

**EXH. AJP-4
DOCKET UE-210795
PSE'S CEIP
WITNESS: AUSTIN J. PHILLIPS**

**BEFORE THE
WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of

PUGET SOUND ENERGY

**Clean Energy Implementation Plan
Pursuant to WAC 480-100-640**

Docket UE-210795

**THIRD EXHIBIT (NONCONFIDENTIAL) TO THE
PREFILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF**

AUSTIN J. PHILLIPS

ON BEHALF OF PUGET SOUND ENERGY

DECEMBER 12, 2022

Puget Sound Energy

Equity Advisory Group Meeting #4

Meeting Summary

Monday, May 24th, 2021 | 4 – 7 p.m.

Meeting purpose & topics

The meeting purpose was to:

- Advance discussion on vulnerable populations definition.
- Shared understanding on customer benefit indicators and how they shape the Clean Energy Implementation Plan (CEIP).
- Engage Equity Advisory Group (EAG) in developing customer benefit indicators.
- Brainstorm ideas for July's equity forum.

The Equity Advisory Group (EAG) meeting was held as an online only meeting and took place from 4 – 7 p.m. It was divided into sections as follows:

1. **Opening:** 4 – 4:15 p.m.
 - a. Welcome and safety moment
 - b. Icebreaker
2. **Discussion:** 4:15 – 4:45 p.m.
 - a. Vulnerable populations and measurable factors
3. **Presentation:** 4:45 – 5:40 p.m.
 - a. Customer benefit indicators and the CEIP
4. **Break:** 5:30 – 5:40 p.m.
5. **Small group discussion:** 5:40 – 6:25 p.m.
 - a. Customer benefit indicators
 - b. Report out by groups
6. **Presentation:** 6:25 – 6:35 p.m.
 - a. Low-income rate making
7. **EAG business planning:** 6:35 – 6:45 p.m.
8. **Observer comment:** 6:45 – 6:55 p.m.
9. **Wrap up, next meeting date, adjourn:** 6:55 – 7 p.m.

May 24, 2021 EAG Meeting Summary

[The full meeting packet can be found online \(link\).](#)

Meeting action items

Below is a summary of the action items from the May 24, 2021 Equity Advisory Group meeting.

What	Who	When
Update EAG members on PSE customer demographics	PSE	Ongoing

Meeting summary

Opening

Opening remarks

Rose McKinney-James, Advocacy BL/ACK, introduced herself as the facilitator and welcomed the EAG members, presenters, and those observing via YouTube. See Attachment A at the bottom of this document for a list of participants in attendance.

Kate Sander, EAG member, provided a safety moment around heat exhaustion.

Meeting logistics and agenda

Rose reviewed the following:

- **Zoom logistics:** Logistics of using the Zoom platform.
- **Observer and public comments:** Observers/public are watching via a YouTube live stream and will have an opportunity to provide public comment at the end of the meeting.
- **Agenda and goals:** Agenda and goals for the meeting.

Icebreaker: Renewable energy

Rose led an icebreaker and asked EAG members to respond to the following question:

- If you were renewable energy, what would you be?

EAG members shared examples such as geothermal, solar, wind, hydrogen, ocean/tidal, among others.

Discussion

Vulnerable populations and measurable factors continued.

Rose welcomed Michael Wehling, Senior Market Analyst, PSE, to continue the conversation EAG members began at the May 17 meeting around vulnerable populations, particularly as it relates to factors and metrics.

Michael shared a table that captured the major themes EAG members brought up as potential factors to consider when defining vulnerable populations, including economic stress, housing costs, race/ethnicity, historically red lined communities, disability, seniors with fixed/lower income, language, mental health/mental illness, and home care. In the table, each factor was linked to a data resource example and a metric example that PSE uses or could use to measure each specific factor (*Slides 11 – 12*).

EAG members expressed the following thoughts and questions:

- Metric idea to use home efficiency and ability to participate in energy efficiency.
- Importance of PSE's internal data resources for metrics such as:
 - Tracking customers that have difficulty paying their bill
 - Notifications around disconnection, frequency of disconnection
 - Number of people requesting language assistance
 - Engagement with customer service representatives
- Concern around renters vs. homeowners and need to identify market barriers for renters.
- Awareness of environmental stress regions.

Rose briefly shared the Mural board, an online tool, around vulnerable populations ([available online](#)) that EAG members began to populate during the May 17 meeting. The conversation highlighted the importance of understanding the demographics of PSE customers to help inform prioritization of factors and metrics for vulnerable populations.

Presentation

Customer benefit indicators and the CEIP

Rose welcomed Brian Tyson, Manager Clean Energy Planning and Implementation, PSE, to introduce the discussion on customer benefit indicators (CBIs) and how they will be used for the CEIP. Brian shared the definition of CBIs and clarified that developing CBIs is a central component of the CEIP report that will:

- Shape CEIP's programs, actions, and investments
 - Help ensure all customers benefit from clean electricity transition
 - Be used through energy resource planning process
 - Be updated over time
-

Brian offered a framework to think about CBIs from the Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC). The framework suggests to identify the community, challenge, actions, and benefits in the process. Brian emphasized that benefits are outcomes that improve customers' lives, and the focus of the conversation today is on identifying those benefits.

Brian explained how CETA categorizes CBIs and offered EAG members eight benefit categories to make CBIs more accessible. Those eight categories are Accessibility, Environment, Clean Electricity Participation, Comfort and Satisfaction, Affordability, Energy Security and Resilience, Public Health, and Economic.

Brian noted that the CEIP programs and actions will require balancing lowest reasonable cost, the CETA megawatt-hour need, resource adequacy and customer benefits.

He then presented PSE's approach to develop CBIs and how that will shape actions and programs in the CEIP. The EAG members are currently providing input on CBIs and priorities and then PSE will present benefit weightings. Brian followed by showing a draft concept developed by PSE to show a snapshot of how CBIs can practically be applied and weighted.

EAG members expressed the following thoughts:

- Developing CBIs that have direct outcomes and are quantifiable is important (i.e., percentage drop in asthma in vulnerable populations), with the awareness that some CBIs will be relative as PSE thinks about reducing disparities
- Developing CBIs that are measurable in the short term and the long term. Benefits that are long lasting will reverse disparities and have deep lasting foundational change. Long term benefit examples:
 - Higher percentage of jobs available for vulnerable populations in the energy field and within PSE
 - Energy burden decreasing: 6% cap on percentage of income spent on energy

Small group discussion

Customer benefit indicators

EAG members were divided into two groups to discuss customer benefits specifically around four benefit categories including Affordability, Clean Electricity Participation, Comfort and Satisfaction, and Economic.

EAG members were asked to answer the following questions:

1. What benefits do you envision for this category? What are some examples?
-

2. Which of these benefits are most important to you? Please give each benefit a low, medium, or high priority.
3. Looking at your priority benefits in this category, which would you choose as your top one or two most important benefit?

The groups had fruitful discussions and brought up the following themes:

- Need for quantifiable benefits and data
- High priorities: affordability and economic benefits for vulnerable populations

The notetakers captured members' thoughts using an online tool called Mural. The Mural board is now available [online here](#). Please see Attachment B in this document to see the image.

Mentimeter activity

Rose walked EAG members through an activity to rank the eight benefit categories from least important to more important. The EAG members ranked Affordability as their most important benefit category. Please see Attachment C at the end of this document to see an image of the results.

Presentation

Low-income rate design

Rose introduced Wendy Gerlitz, State and Regional Policy Consultant, PSE, to provide an overview a new legislative requirement regarding low-income rate design. This new law requires utilities to propose low-income and senior low-income rates to the UTC, who then determines if those rates are fair, just, and reasonable.

The legislation requires PSE to consult with the EAG and the low-income advisory committee (LIAC) in the development and design of the low-income rate proposal. Wendy introduced the timeline for this consultation and ideas for how to best manage developing a rate with EAG input in a way that does not overburden members of the EAG.

EAG members commented the following:

- Provide members with a schedule to react to
- Idea for the LIAC to provide a presentation to set the groundwork and key findings so far
- Clearer understanding of time requirement and how equity plays a role

Business planning

Rose informed EAG members that based on the split results of the poll completed by EAG members at the May 17 meeting to determine if PSE should record and post meetings, PSE has decided to not record meetings, however, PSE will continue to post meeting summaries on the [CEIP website](#).

Rose updated EAG members on the equity forum being planned for July and asked EAG members to begin to brainstorm on topics to be discussed at that forum.

Observer comment

Rose provided step-by-step instructions for how observers could join the meeting to 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.

No observers joined to provide verbal comments for the May 24 meeting.

The Facilitator concluded the meeting by thanking EAG members, presenters, and observers. Rose reminded EAG members of the date for the **next EAG meeting on Monday, June 21, 2021**, from 4 – 7 p.m.

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

The meeting officially adjourned at 7 p.m.

Attachment A: Meeting attendees

Equity Advisory Group (EAG) members

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

Puget Sound Energy (PSE)

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

Advocacy BL/ACK

1. Rose McKinney-James, Managing Principal
2. Lauren Brooks, Partner and Project Coordinator

Maul Foster & Alongi

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

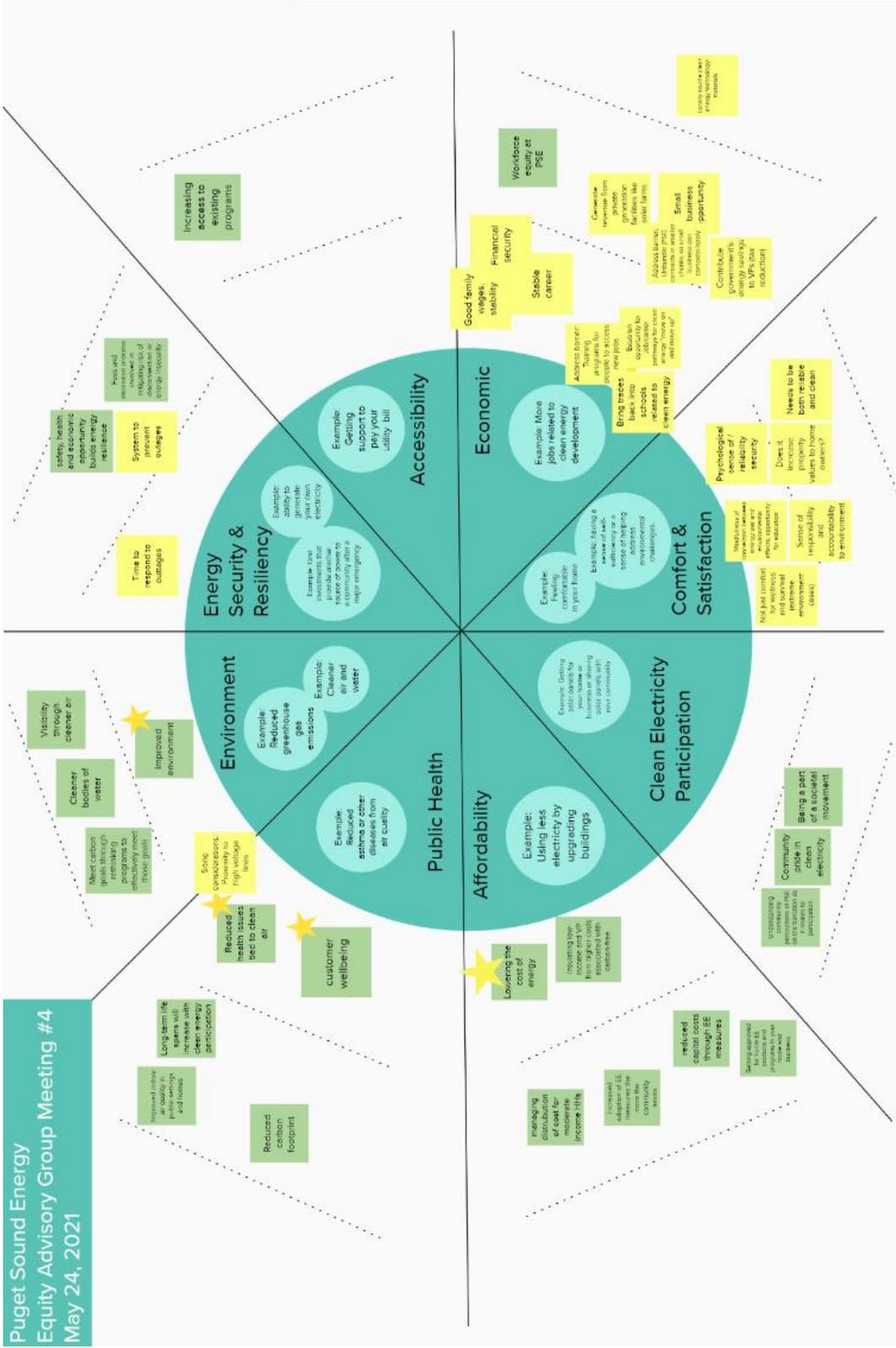
Triangle Associates

1. Lucila Gambino, Project Associate

Attachment B: Mural board from small group discussion

Customer benefit indicators

Puget Sound Energy
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Attachment C: Mentimeter activity

Ranking customer benefit categories

