

Recap “early draft” targets, programs, actions and costs from Sept. 13 meeting.

Brian Tyson reviewed expected outcomes for the draft Clean Energy Implementation Plan (CEIP), including the transition to clean energy, programs and actions, and draft interim targets. To reach the 2025 target for 59% clean electricity, PSE plans will add new wind, distributed solar, new non-wires alternatives, and new energy efficiency programs.

An EAG member asked what the cost for new wind energy and the cost difference between the different resources would be. Brian replied that distributed solar has higher costs than large-scale wind energy, and that the Request for Proposal (RFP) process would give PSE a better understanding of program prices.

Another EAG member agreed that a cost breakdown of the different types of clean electricity would help the EAG understand the overall cost of CETA and asked what factors were considered in cost projections. Brian replied that PSE was looking to be cost effective in their modeling exercises. PSE will follow up with more details on the cost breakdown for each resource.

Another EAG member asked if PSE would cover energy efficiency programs. Brian replied that energy efficiency is part of draft Biennial Conservation Plan, which was released on October 1.

Brian reviewed the draft costs and Distributed Energy Resource (DER) program concept mix of PSE’s clean electricity portfolio. All DER concepts will seek inclusive opportunities for named communities, and RFPs may result in additional hybrid programs. Brian addressed questions from the September 13 EAG meeting about the size and scale of DER programs targeted to Named Communities and shared how PSE considered market and technical potential for the program mix.

An EAG member asked how PSE will share information about the draft CEIP and how EAG members can help. Ben Farrow, Director of Clean Energy Strategy, shared that the next two EAG meetings will include discussion on design and implementation and PSE will ask for EAG input on outreach and education.

Small group discussions and report outs:

EAG members broke into three small groups to discuss costs and targets and Customer Benefit Indicators (CBIs) and programs. After the discussion, EAG members returned as a larger group and shared the following themes from their discussions:

- Questions about solar battery and leasing programs.
- Questions around the cost breakdown of programs.
- Interest in bill assistance, especially as the cost of bills are expected to increase over time.
- The importance of education and outreach around energy efficiency and infrastructure.

Presentation

Implementation guidance for draft CEIP:

Ben Farrow shared the traditional approach for utility program design, which involves identifying a need, designing the process, and launching the program design. PSE is seeking EAG input on how alternative program design processes or approaches could inform the CEIP implementation.

Mackenzie Martin, Community Projects Manager in the Clean Energy Solutions Department, shared a case study of using community engagement to inform program design for PSE's upcoming transportation electrification (TE) filings. These filings are based on the Transportation Electrification Plan (TEP), a five-year framework for PSE's electric vehicle products and services. Phase I of the TE filings include fleet and commercial and multifamily residential programs. PSE is using feedback from community-based organizations (CBOs) and future program end-users to inform program design as it relates to ownership preferences, cost share, education and outreach needs, the customer enrollment process and additional TE benefits and barriers. This community engagement work will help PSE remove barriers and work towards equitable and accessible transportation electrification in its communities.

An EAG member asked if PSE could share the CBOs that have been involved in the outreach efforts for the program. PSE will share the list with the EAG after the meeting.

Another EAG member appreciated how CBOs were included in the plan and asked about the level of technical support.

An EAG member asked when PSE would make in-language outreach materials available and what technical services would be available with the programs. PSE shared a response with the EAG after the meeting.

Michael Wehling, Senior Market Analyst at PSE, shared how PSE will consider Highly Impacted Communities (HICs) and Vulnerable Populations (VPs) in the CEIP, which used together are referred to as Named Communities. HICs are identified through pollution burdens, environmental effects. And impacts to the human body. VPs are identified through adverse economic conditions, negative social conditions, and environmental and human health conditions.

Michael reviewed the vulnerability factors PSE developed in collaboration with the EAG and shared how PSE revised their approach to evaluate energy burden to make it more accurate by improving the calculation of energy burden by using the HUD methodology of incorporating family size. Michael also explained the ranking scale for vulnerable population indicators and how they will add context for the condition of energy burden.

An EAG member asked why there was no data for access to healthcare. Michael explained that there's an issue with scale in that there is little variability between data sets at the county level

and PSE could not make an actionable decision based on the data. PSE is looking into purchasing data to evaluate it on a finer scale.

An EAG member suggested including broadband speed as an indicator and shared the Federal Communications Commission as a resource. Michael replied that PSE will review that resource and shared that initial data did not show much variability in internet access across the PSE service area.

Michael shared how vulnerability heat maps can help PSE design processes to serve all VPs. PSE will continue to revisit this approach and evaluate any gaps or missing factors. An EAG member asked if PSE could design programs that are accessible for people transitioning into homes. PSE HELP and the income-qualified discount rate team continue to work to design programs that improve access to energy efficiency.

Michael spoke to how PSE will consider the needs of Named Communities throughout the design process, which includes equitable distribution of cost, the grid system and infrastructure planning process, and energy efficiency participation rates. PSE is working to provide energy efficiency programs to group and multifamily homes and could take a similar approach for transitional housing.

An EAG member asked for clarification on the scale of vulnerability and why there is a different distribution of burden and scale of measurement for the different factors. Michael explained that performing a percentile rank across indicators and scaling allows PSE to compare factors of different intensities across the service area and identify where the factors may converge.

Once the scale of vulnerability is developed and communicated, PSE can design new programs, use adaptive management techniques for existing programs to identify and address barriers to participation for vulnerable populations, and measure and evaluate program gaps to track progress towards maximum program participation.

Ben Farrow shared that how we apply the actions from the CEIP, design programs, and understand who's participating are important for CEIP implementation. Reflecting on what PSE has heard from EAG members over the course of our meetings, the team developed "discussion draft" principles for inclusion in the draft CEIP and applied broadly during implementation. PSE would like the EAG members to shape these principles to guide how PSE will implement clean energy, acquire clean energy resources, and design programs.

As next steps, PSE will include the initial principles in the draft CEIP and seek the EAG's input on them. PSE will seek EAG input into equity and CBI components for the draft DER RFPs this fall. In 2022, PSE and the EAG will discuss program design guidance in more detail. Ben asked that the EAG reflect on initial impressions, the approach to identifying named communities, and suggestions and reflections for draft principles.

Observer comment

Before opening up the observer comment period, Lucila Gambino shared that the EAG will discuss how they'd like to address public comments at an upcoming governance meeting. Lucila provided step-by-step instructions for observers to join the meeting and provide verbal public comments. Observers could also leave written public comments by completing an online comment form at <https://cleanenergyplan.pse.com/equity-advisory-group> or emailing ceip@pse.com.

One observer joined the online meeting and provided public comment. A summary of the comment is below:

- The Utilities and Transportation Commission is hosting a workshop to inform a policy statement that will guide funding agreements for interveners wanting to participate in the regulatory process, and EAG members are welcome to join and participate in the workshop.

Lucila reviewed next steps and the dates for the upcoming draft CEIP comment period, which will occur between October 18 and November 12, and shared the different tools and strategies PSE will implement to improve participation.

EAG meeting materials and details will be available at cleanenergyplan.pse.com.

The meeting officially adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Attachment A: Meeting attendees

Equity Advisory Group (EAG) members

1. Susana Bailén Acevedo, Community advocate
2. Jenny Harding, GSBA and New Chapter Weddings and Events
3. Emily Larson Kubiak, Sustainable Connections
4. Michele Ogden, Tacoma Urban League (*not present*)
5. Estela Ortega, El Centro de la Raza
6. TJ Protho, Vadis
7. Kate Sander, HopeSource
8. John Sternlicht, Economic Development of Alliance of Skagit County
9. Dennis Suarez, Washington Soldiers Home
10. Teresa Taylor, Lummi Indian Business Council's Office of Economic Policy
11. Mariel Thuraingham, Front and Centered
12. Cheryn Weiser, Island Senior Resources (*not present*)
13. Karia Wong, CISC

Puget Sound Energy (PSE)

1. Ben Farrow, Director, Clean Energy Strategy
2. Wendy Gerlitz, State and Regional Policy Consultant
3. Mackenzie Martin, Community Projects Manager
4. Diann Strom, Strategic Engagement Lead
5. Brian Tyson, Manager, Clean Energy Planning and Implementation
6. Michael Wehling, Senior Market Analyst

Maul Foster & Alongi

1. Seth Baker, Communications Specialist
2. Will Henderson, Communications Specialist

Triangle Associates

1. Lucila Gambino, Associate
2. Claire Wendle, Project Associate

