



Equity Advisory Group – Equity Lens Session

Meeting Date: 08/21/2024
 Time: 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm
 Location: Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

<i>Facilitator</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>EAG Member</i>	<i>Member Organizations</i>
Amber Lenhart	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clyde Abrahamson	Spokane Indian Housing Authority
Avista Team Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Margee Chambers	Spokane Clean Air
Kelly Dengel	<input type="checkbox"/>	Connie Kliewer	NEWESD101
Ariana Barrey	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clair Trapp	Rural Resources
Dan Blazquez	<input type="checkbox"/>	Joe Reilly	SNAP
Amanda Ghering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	KJ January	Spectrum
Annette Brandon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	William von Bracht	Othello, school English as 2nd language
Elizabeth Arnold	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michele Bennington	Community member at large
Ana Matthews	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brook Beeler	Department of Ecology Eastern Region
Christine Tasche	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jupiter McGee	Sunrise Spokane Affiliation (youth led) (Facebook)
Kristine Meyer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vanessa Strange	Spokane Public Library
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tami Dillion	Providence
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Latrice Williams	Community Member/ WA state board of Equity
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cindy Kimmet	Takesa Village
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Carmen Groom	SNAP
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sandra Childers	Rural Resources
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jean Kindem	Aging & Long-Term Care of Eastern Washington
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Karen Boone	Red Cross
		Guests	

Agenda

I. Welcome & Introductions.....2
 Overview of Meeting: Rules and Intent2
 II. Partner Share2
 III. Equity in Capital Planning
 IV. Your Support Team and Next Meeting7

EAG Equity Lens Session Meeting Notes

I. Welcome & Introductions

Overview of Meeting: Rules and Intent

II. Partner Share

- Finishing up the solar project, 120 installs on residences, 15 pole mount installs where roofs were not viable for solar, and Clyde is retiring at the end of October and still will be participating in the EAG.
- Tacos and tequila this weekend at the downtown library this weekend

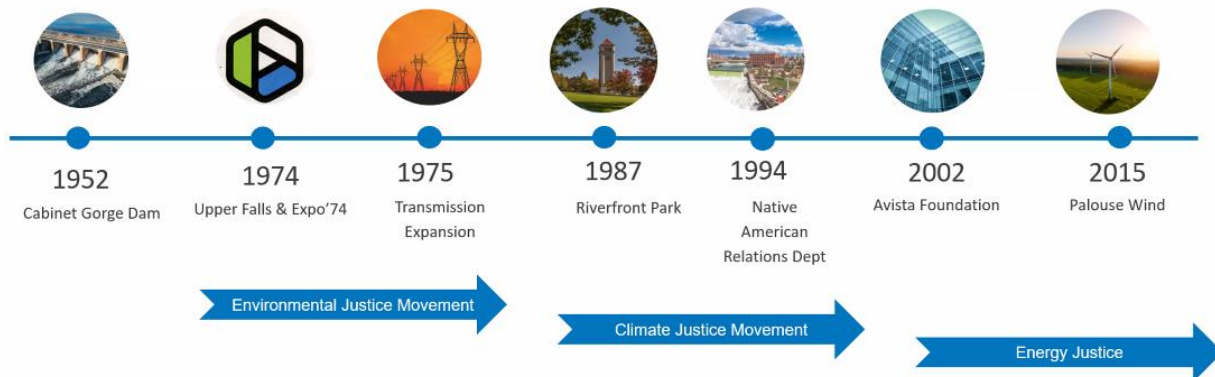
III. Equity in Capital Planning Discussion

Equity = fairness and that everyone has what they need.

Energy justice in Avista's 135 years has always been at the forefront, maybe not using the term "justice" but customer fairness has been a core value. We look forward into the future enough to know that our customers want and need affordable, sustainable, and renewable power. Discussed ways Avista has kept energy justice at the forefront throughout the years.

Avista & the Progression of Energy Justice

Since our inception over 135 years ago, Avista has been a company founded on renewable energy innovation. Our journey began with hydroelectric operations and has expanded to include wind and solar. We've been planning for responsible and sustainable energy solutions – putting the customer at the center.



Discussed various Washington state legislative happenings and Commission filings that bring us to our topic of conversation today, equity in capital planning.

Avista requests and is required to obtain your feedback on how it is including equity within its capital planning processes.

Washington State Legislative Timeline



Some examples of equitable energy are:

Equitable Energy System Examples



- No households face extreme/severe burdens
- No disparities in energy burden by race, income, education, disabilities or health conditions, age, family structure, or property ownership
- All households have access to minimum level of energy services at a cost they can afford without sacrificing other needs

Discussed Avista's guiding principle for capital planning procedures:

Guiding Equity Principles



Some examples of capital investments are:

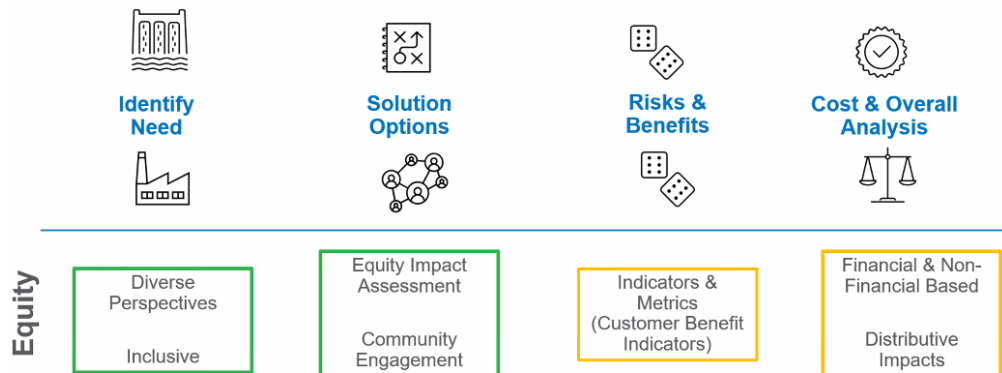
Technology upgrades, clean energy upgrades and improvements, wood pole replacement, infrastructure repair/replacement/etc., and wildfire resiliency.

Some Key considerations:

Impact to named communities,
Customer benefit indicators,
Strategic method to determine engagement level,
Additional data points for evaluation and course correction as needed.

The green boxes below indicate items that are done, and the orange boxes indicate items that we are working on and would like your feedback on.

Capital Project Considerations & Equity



Overall Project Evaluation

- Supports equity strategies applicable to all customers
- Meets regulatory requirements
- Consistency with energy efficiency, long-term and distribution planning
 - Avoided utility environmental compliance costs
 - Environmental benefits
 - Health benefits
 - Economic benefits



Financial vs non-financial comparisons will be used. We are looking for ways to add value to the process for customers. Tracking costs and customer priorities will be key. How do we measure and quantify something that is non-financial and does not have a “defined” source. So by using a point base system helps by adding points to those in named communities etc., instead of only using costs as a driver.

Capital Investment Evaluation and Prioritization

COMPONENTS

- **Financial** : Tracking actual costs and estimated benefits
- **Non-Financial**. Prioritization based on customer priorities to ensure decision are made that reflect what is important to Avista customers.

Intended to be used as a comparative tool to ensure equitable investments



We use a point-based system in our request for proposal process so bidders who have a DEI plan get points, minority, woman, or veteran owned business get a point, etc., to help with the decision process outside of solely looking at the cost.

Equity in Capital Planning – Summary



So, in summary, we are now including the use of CBIs, customer engagement and outreach, and adding point value system to compare financial vs non-financial decisions when it comes to capital planning processes.

Member: I thought about a lot, slide 18, as an individual and being part of the tribe, through the use of hydroelectric dams, I wonder how can the tribe and Avista work hand in hand to correct just a few things, such as, salmon movement coming upstream, BPA mainly is the problem, but how can we partner to mitigate some things on that part? It impacts the environment, not in recent years, but in the past and I am impacted, my children are impacted. I smoked some salmon the other day and was really proud of myself and it impacted me personally because I could share that with others. BPA has a hatchery now which helps, but it is not the same. It is sustenance for tribal members, not just a sport which is being lost. I don't know what the solution is.

Member: I saw an blog post by WA Dept of Ecology about salmon restoration and a new type f "fish ladder" that Clyde may be interested in: <https://ecology.wa.gov/blog/august-2024/salmon-restoration-project-helps-strengthen-sockeye-population-in-the-yakima-basin>

Company: I so appreciate those comments, because what I did not cover is that in the end of all of this, we need to be very thoughtful about our actions and that they do not have unintended consequences such as the one you are speaking of now. Annette will follow up and see how we can support or if we are already doing something in this arena. This highlights the importance of communication in communities and hearing from others when making decisions.

Company: Clyde, we do have a project at our Cabinet Gorge Dam on the Clark Fork River to try help the fish migration. We built a fish ladder at the dam to transport the fish up and

downstream for migration. In addition, we also have a program at the Noxon/Cabinet dams that tracks the fish with tags and knowing what tributary their going to/from. Not fixing the entire issue but doing a small part.

Facilitator: Is there a process for mitigating unintended consequences?

Company: Yes, we are discussing that for current projects, but look for more discussions on that topic in the future. But we are working on midcourse correction for future projects.

Facilitator: I am curious about meaningful involvement in the communities to understand what the unintended actions could be etc., and the importance of public participation plans, what are your thoughts on ways people can get meaningful involvement in these discussions, what does that look like to you?

Member: most communities have someone who is passionate about engaging in these conversations and if they are passionate then they can help rally the troops as far as community engagement goes, if you find that person, and keep them engaged, then they will help keep others engaged in the conversation.

Facilitator: Have others found successful ways to communicate with others and get them engaged?

Member: Your public meetings are a good way too. We have guest speakers that will come from organizations which work great. I like your public meetings though.

Member: the Scott Morris center tour was a great place to meet and learn, inviting communities or others that interested to learn what you are doing would be a goo idea, that and the catalyst building. We should have meetings there sometime.

Facilitator: providing compensation, feeding them, offering childcare etc.,

Member: How about having a capital/equitable projects table at the various energy fairs that Avista participates in?

Company: Maybe our next in-person EAG meeting can be at the Scott Morris Center!

Facilitator: Cross department communication and equity was a conversation, how is this going in Avista, are people seeing themselves in this?

Company: It has not been officially rolled out, we are in the development phase, but I look forward to providing an update in the future. We are trying to avoid using technical terminology to ensure everyone understands.

Facilitator: we heard about the inputs that are going into the evaluation criteria, is there anything missing? Anything else they should be thinking about?

Company: was this the right level of detail? Would you like to hear more with more detail next time?

Member: Good level of detail for this meeting, examples are good to see it in action, but the bigger picture we saw today was good.

Company: We will continue this conversation too so show how the process is working and if it is working how we want it to,

Member: That is great we can course correct in the future if needed and continue these conversations throughout the next year.

Proposed Next Steps



Member: With all the groups Avista has formed for this process, are you planning to have all groups meet together at one final session? It would be good to hear how these groups would blend their ideas or a summary of the technical advisory groups etc., and how they will all mess together.

Company: I do not have a plan for an all person meeting yet, but we are still planning, so that could happen, and we will keep it in mind as we continue the planning.

Newsletter: <https://cloud.ask.myavista.com/CEIP-Newsletter-Signup>

IV. Your Support Team and Next Meeting

- Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday September 18th and Friday September 20th
- Please sign up for our quarterly newsletter if you have not already and we hope to see you all in September

V. Additional Resources

<i>Resource Link</i>	<i>Description</i>
Washington's Clean Energy Future	Avista page for CETA related activities
Clean Energy Transformation Act	Clean Energy Transformation Act - Washington State Department of Commerce
Chapter 19.405 RCW	Laws and Regulations: Revised Code of Washington Investor-owned utilities
Chapter 480-100 WAC	Laws and Regulations: Washington Administrative Code Investor-owned utilities
WA Energy Strategy	Washington State Energy Strategy
CETA Overview	CETA overview and interim assessment