



Meeting Summary for Avista’s January Equity Lens Session (1 & 2)

Avista Equity Advisory Group – Equity Lens Session

Meeting Date:	January 22 & 24, 2025
Location:	Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

Facilitator	Present	EAG Member	Member Organizations
Amber Lenhart	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Andrew Gardner	Spokane Public Schools
Avista Team Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brook Beeler	Department of Ecology Eastern Region
Tamara Bradley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Karen Boone	Community Advocate
Dan Blazquez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	KJ January	Spectrum
Amanda Ghering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Latrice Williams	Vision Properties, WA Office of Equity
Kelly Dengel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lynn Suksdorf, PhD	South Steven’s County Citizen
Ariana Barrey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cindy Kimmet	Takesa Village
Karen Cash	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sue Lani Madsen	WA Rural Environmental Network
Michele McCollum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Vanessa Strange	Spokane Public Library
Paul Kimmel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	William von Bracht	Othello, school English as 2nd language
Kristine Meyer		Guests	
Chris Morris	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jean Marie Dreyer	Washington Public Council
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joshua Dennis	Washington UTC, Regulatory Analyst

Quick recap

- New members, the scheduling of future meetings, and the progress of Avista's clean energy implementation plan.
- The team also discussed the impact of the DEIA Executive Order on Avista's efforts, the potential topics for the upcoming year, and the need for member development within the advisory team.
- The conversation ended with a review of additional resources related to the Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA).
- Review of the 2021 Avista Clean Energy Implementation Plan (CEIP): Participants discussed the progress and outcomes of the CEIP.
- Meeting Scheduling for 2025: Attendees planned and scheduled meetings for the year 2025.

Next steps

- Schedule individual meetings with EAG members to discuss their thoughts and concerns outside of regular meetings.

- Finalize 2025 meeting schedule based on poll results and member feedback.
- Add energy assistance programs, Regional Business Manager (RBM) job role description, Distributed Energy Resources (DER) customer demographics, and energy efficiency programs, EAG member development, and Distribution Planning conversation (power grid upgrades and increasing demand in rural areas) as potential topics for 2025 meetings.
- Follow up with EAG members who were unable to attend this meeting to gather their input on 2025 scheduling preferences.
- Consider reintroducing EAG member spotlights in future meetings to facilitate networking.
- Establish and received feedback on new meeting ideas.

Official Meeting Start Time Proposal

- Avista proposed starting meetings officially five minutes after the hour to allow attendees time to commute and prepare for the meeting. Members agreed that current meeting times work and to keep them.

Clean Energy Implementation Plan Overview

- An overview of the plan from 2021, explaining that it covers a span of four years and will expire at the end of 2025.
- Avista mentioned their third public participation plan would be filed (on May 1, 2025) after receiving feedback from stakeholders.

Avista's Renewable Energy Progress and Challenges

- Avista's discussed its progress in meeting their renewable energy targets, which included retiring renewable energy credits (RECs) and acquiring additional hydro generation.
- Challenges in meeting Energy Efficiency targets were also discuss, attributing the shortfall to the effects of COVID-19.
- Avista further discussed their specific initiatives, including the Community Investment Fund, which has spent over \$4.6 million on energy efficiency and community projects.
- Ongoing projects such as the Malden solar arrays, the microgrid with the Spokane tribe, and the MLK project were also mentioned.
- Avista also acknowledged the need for partnerships in spending the Community Investment Fund's money.



CBI Progress and Equity Advisory Group

- Avista discussed the progress of the CBI (Customer Benefit Indicators) and the ongoing work on the Public Participation Plan.
- Avista mentioned that the next CEIP will propose changes based on conversations with advisory groups.
- Avista highlighted the importance of tracking metrics and the ongoing conversation about CBIs and named communities.
- Avista also discussed the 2025 scheduling for the Equity Advisory Group, including potential in-person meetings and the need for feedback on the proposed topics.
- The group also discussed the potential impact of the Presidential Executive Order on DEIs on Avista's efforts.
- Avista emphasizing the company's commitment to equity and serving all customers.

Meeting Schedules and in-Person Plans

- Discussion about meeting schedules and preferences were undertaken.
- The team agreed to continue with Wednesday meetings, with some members expressing interest in alternative times.
- The team also discussed the possibility of an in-person meeting in 2025.
- Attendees raised questions about the 3rd week of the month and the preferred meeting times.
- The team decided to keep the current meeting time but will consider starting meetings.
- Avista will work with the team to clarify any remaining questions and will provide tentative topics for future meetings.

Exploring Advisory Team Development Ideas

- Avista led a discussion on potential topics for the upcoming year, including energy assistance programs, the role of regional business managers, customer demographics, and energy efficiency programs.
- The team also discussed the possibility of adding grid capacity in rural communities and the need for member development within the advisory team.
- Attendee suggested ways to grow and develop the advisory team beyond the monthly meetings, such as scheduled time for members to share their thoughts and concerns.
- The meeting facilitator proposed incorporating member development and networking opportunities, such as member spotlights and training sessions.
- The team agreed to explore these ideas and share them in the next meeting. The conversation ended with a review of additional resources related to the Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA).



2025 EAG Meeting Scheduling

- Survey results revealed that attending members:

- **Summary**

- 10 members responded, (survey was sent to members not in attendance, to be summarized later).
- Members Indicated that the 3rd week of every month continue to work for them.
- Survey had the six questions listed below.

- **Question 1:** Is the 3rd week of each month working for you?

Day	Wed., Jan. 22, 2025, Results	Fri., Jan. 24, 2025, Results
Yes	88%	100%
No	13%	0%

- **Question 2:** Please select the day(s) of the week that works best for you for meeting.

Day	Wed., Jan. 22, 2025, Results	Fri., Jan. 24, 2025, Results
Monday	38%	0%
Tuesday	38%	33%
Wednesday	63%	0%
Thursday	50%	33%
Friday	50%	100%

- **Question 3:** Do the Wednesday 12:00pm and Friday 7:30am times work for you?

Day	Wed., Jan. 22, 2025, Results	Fri., Jan. 24, 2025, Results
Yes	50%	100%
No	0%	0%
Sometimes	50%	0%

- **Question 4:** What time do you generally prefer meetings?

Day	Wed., Jan. 22, 2025, Results	Fri., Jan. 24, 2025, Results
Morning	20%	100%
Afternoon	100%	33%
Evenings	0%	0%

- **Question 5:** Are you interested in having a month off in the summer?

Day	Wed., Jan. 22, 2025, Results	Fri., Jan. 24, 2025, Results
Yes	17%	67%
No	0%	33%
Maybe	83%	0%

- **Question 6:** Are you interested in an in-person meeting in 2025?

Day	Wed., Jan. 22, 2025, Results	Fri., Jan. 24, 2025, Results
Yes	83%	67%
No	0%	0%
Maybe	33%	33%

