacted and Vulnerable Populations:**
Review of Health Disparities Map created by the DOH with an Avista service territory overlay. This map is only a starting point and we are looking to the EAG to help ensure this map is accurate.
8. **Vulnerable Population Characteristics:**
Looking to EAG members to help in developing these characteristics
9. **Customer Benefit Indicators:**
This content discussed in this meeting today will be provided during the June 17th meeting. Looking to identify energy and non-energy benefits,

10. Developing the Clean Energy Implementation Plan:

Balance input, meet regulatory requirements and modify and improve throughout this iterative process, must be measurable and accountable.

Amber: Any questions? No questions posed, non-EAG members asked to exit.

Break with return to Equity Advisory Group Member meeting only. Amy Wheelless from NW Energy Coalition remained in this session.

Amber: How can the transition to clean energy, what are benefits and negative impacts to customers?

Responses:

- Financially, if it is something people have to pay for, a lot of low-income customers they may not be able to pay for the transition.
- Energy access, less accessible or reliable, that may fall on low-income or marginalized communities. Such as brown outs or black outs and where those will land and who it is impacting.
- Community Access, kids in Colville etc., it is very rural, and accessibility is hard, their power goes out a lot and can be out 24-48 hours, accessibility is important
- People that are non-English speaking,
- Large solar projects may be implemented and wind in large rural areas, but they cut off access to cultural areas or sacred grounds could be uprooted.
- Undocumented people, they can be affected highly because they are trying to stay out of the cuffs of deportation, and they have a language barrier
- Tenants may not reap the benefits of this transition, benefits will go to landlord or property owner, or they may not get their property upgraded at all depending on the landlord.
- Workers who are in the fossil fuel industry, if there is not a job transition in place, they may be out of their good union job that they have had for a long time.
- Disabled population may be impacted, heard stories out of CA with the rolling brown outs that customer have passed away from lack of oxygen etc. and resulted in several deaths.
- Geographical areas were shared during last night's meeting, rural communities, peaceful valley, non-English speaking customers, younger generations, lower income households and older houses with older structures.
- Language diversity in areas such as Othello, Avista has a large language of customers from Guatemala and other areas that do not have written language here. When asked what he has found that works well in communicating with these populations, he stated to always have interpreters available and they do well with spoken language. They continue to brainstorm ways to communicate like creating educational videos. Youth tend to be the translators for these families.
- Kids are translating for their families and fill out applications and explain things to their parents as best they can, but even this can be difficult because they do not have the vocabulary that adults do.
- Heard during the last public participation meeting in May that there may be resource shifting to comply with this law and we should be striving to achieve equity across all service areas including Idaho and not just Washington. Response from the group: Avista is keeping that in mind and we appreciate the comment to continue keeping that at top of mind when making resource decisions.
- Even though fossil fuels are not a big resource of ours, we still can achieve better air pollution levels with improved health outcomes due to less pollution.

- Illiterate customers need to have the ability to express themselves and to have the ability to articulate their needs and how do we include those customers so they can contribute?
- Time is a factor, migrant workers and field workers they just do not have the time to go and sign up for things during normal business hours.
- People can be reluctant to sign up because of their lack of ability to know how to sign up for participation. Or if there is a timeframe of say a year and they want/need something right away.
- Sometimes information does not get sent to certain communities, such as small rural areas and when they find out about it, it is a little too late. Some communities are not on the map and they can get left out of the delivery of information.
- How easy forms are to fill out and what information is needed to provide is important. Keep things simple, people may not want to give their address out as they are afraid, they may be discovered to be undocumented etc.

Amber: Reviewed topics discussed during the 6/9/21 meeting on this same topic. The EAG members made the following comments:

- Avista is a corporation that is publicly traded, and it looks like the CEO makes millions of dollars and when we talk about equity and social justice, that has to change. Company structures have to change to help with the equity within the community, we are not trying to just fix the grid, but bring in a societal shift. Can Avista become a co-op or non-profit to put more money into its community and its grid structure? What is Avista doing to encourage less energy usage?
- What Ryann said is huge, it is really apparent in Othello, when you are looking for a home, it is important to look at who has the electricity in the home since Big Ben is a Co-op and Avista is not the price for electricity is much higher with Avista.
- Also agrees with previously stated comment about the company, EV charging structure within apartment complexes is important to look into as well, Jordan has an EV and most complexes do not have a way to charge them, even with power outlets in the parking areas.
- Also agrees with stated comment about CEO salary etc., coal trains and fossil fuels are really hindering the air pollution and is damaging human health, rivers and lakes and the air we breathe, a benefit of this transition is that it reduces the negative health impacts on the environment.
- Ownership of solar is important and the thought of getting low income and/or rural communities to have access to solar ownership.
- How do we help show people that they have the power to help make these changes, part of this change is due to legislation and people lobbying for it, but show marginalized communities that they have the power to help in these transitions and they have a voice. How do we help people to know they can be heard? How do we help gain the financial freedom to see what is like out in nature and what they are trying to protect? Is your home life and economic life being improved throughout this? Improvements in mental health and a feeling of connection to Avista.
- Do we need to state the big obvious one? Reducing GHG and climate impacts, which disproportionately affect these same communities?

Annette Brandon: This has been a really great discussion and really appreciate the free-flowing ideas. Shared some more examples of benefits of clean energy, water: generation

facilities need water for cooling, where wind does not, help protect some of our resources and does not damage the land as much as natural gas etc., where wind farms are located can be a pro or a con. Climate impacts with reduction of CO2 emissions and could reduce wildfires, saving from not needing as much O&M generating expenses. Are there enough green spaces for people to get out and enjoy?

EAG members comments:

- Building on Annette's comments for environmental benefits: reduction in wildfire equals reduction in smoke that's harmful to health.
- Thinking of smoke, houseless populations are often most exposed to smoke
- Water supply stability
- Avista should build a net zero shelter for families or persons of homelessness, then also build a community garden and help people learn to cook, etc.

Amber: Which feels the most important or stands out the most? Do any stick out that would be really beneficial to have within Avista's service territory or do they all feel critical? How can we do better at reaching people?

EAG member response:

- We would be remiss not to include populations outside of Avista's service territory with the ownership of fossil fuel production. Colstrip in Montana is next to two significant Indian tribes and what is Avista doing to clean up this mess that we contributed to and give back and participate in those communities to the transition to clean energy. How do we prevent someone else from taking over Avista's ownership in Colstrip and continue to contribute to the air pollution in those communities?

Annette: Thinking about the information that we received today about languages, what is the best method to use to communicate to these communities? We would appreciate your guidance and thoughts on this topic.

EAG member responses:

- There is not a one size fits all approach, put communications out there through print and community advisors, video type campaigns in their language or radio stations they listen to it would be beneficial to have adds in their languages.
- Work she has done previously with trusted organizations have used world relief to partner with them to get resources to families, helped with translating etc., more languages are spoken in Avista's territory than the company is aware of, not just Spanish, Rogers has 46 languages spoken amongst families alone. Using kids as translators is not always great because it forces kids to grow up too soon and learn things that they do not need to be learning at a young age.
- Spokane Public Schools has a robust translation program. They could be a good partner.
- How do you reach these communities? It is hard to reach people who fall between the cracks and we have to combat racism within our community. Talking about how to communicate with those that feel shut out, must help them see they are part of the community and their voice is important. Relationships are not just transactional but genuine relationships.

- Religious people should be added to populations.

Amber: Encourages everyone to have these same discussions amongst their communities and share any thoughts or ideas that come out of those discussions with Avista so we can continue building on this topic.

Member Question: Will this list also be on the Avista webpage for review?

Annette: Yes, we will post the slides along with the meeting notes from today and last night. Encourages everyone to think about how we can measure some of these indicators as this will be part of the discussion during our meeting next week.

The meeting concluded.