

0:0:0.0 --> 0:0:24.670

Steed, Shannon

Hi everyone again, my name is Shannon Steed and I'm the consumer specialist with Cascade natural gas. Thanks very much for joining us today. This meeting is being recorded and we will also be taking minutes. So this information will also be provided for you later. So what we'll do is we will go ahead and begin with our roll call and then we have a full agenda. So we'll go ahead and get started. Let me share my screen here with you.

0:0:33.700 --> 0:0:38.900

Steed, Shannon

OK. We'll start our roll call with our Community Action agency partners, Blue Mountain Action Council.

0:0:44.910 --> 0:0:46.380

Steed, Shannon

Meaning the action connections.

0:0:48.60 --> 0:0:50.240

3ee92f91-613f-4f72-ae9b-73c84fc64cbd

Hi Shannon, this is me. Dalia. I'm here.

0:0:52.380 --> 0:0:55.340

Steed, Shannon

Community Action of Lewis, Mason and Thurston counties.

0:1:0.220 --> 0:1:1.950

Steed, Shannon

Coastal Community Action program.

0:1:7.620 --> 0:1:9.850

Steed, Shannon

Chelan Douglas Community Action Council.

0:1:15.130 --> 0:1:16.610

Steed, Shannon

Kitsap Community resources.

0:1:17.670 --> 0:1:19.0

f28187b1-2413-40b4-8ec0-aeae9463e854

Hi, Shannon, this is candy.

0:1:19.850 --> 0:1:20.470

Steed, Shannon

I candy.

0:1:21.990 --> 0:1:24.140

Steed, Shannon

Lower Columbia Community Action Center.

0:1:28.550 --> 0:1:30.440

Steed, Shannon

Northwest Community Action Center.

0:1:31.900 --> 0:1:33.220

Jose Alvarez (NCAC)

Hi, Shannon, this is Jose.

0:1:33.790 --> 0:1:34.740

Steed, Shannon

I said I'm Jose.

0:1:35.800 --> 0:1:36.910

Steed, Shannon

Oh, I see of Washington.

0:1:42.180 --> 0:1:43.210

Steed, Shannon

Opportunity council.

0:1:44.350 --> 0:1:45.930

Lorena Shah

Lorena and Marie are here.

0:1:46.750 --> 0:1:47.930

Steed, Shannon

Hello, thank you both.

0:1:48.970 --> 0:1:50.740

Steed, Shannon

Meeting the action of Skagit County.

0:1:56.150 --> 0:1:58.260

Steed, Shannon

Snohomish County Human Services department.

0:1:59.600 --> 0:2:0.840

Hockett, Constance

Constance hockett.

0:2:2.490 --> 0:2:3.130

Steed, Shannon
I, Constance.

0:2:2.930 --> 0:2:3.400

Hockett, Constance
Hello.

0:2:6.150 --> 0:2:7.110

Steed, Shannon
UTC staff.

0:2:11.590 --> 0:2:13.180

Navarro, Hanna (UTC)
Hi, this is Hanna Navarro.

0:2:14.700 --> 0:2:16.100

Roberts, Andrew (UTC)
This is Andrew Roberts with staff.

0:2:16.580 --> 0:2:18.390

Sellards, Andrew (UTC)
And this is Andy Sellards with staff.

0:2:19.230 --> 0:2:20.120

Steed, Shannon
I think you all.

0:2:20.990 --> 0:2:21.940

Steed, Shannon
The energy project.

0:2:23.460 --> 0:2:24.600

Ross Quigley
Yeah, this is Ross Quigley.

0:2:27.550 --> 0:2:29.300

Yochi Zakai
Hey guys. These guys here as well.

0:2:30.430 --> 0:2:31.330

Steed, Shannon
I think you.

0:2:30.350 --> 0:2:31.380

Yochi Zakai
Good afternoon, everyone.

0:2:32.90 --> 0:2:32.550

Steed, Shannon

Aye.

0:2:33.290 --> 0:2:34.240

Steed, Shannon

Our public counsel.

0:2:36.810 --> 0:2:37.950

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

Yes, this is Corey Dahl.

0:2:38.870 --> 0:2:39.460

Steed, Shannon

Hickory.

0:2:40.190 --> 0:2:41.580

Steed, Shannon

Northwest Energy coalition.

0:2:42.770 --> 0:2:50.900

Charlee Thompson

Hi, this is Charlie Thompson and if possible could my name be corrected in the spelling? It's EE and not IE.

0:2:51.720 --> 0:2:54.370

Steed, Shannon

Of course, I apologize. I will. I will get that corrected.

0:2:54.870 --> 0:2:55.940

Charlee Thompson

No problem. Thank you.

0:2:57.230 --> 0:2:58.230

Steed, Shannon

Department of Commerce.

0:3:4.510 --> 0:3:5.350

Steed, Shannon

And for cascade.

0:3:4.380 --> 0:3:5.700

DeBell, Michelle (COM)

Michelle de Belle is here.

0:3:6.350 --> 0:3:7.640

Steed, Shannon

Oh, hi. Thank you, Michelle.

0:3:8.770 --> 0:3:10.940

Steed, Shannon

And for Cascade natural gas Pam Archer.

0:3:12.260 --> 0:3:13.400

Archer, Pamela

Hi Shannon, it's Pam.

0:3:14.140 --> 0:3:15.240

Steed, Shannon

Hi, Chris Mickelson.

0:3:17.500 --> 0:3:20.520

Mickelson, Christopher

Hello regulatory affairs manager for Cascade.

0:3:21.930 --> 0:3:22.740

Steed, Shannon

Byron Forte.

0:3:24.510 --> 0:3:24.890

Pfordte, Byron

Hello.

0:3:26.730 --> 0:3:27.530

Steed, Shannon

Dan tillis.

0:3:29.910 --> 0:3:30.720

Tillis, Daniel

Hi Shannon, I'm here.

0:3:31.560 --> 0:3:33.200

Steed, Shannon

Hi and Mark Chiles.

0:3:35.210 --> 0:3:38.720

Chiles, Mark

And good afternoon everyone. I'm here also thanks.

0:3:39.480 --> 0:3:40.520

Steed, Shannon

Hi, thank you, Mark.

0:3:42.150 --> 0:3:49.880

Steed, Shannon

So we have, like I said, we have a full agenda. So I will go ahead and turn over the floor to Dan Tillis with item 2. Dan.

0:3:51.350 --> 0:3:57.700

Tillis, Daniel

Hey, thanks, Shannon. And if in case everyone hasn't seen it yet, I I did post a revised agenda in the chat.

0:3:59.80 --> 0:4:2.260

Tillis, Daniel

Yoki you? We received your e-mail that you sent a little over an hour ago.

0:4:2.340 --> 0:4:22.20

Tillis, Daniel

So and you know, we haven't had a chance to read through everything yet and certainly haven't had a chance to discuss it internally yet. So I think putting our current position on whether or not we're gonna move forward with the filing ahead of going through your your items two and three is.

0:4:22.760 --> 0:4:36.610

Tillis, Daniel

Our out of order, and so we'd prefer that you guys go through the attached documents you sent with your e-mail and then we can provide feedback on where we stand right now with our filing after you go through that.

0:4:41.350 --> 0:4:42.680

Yochi Zakai

Sounds reasonable to me.

0:4:41.690 --> 0:4:43.650

Tillis, Daniel

Is that is that work OK?

0:4:45.450 --> 0:4:45.920

Tillis, Daniel

Daughter.

0:4:44.960 --> 0:4:51.740

Yochi Zakai

That work for the others that uh had proposed the agenda staff, public counsel and why?

0:4:52.870 --> 0:4:53.860

Charlee Thompson

Yep, that works.

0:4:55.10 --> 0:5:0.670

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

Yeah, that that works for me. It's just important that we we get clarification on that before the end of the meeting.

0:5:1.820 --> 0:5:3.840

Tillis, Daniel

Yep, we can definitely do that so.

0:5:4.780 --> 0:5:11.990

Tillis, Daniel

So at you, OK, I don't know if you wanna leave the through those documents or who's gonna do that, but I'll turn it over to whoever is gonna take us through those.

0:5:13.40 --> 0:5:20.890

Yochi Zakai

Yeah. Thanks for being flexible and adjusting the agenda. I really appreciate it.

0:5:22.510 --> 0:5:43.560

Yochi Zakai

And for those who didn't get a chance to read the e-mail, staff and the Northwest Energy Coalition and Public Council and the Energy project kind of met this morning and put together an alternative proposal for kind of a way forward with providing assistance to customers this.

0:5:44.830 --> 0:6:12.970

Yochi Zakai

A heating season, as well as looking forward to ways to get bill discount rate implemented for Cascade and so we distributed that and then asked for the opportunity to be able to present that today. So again appreciate the flexibility and adjusting the agenda and certainly don't expect you to have been able to read everything that was sent over and that's why we wanted to take that.

0:6:13.640 --> 0:6:30.720

Yochi Zakai

Time to present and kind of walk through it today and then of course being that we can have multiple meetings to follow up and and ask questions on it in the future. And why don't I share my screen just so that if folks haven't pulled it up yet, they can see it.

0:6:30.800 --> 0:6:33.70

Yochi Zakai

Yeah. So.

0:6:33.150 --> 0:6:52.280

Yochi Zakai

Uh, hopefully that's come up. So this is a proposal again that was put together by the energy project in Northwest Energy coalition and public counsel and we worked with staff and we'll let them speak for themselves, but they, they, they've seen drafts of this.

0:6:53.480 --> 0:7:24.110

Yochi Zakai

And so our ask here is that cascade not, you know, file for approval of the new bell discount rate until you've had the opportunity to review the written concerns raised by the advisory group and listening to presentations from the advisory group discussing, you know, our concerns, we'd like the meetings that are going over this work to be longer than one hour.

0:7:24.590 --> 0:7:46.900

Yochi Zakai

We're suggesting at least 90 consecutive minutes, but it could be longer. Seems like it's just been a really

compressed time frame to try to address these issues and we want to make sure that if we get into something, we'll have time to really engage in good faith and collaboration and compromise to really try to reach our goal of helping more customers.

0:7:47.620 --> 0:7:58.30

Yochi Zakai

Umm, we also think that it would be helpful to have a third party set the agenda and facilitate these meetings.

0:7:59.170 --> 0:8:30.920

Yochi Zakai

And that's because the facilitation today, you know, we didn't feel really had provided an opportunity to explain our concerns or present alternative proposals. I feel like at the end of our last small group meeting, which I know didn't include everyone here, you know, I had kind of listed the things that we were thinking about in terms of an alternative proposal to a bill discount rate, which we have the chance to write out more thoroughly here and are having the chance to present now. But.

0:8:31.380 --> 0:8:36.790

Yochi Zakai

The only way we were able to really get the floor to make this presentation was to.

0:8:38.280 --> 0:9:5.690

Yochi Zakai

In a non collaborative way asked to rewrite the agenda for this meeting. And that's not the collaborative approach that we wanna take. So it really think that there's a way that we could have that be, you know, a little bit more of a collaborative process and think the third party facilitator would to set the agenda and to help us with facilitation would really help that.

0:9:6.270 --> 0:9:6.830

Yochi Zakai

Umm.

0:9:8.110 --> 0:9:38.460

Yochi Zakai

The the next concern is something that Lorena has brought up in the past and that is, you know, we think that the when we're talking about the bill discount rate, it would be helpful to focus on one element of the program at a time instead of trying to cover the whole program in one meeting. And that will allow us to really get in depth and to talk about the the different elements and how it's gonna work for the agencies.

0:9:38.540 --> 0:9:48.300

Yochi Zakai

How it's gonna work for customers, how it's going to work for the company and try to find something that will work best for everyone and primarily to serve customers.

0:9:48.970 --> 0:9:49.470

Yochi Zakai

Umm.

0:9:50.930 --> 0:9:58.570

Yochi Zakai

And then the opportunity to, you know, provide notes and respond in writing if they're unresolved questions.

0:9:59.780 --> 0:10:0.850

Yochi Zakai

During the meeting.

0:10:1.550 --> 0:10:2.40

Yochi Zakai

Umm.

0:10:3.600 --> 0:10:8.230

Yochi Zakai

Corey, do you wanna discuss that last point? That was something you had brought up.

0:10:11.270 --> 0:10:12.630

Yochi Zakai

If I can put you on the spot.

0:10:13.270 --> 0:10:14.440

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

Yeah, of course.

0:10:14.680 --> 0:10:20.230

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

I'm sorry, just trying to make sure that I was unmuted so one of the.

0:10:22.580 --> 0:10:30.970

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

One of the ongoing and existing concerns with the bill discount rate that public council identified.

0:10:32.180 --> 0:10:33.130

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

Was that?

0:10:35.0 --> 0:10:41.850

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

There wasn't a clear path forward on reaching out to new customers since if the interim bill discount.

0:10:42.890 --> 0:11:9.900

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

Program had been implemented or would be implemented in the near future. It would really only reach the universe of customers that are existing in programs and I'm not expand the universe of customers that are enrolled and also wouldn't reach new customers. That would likely be facing unaffordable bills as the result of significant increases to gas rates during the heat. The winter heating season.

0:11:10.940 --> 0:11:12.630

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

So as a result.

0:11:14.110 --> 0:11:33.770

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

I found it important to make sure that there was a collaborative agreement on inclusive outreach and to make sure that steps were taken to get more folks enrolled into the new program rather than just relying on the existing universe of customers.

0:11:41.850 --> 0:11:52.780

Yochi Zakai

Thanks and I don't know if you have anything else to say about that or charlee if I could put you on a spot on the spot to talk a little bit. I know you participated in a vistas.

0:11:54.340 --> 0:12:3.570

Yochi Zakai

Ongoing meetings about their bill discount program design and maybe a little bit about what's worked well with that they that you we were trying to incorporate here.

0:12:4.380 --> 0:12:6.110

Charlee Thompson

Sure. Yeah. Yeah, that's great.

0:12:7.570 --> 0:12:20.100

Charlee Thompson

So like as you he said I I have been involved in this does low income advisory committee and then their subcommittee specific to build discount right. And the process that has worked really well for all the stakeholders and I'm sure a lot of us are overlapping here.

0:12:21.610 --> 0:12:26.140

Charlee Thompson

That which point was it one of these points addresses is that?

0:12:27.340 --> 0:12:36.540

Charlee Thompson

For every meeting and it's about biweekly or so. Each of these meetings, we're having a different discussion on an element of the build build discount program. So one might be on.

0:12:37.510 --> 0:12:48.120

Charlee Thompson

Joint administration between utility and the CAP agencies. And then maybe after we have either that meeting or it takes 2 to kind of figure everything out between between folks, then we'll move on to.

0:12:49.560 --> 0:13:3.400

Charlee Thompson

Uh, self attestation in in income verification and maybe that takes a little bit. But then after each

meeting gets resolved they Vista staff has been very good about sending out notes on what was resolved, what needs to continue into the next meeting.

0:13:3.520 --> 0:13:25.610

Charlee Thompson

Umm. And I think having that planning process or maybe I don't know, maybe on the outside or on paper it kind of seems like it would be slow, it's been moving forward at a pretty consistent pace, which has been it's been a good process. So that was a point here that I I raised in our discussion earlier and I think would work well if it was me or here as well.

0:13:26.500 --> 0:13:29.470

Tillis, Daniel

A yochi before we move on. Thanks, Charlie for that.

0:13:30.650 --> 0:13:49.300

Tillis, Daniel

I I don't wanna try to respond to every item here because I don't think we'll have time to do that today. But I do for item 1 E because I think it stems from a misunderstanding of our proposal. I do want to clarify what our proposal includes. It definitely does not just.

0:13:50.480 --> 0:14:22.110

Tillis, Daniel

Or not just for the universe of customers who have participated in in Bill pay, energy assistance in the past. It is for all customers who may need any assistance at all. We would be opting in any customers who have received energy assistance of any type over the past year. But all customers who need any help can apply through an agency. Well, in this case with our temporary proposal can seek approval through the Company for energy discount program.

0:14:22.190 --> 0:14:26.370

Tillis, Daniel

And just as we have an organ, we would have a comprehensive outreach program.

0:14:27.450 --> 0:14:38.840

Tillis, Daniel

That is conducted by the company and in partnership with anybody else who wants to join us in that. So just to clarify there, it does not exclude any customers at all, any any customer could apply for assistance.

0:14:40.120 --> 0:15:2.360

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

Yeah, that, that, that's good to level set on that. That was my understanding. So, so we like, I'm glad that we're on the same page on that. But just the concern that knowing that the motivation for the Commissioners request on this was that bills would be increasing significantly due to no steps for mitigation.

0:15:4.280 --> 0:15:5.580

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

So it's.

0:15:6.100 --> 0:15:19.630

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

Uh incumbent that there is additional, concerted, inclusive outreach to make sure that all eligible customers are as many eligible customers as possible are being brought in the door.

0:15:22.510 --> 0:15:31.820

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

And and I and wasn't suggesting that it was only customers currently enrolled that would be eligible. It was just the the customers that would immediately receive that, that.

0:15:33.680 --> 0:15:34.130

Tillis, Daniel

Gotcha.

0:15:33.180 --> 0:15:34.370

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

The benefits of the program.

0:15:34.960 --> 0:15:36.40

Tillis, Daniel

OK. Thanks.

0:15:41.590 --> 0:15:49.20

Yochi Zakai

Alright, so I think I'm going to move on to two now and to just this is what I kind of mentioned briefly at the last.

0:15:49.100 --> 0:16:19.590

Yochi Zakai

Uh, a small group meeting that that we had and I've tried to have the opportunity to get into this a little bit more about, you know, a proposal that we think is workable immediately to provide additional assistance to customers. And so the first prong of this would be automatic arrearage forgiveness. And we're open to doing this in many different ways we've seen.

0:16:19.970 --> 0:16:50.160

Yochi Zakai

The first example A is something that Avista did at the end of its last program year with less than statutory notice, the Commission approved a program to provide automatic arrearage forgiveness to all residential customers with a rear ages that were 60 days past due and larger than \$100. And I think the grants were up to 350, it says. Again, the particular details of what the threshold should be.

0:16:50.240 --> 0:17:20.400

Yochi Zakai

Obviously you know should be worked out in a way that makes sense with the budget that you know we're trying to spend and the need that you know that customers have. But that's a really great example of something that could be done just kind of by crunching the data for what are we arrange is exists today, you know, for customers and you know, the Commission explicitly approved the use the existence of arrearages that were past that certain threshold as.

0:17:20.530 --> 0:17:31.60

Yochi Zakai

An estimate for customers that were qualified as as low income. And so I think that that's an option that we should consider.

0:17:32.240 --> 0:17:44.510

Yochi Zakai

The PSE and Northwest natural also identified low income customers by purchasing data from Experian and Epsilon who?

0:17:45.750 --> 0:17:51.530

Yochi Zakai

I don't want to try to categorize them. Uh, but those are companies that provide data about.

0:17:51.950 --> 0:18:21.560

Yochi Zakai

Uh in the household income or provide data about income that that could be purchased. And so they did that and then matched it with, you know, with customers and then automatically forgive diverges there. And the Commission has approved that before as well for both of those companies. And then of course we could just use customers who have already come in and ask for help and been income qualified. And we all of those are.

0:18:21.660 --> 0:18:30.180

Yochi Zakai

Something that we totally be open to and would love to see, you know, happen as as soon as possible in terms of providing help to customers.

0:18:31.900 --> 0:18:36.30

Yochi Zakai

The last one is looking at the.

0:18:36.110 --> 0:18:45.600

Yochi Zakai

A current we program and how we could make just you know, a couple of tweaks to it to to better serve customers.

0:18:45.680 --> 0:19:17.150

Yochi Zakai

So Umm the first is, you know, making it eligible up to 80% of area median income were 200% of federal poverty level as was ordered by the Commission in the last general rate case. We've had some discussion about that already. And then the other one is something that PSE is doing for its gas program right now for low income customers and that's.

0:19:17.630 --> 0:19:34.370

Yochi Zakai

You know, for the entire 2022 to 2023 program year, they're adjusting the benefit calculation based on the PGA increase that's going into effect. And so this includes you know in the future for customers that.

0:19:34.450 --> 0:19:36.700

Yochi Zakai

Uh, you know, have been.

0:19:36.770 --> 0:19:51.300

Yochi Zakai

Yeah, that that will be served and come in asking for help and and it includes looking back to customers who have already had their grant provided in this, you know, this season starting October 1st.

0:19:52.460 --> 0:20:21.530

Yochi Zakai

It's beamed. And I of course, would want, you know, your regulatory folks to make sure that you got percentages right. But I recall by looking at the PGA that that was a 23% and that the GRC increase was 2%. So it seems like if you're using last year's bills to calculate, you know, the amount that customers are eligible for that a 25% increase on that would be appropriate.

0:20:21.650 --> 0:20:51.570

Yochi Zakai

And then along with that, I think we can look at increasing the maximum benefit allowed by 25% as well. So those are some ideas about things that could be implemented right away less than statutory notice less than 30 days. And you know, at least the members of the entire group, you know that you know that are presenting this would be 100% and support of and alternate over to you know, Charlie.

0:20:51.820 --> 0:20:57.290

Yochi Zakai

Cory in favor say anything else or anyone else from the tap team if you'd like to.

0:20:57.950 --> 0:20:59.100

Yochi Zakai

Piping go ahead.

0:21:5.250 --> 0:21:17.690

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

No, I don't. I don't have anything specific to add other than I appreciate the company taking the time to to receive this proposal today and.

0:21:18.670 --> 0:21:43.180

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

You know, just reiterating public counsel's commitment to doing the work necessary to make sure that a we meet our shared goal of getting assistance immediately to customers based on the request of the Commissioners and then be making sure that we take the time necessary to work out a build discount rate.

0:21:43.520 --> 0:21:49.240

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

Umm, but in the interim or and in the long term for a permanent program that.

0:21:50.640 --> 0:22:0.740

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

Has the the cosigning of of the both the company and members of the advisory group HERE, and I think that this is a is a.

0:22:1.430 --> 0:22:5.680

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

Well laid out plan to give us a framework to do that.

0:22:11.380 --> 0:22:41.330

Yochi Zakai

And I guess I think one thing I meant to say about number one was that you know, I think they would be open to having you know in, in In interim program where we're we're we're not opposing an interim bill discount program this year. We just want to make sure we have time to talk about, talk about everything first before it gets implemented. So it's not a, there's no way this can happen before October 1st.

0:22:41.410 --> 0:22:48.880

Yochi Zakai

It it it totally. Could we just need to make sure that we feel like we've had a chance to really, you know, work through the details first.

0:22:53.560 --> 0:22:55.690

Yochi Zakai

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

0:22:51.700 --> 0:22:59.490

Charlee Thompson

That's what I was gonna say, Yogi. So thanks for bringing that up and and leading us through this and things cascade for giving us time to to go through this.

0:23:1.670 --> 0:23:24.320

Tillis, Daniel

And and I thanks for this. This specific feedback and before we get to the the feedback about the the discount program, the temporary proposed discount program itself, I'll just comment briefly on on items two and three without too much detail. I think we mentioned in the past that you know we're we're open to some sort of arrearage forgiveness.

0:23:25.820 --> 0:23:31.150

Tillis, Daniel

That is targeted to customers who are likely to be a need or have.

0:23:32.830 --> 0:23:38.550

Tillis, Daniel

Then verified as a need in the past, I will tell you we would have a very difficult time with.

0:23:39.690 --> 0:24:9.60

Tillis, Daniel

2A uh just because we feel like that's too much of a shotgun approach and not not precise enough to really help the customers who who would likely be in need or have exhibited the need in the past. But we're definitely open to discussing those options we would need to figure out the funding part because we don't have leftover funds. As we've mentioned, we'd have to figure out where that falls under WEA and whether or not we need to request additional funds, but definitely a good discussion item and then.

0:24:9.800 --> 0:24:40.10

Tillis, Daniel

It would mean that you just talk about timing on that one too, and you know it is now the right time before people have really started experiencing the higher rates or should we wait a few months and you know, forgive arrearages once they're a little higher and see what happens there. But we can talk about that for #3. I think those are really good ideas. We need to talk about it internally and make sure we get a consensus. But I think they came up briefly in our last meeting, Lorena brought brought one of the ideas forward and it makes sense to me.

0:24:40.110 --> 0:24:44.980

Tillis, Daniel

If, as rates have gone up, you know we we we can account for that.

0:24:46.310 --> 0:24:52.240

Tillis, Daniel

We need to get work through the details, but I think those are really good ideas as my initial response to that to #3.

0:25:0.930 --> 0:25:1.530

Yochi Zakai

Thanks.

0:25:0.560 --> 0:25:10.950

Tillis, Daniel

So you wanna does anybody else have any other comments on the term sheet or if not, we'll have maybe have you if you walk us through the feedback on the discount program discount rate program?

0:25:15.200 --> 0:25:17.130

Yochi Zakai

Hanna, can I put you on the spot?

0:25:22.410 --> 0:25:23.160

Navarro, Hanna (UTC)

Umm.

0:25:23.840 --> 0:25:31.310

Navarro, Hanna (UTC)

Yeah, I I've had a chance to briefly review what you presented today and.

0:25:32.490 --> 0:25:35.40

Navarro, Hanna (UTC)

Generally supportive.

0:25:35.180 --> 0:25:45.530

Navarro, Hanna (UTC)

Umm, I think that the options the two options for interim assistance are both good ideas that we should explore.

0:25:49.110 --> 0:25:49.470

Yochi Zakai

Thanks.

0:25:51.960 --> 0:25:52.440

Yochi Zakai

Umm.

0:25:53.770 --> 0:25:58.630

Yochi Zakai

Alright, come on. That took less time than I thought it would, so that's good.

0:26:1.0 --> 0:26:28.960

Yochi Zakai

But Cory, I I guess, can I put you on the spot? I you know I provided written feedback, I totally acknowledge that the company hasn't had the time to go through that. You know that long document that TEP put together. But I feel like if I start talking, I'm not gonna be able to provide my feedback in a succinct manner that will be helpful.

0:26:29.150 --> 0:26:52.160

Yochi Zakai

Umm. And so I guess I'm wondering if I can lean on my, you know, my my partners here in, in this proposal to maybe give give some of their feedback and maybe let and and and I can I can try maybe if you have specific things they could like made a chat about it would would that be OK? Sorry, we're kind of flying by the seat of our pants here.

0:27:0.780 --> 0:27:9.280

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

Sorry, I just tried to go to zoom to unmute this. Our our system does not deal well with teams, so it's it's always an adventure.

0:27:12.80 --> 0:27:16.380

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

Yeah, I'm. I'm happy to walk through some of the.

0:27:17.110 --> 0:27:20.810

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

Umm, feedback we had. I'm just trying to pull up the document.

0:27:52.430 --> 0:28:4.290

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

OK, I am not going to be able to pull it up because it's saved on our network drive and in order to connect to teams I have to disconnect our VPN because our VPN blocks teams for some reason.

0:28:5.750 --> 0:28:6.710

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

So.

0:28:6.590 --> 0:28:9.960

Tillis, Daniel

Hey I I can share it if you want or yochi can share it.

0:28:10.520 --> 0:28:12.640

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

Yeah, that be great. That'd be great. OK.

0:28:13.950 --> 0:28:15.520

Tillis, Daniel

You want to share or would you like me to?

0:28:17.130 --> 0:28:32.730

Yochi Zakai

Sure. Yeah. I mean this, you know, this document I again this comes from tap. And so I don't want to you know, other folks didn't vet everything that's in here. And so I don't wanna.

0:28:34.40 --> 0:28:39.510

Yochi Zakai

Presented as something that comes from everyone, but I'm happy to share it so people can start to see our concerns.

0:28:46.340 --> 0:28:47.670

Yochi Zakai

Make it a little bigger too.

0:28:48.470 --> 0:28:57.420

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

And I was able to pull up a version of my comments from e-mail, so we're good to go, so I can follow along.

0:28:58.280 --> 0:28:58.610

Yochi Zakai

Yeah.

0:29:4.960 --> 0:29:35.790

Yochi Zakai

OK. So I guess I'll just start talking about it and I'll try not to be too rambly and try to be fairly succinct. As you can see it's, you know, 7 pages. So there's a lot of, yeah, here the the first thing is designing the build discount rate to maximize the use of federal funds and to minimize the impact on all rate payers. So that's looking at the overlap with LIHEAP and some suggestions to look at what Avista has proposed.

0:29:35.970 --> 0:30:5.840

Yochi Zakai

I'm doing there and the other element of maximizing the use of federal funds is Community Action

agencies getting federal community service block grants or CSBG and the information that the agencies need to collect in order to do reporting on on that piece of federal funding that that they get.

0:30:6.120 --> 0:30:11.860

Yochi Zakai

And my screen just went blank and I hope that I'm still there for you all one moment.

0:30:13.860 --> 0:30:14.910

Yochi Zakai

Can anyone still hear me?

0:30:16.340 --> 0:30:16.830

Tillis, Daniel

Yes.

0:30:16.40 --> 0:30:17.50

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

Yes. Yeah.

0:30:16.450 --> 0:30:17.440

Charlee Thompson

Yeah, we can hear you.

0:30:17.820 --> 0:30:19.250

Yochi Zakai

OK, cool. Sorry my.

0:30:18.170 --> 0:30:20.990

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

And the documents and the documents back too. Mm-hmm.

0:30:20.870 --> 0:30:21.840

Yochi Zakai

OK, great.

0:30:23.670 --> 0:30:42.890

Yochi Zakai

And so part of that is gonna involve looking at how information sharing is gonna work. You know, what information is going to be provided when, when Cascade enrolls customers in the program, what kind of information is going to be passed back to the CA as?

0:30:44.310 --> 0:31:14.460

Yochi Zakai

We're also gonna wanna use this information to monitor program efficacy, and we're also gonna wanna look at, you know, are we equitably serving customers. So we wanna make sure that we're going to collect sufficient demographic information so we can answer questions about, you know, is the is, is this program equitably serving customers. And then there's a bunch of data sort bunch of specific data.

0:31:14.580 --> 0:31:22.150

Yochi Zakai

Fields that we want to talk about, you know, collecting and providing for the purposes of federal reporting.

0:31:27.920 --> 0:31:28.260

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

And.

0:31:23.310 --> 0:31:28.520

Yochi Zakai

Uh, Next up is we have spoken about in depth we wanna serve.

0:31:29.370 --> 0:31:47.300

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

Go ahead. Yeah. I was just gonna. I was just gonna jump in here and and I'll add my feedback as it aligns with the items that you're talking about. That was an an issue that public counsel also identified was making sure that provisions are made to leverage those federal funds.

0:31:48.860 --> 0:31:52.60

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

I think as a benefit to the customers and as a benefit.

0:31:52.750 --> 0:31:53.280

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

Umm.

0:31:54.570 --> 0:32:25.730

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

At benefit to the qualifying customers and as a benefit to the to the company and customers that are paying into the budget for low income programs administered by the company that will allow those budgets to be stretched more effectively to serve customers. And another consideration that needs to be made here is that though some customers may be eligible for LIHEAP funding and provide the necessary documentation.

0:32:25.820 --> 0:32:43.300

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

To prove eligibility, there might be a number of customers who are excluded from LIHEAP eligibility due to immigration status, so we'll have to look at routes for customers that are income eligible but may not be LIHEAP eligible.

0:32:49.730 --> 0:33:10.20

Yochi Zakai

And again, I don't want to say that, you know, one of the things that I pointed out in the last document was you can't do it all in one meeting. And that was why I super hesitated to even agree to, like, walk through this document. But I'm. I'm gonna try. But like, just not gonna get to everything now. And I'm just gonna put that out there and not even try.

0:33:10.460 --> 0:33:11.50

Yochi Zakai

Ohm.

0:33:12.210 --> 0:33:13.150

Yochi Zakai

We've already talked.

0:33:12.230 --> 0:33:13.210

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

And and maybe this?

0:33:13.920 --> 0:33:14.990

Yochi Zakai

Yeah, go ahead, Cory.

0:33:14.80 --> 0:33:30.70

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

So I was gonna say that maybe this would be a good opportunity just to identify the issues that, that, that exist and we'll need to discuss in any further program discussions and and keep it at the 40,000 foot levels as as best as we can.

0:33:29.720 --> 0:33:30.230

Yochi Zakai

Yeah.

0:33:31.190 --> 0:33:32.630

Tillis, Daniel

Yeah, I think that makes sense.

0:33:31.390 --> 0:33:33.500

Yochi Zakai

Which I think I might be bad at doing.

0:33:34.730 --> 0:34:4.580

Tillis, Daniel

Yeah, I think that makes sense. And one item I intended to speak to on the last document and I see it coming up on this one. So reminded me real quick the the the threshold of the high high end threshold 200% or 80% FPL, just a reminder that Cascade voluntarily in concert with the advisory group moved to 200% FPL back on November 1st, 2019. So we've been there for three years, we don't have 80% AMI integrated yet, which is an agreement we made with the advisory group.

0:34:4.860 --> 0:34:29.710

Tillis, Daniel

Because of the complexity of the calculator and the timing, it was gonna take to shift, we tried to shift to a new type of calculator and that was rejected. And then the time it was gonna take to get to a new calculator we didn't have with 80% AMI and the traditional we've calculator integrated, we didn't have

time to get there by October 1st. So we started the program. You were just with 200% FPL. But we are at that Max 200% FPL as ordered by the Commission.

0:34:32.910 --> 0:34:47.170

Yochi Zakai

But again, the Commissioners order that we program now to serve 80% AMI and So what what we have back there is continuing with the current design of the calculator, but including 80% AMI.

0:34:49.620 --> 0:34:55.560

Yochi Zakai

The the next issue besides the income threshold is, you know making sure that.

0:34:57.140 --> 0:35:25.710

Yochi Zakai

Customers can access other Community Action agency services via our referral. What goes into the referral process? What kind of tracking of referrals and what kinds of targets for enrollment are we gonna have and how are we gonna have kind of a process for continuous improvement in the referrals and converting customers who are enrolled by the utility?

0:35:25.790 --> 0:35:32.30

Yochi Zakai

To get services. So that's I think really important and outreach plan.

0:35:33.710 --> 0:35:38.310

Yochi Zakai

This is what Cory addressed earlier. I incorporated his his suggestion.

0:35:40.530 --> 0:35:43.370

Yochi Zakai

Uh, how is enrollment gonna happen?

0:35:43.970 --> 0:35:44.600

Yochi Zakai

Umm.

0:35:46.70 --> 0:35:54.980

Yochi Zakai

So there's lots of different elements, so I'll just read the titles here so you know what goes into the self attestation.

0:35:57.50 --> 0:36:10.10

Yochi Zakai

How do you select which customers are audited? Why is the income that is being asked for? What is the income that is being audited? What are the details around those things?

0:36:10.510 --> 0:36:21.740

Yochi Zakai

Um, how long our customers enrolled for what happens when a customer's income change changes? How long do customers have to provide documentation?

0:36:22.330 --> 0:36:26.800

Yochi Zakai

Um, the responsibility for conducting audits?

0:36:28.360 --> 0:36:29.730

Yochi Zakai

Automatic enrollment.

0:36:30.900 --> 0:36:32.850

Yochi Zakai

A joint communication plan.

0:36:34.530 --> 0:36:43.920

Yochi Zakai

You know, there are many parts of this, but I just wanna raise like a couple that are of like, you know, big concern are communication about.

0:36:44.590 --> 0:36:55.620

Yochi Zakai

A benefit that was provided by self attestation that then is taken away when a customer does not provide documentation of benefits.

0:36:56.480 --> 0:37:27.190

Yochi Zakai

That's a. That's a tricky communication. It's an uncomfortable one, and it's one that we really wanna get the framing right on. And it's one that we wanna make sure that it doesn't appear that the company gives a benefit and the Community Action agency takes it away when the when the benefit is when the documentation isn't provided right. And so we want to make sure that we get that communication down well before you know the programs.

0:37:27.680 --> 0:37:29.360

Yochi Zakai

Tomorrow shall we start auditing?

0:37:29.900 --> 0:37:36.450

Yochi Zakai

Umm, the other part is startup and Umm, a plan for responding to inquiries about equity.

0:37:37.710 --> 0:37:47.960

Yochi Zakai

You know, a really concerned about a media inquiry about fraud, about a customer who's over income, who, you know, enrolled in the program.

0:37:49.40 --> 0:37:56.190

Yochi Zakai

And we wanna make sure that there's a media plan in place to respond to that such that.

0:37:57.810 --> 0:38:22.520

Yochi Zakai

You know, we're not jeopardizing the use of self attestations statewide from a really bad article that ends up in a paper and is, you know, cited by legislators and really tanks all the efforts that that we're trying to do statewide in terms of getting folks enrolled via self attestation.

0:38:25.120 --> 0:38:33.930

Yochi Zakai

Uh design of the income based tiers tower, the Community Action agencies gonna be funded for the work that they do on the bill discount rate.

0:38:34.810 --> 0:38:46.680

Yochi Zakai

Uh, how is a comparable arrearage management plan gonna be designed? And how should the annual reporting be modified as a result of implementation of the plan?

0:38:55.390 --> 0:38:57.720

Yochi Zakai

And again, don't expect you to have.

0:38:58.830 --> 0:39:3.850

Yochi Zakai

Answers to any of that or have read it and been able to respond to it, but thank you for the opportunity to present it.

0:39:5.70 --> 0:39:22.740

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

And I'll just add on that, I had a few questions about funding and recovery mechanisms, but that those are those are details that we we can talk about as that becomes a subject or when we have that allotted time for discussion of those those pieces.

0:39:26.520 --> 0:39:28.410

Tillis, Daniel

Thank you Yochi and Corey and Charlie.

0:39:28.830 --> 0:39:47.390

Tillis, Daniel

And I would open it up right now. And just before we move on, we talked about this a little bit, but then move on to the item number 3 to anybody else who has any input on related topics that have been shared or any other feedback on the, if you're familiar with the proposed EDP.

0:39:47.470 --> 0:39:47.900

Tillis, Daniel

The.

0:39:48.170 --> 0:39:52.270

Tillis, Daniel

Uh. Details or what was in the the potential filing?

0:39:53.630 --> 0:39:55.400

Tillis, Daniel

Before we continue.

0:40:0.50 --> 0:40:4.620

Navarro, Hanna (UTC)

Umm hi. This is Hannah Navarro with staff. I don't.

0:40:7.170 --> 0:40:13.960

Navarro, Hanna (UTC)

Umm I I just wanna give the feedback that I don't think there's been enough.

0:40:14.40 --> 0:40:15.850

Navarro, Hanna (UTC)

Umm. Time.

0:40:16.640 --> 0:40:25.210

Navarro, Hanna (UTC)

In this process, to determine some of the details when I was reviewing the filing, I had a lot of questions.

0:40:27.580 --> 0:40:29.40

Navarro, Hanna (UTC)

And uh.

0:40:30.50 --> 0:40:32.590

Navarro, Hanna (UTC)

Yeah, that's that's all the feedback all add.

0:40:37.150 --> 0:40:48.140

Tillis, Daniel

Yeah, you know, I I would say on that we we haven't gotten into a lot of those details yet because we have, we haven't gotten agreement on just the general.

0:40:49.730 --> 0:40:51.700

Tillis, Daniel

Per temporary program itself.

0:40:53.120 --> 0:41:2.610

Tillis, Daniel

We have an idea of how those details would work and and and that's what's taking place in Oregon right now, where we have a temporary energy discount program in place.

0:41:3.740 --> 0:41:16.170

Tillis, Daniel

The effective October 1st of this year, some of the things that have been brought forward in in the feedback are still items we're we're working to address an organ as we have that temporary program in place to help our customers there.

0:41:17.410 --> 0:41:33.160

Tillis, Daniel

So you know, we really haven't gotten that far yet and would have worked through that over the next couple of months before January 1st. So that you know, we could continue moving the ball forward here while while working through our game plan at the same time so.

0:41:35.300 --> 0:42:1.210

Tillis, Daniel

You know, I I I think the the feedback provided in the specific to the energy discount program there on that last document is are all items that are appreciate you bringing those forward and I think they're items we need to address and as I just said, I think there are some of those are items we could have addressed after agreeing on the general guidelines and then working through the details before January 1st.

0:42:2.410 --> 0:42:19.800

Tillis, Daniel

And you know, we we we're definitely committed to at some point having what we consider close to a perfect program in place. Our goal is to get as much help to customers immediately while working to get better at at the help that's provided so.

0:42:20.290 --> 0:42:29.740

Tillis, Daniel

Umm, you know, as you said, you OK, we haven't. We haven't had a chance to fully digest the feedback. Uh in in both documents just yet. We'll definitely do that.

0:42:30.820 --> 0:42:34.200

Tillis, Daniel

And we'll talk about next steps in a few minutes, but.

0:42:35.880 --> 0:42:38.90

Tillis, Daniel

Anybody else before we go to item 3?

0:42:44.100 --> 0:42:45.310

Tillis, Daniel

All right, well.

0:42:46.870 --> 0:43:9.330

Tillis, Daniel

You know it's it's with disappointment that I share that the cascade will not move forward with filing the temporary energy discount program. And that disappointment really stems from we we really firmly believe it's the the best way for mitigation during the winter season with the new rates through the PGA.

0:43:9.410 --> 0:43:9.740

Tillis, Daniel

Hey.

0:43:10.870 --> 0:43:40.440

Tillis, Daniel

You know, I think the other utilities brought mitigation to their with their PGA, but that's mitigation that pushes the problem down the road. The energy discount program actually gives customers monthly recurring discounts that help them with their bill rates every month instead of you know increasing rates again and again in the spring. So we think it's a better approach, but we we've heard the feedback, we appreciate the feedback and we're.

0:43:40.670 --> 0:43:57.300

Tillis, Daniel

I'm ready to move forward with with working, continuing to work with the advisory group to address the concerns you've brought forward and you know we we agree that still working to a date earlier than October 1st, 2023 is a good goal.

0:43:58.320 --> 0:44:5.110

Tillis, Daniel

You know, I I think it will take us some time based on the feedback we've received. If if we don't wanna move forward without addressing all those items so.

0:44:6.860 --> 0:44:11.580

Tillis, Daniel

We'll, we'll. We'll stop the we'll. We'll hold off on the filing and.

0:44:12.720 --> 0:44:34.130

Tillis, Daniel

You know, I I think next steps for me would be you know we need a little bit of time to to talk internally and digest the feedback. But then I think we have another meeting probably already scheduled for next week. I'm not sure if that will stay schedule or not because I think it's the Wednesday before the holiday weekend. So we'll see if we all want to do that or not. But whatever that next meeting is, we can maybe talk about.

0:44:35.930 --> 0:44:54.300

Tillis, Daniel

Next steps forward in responses to the term sheet and or we might respond to some of those via e-mail. Before then we'll we'll see. But so we just need to talk internally we Lori's traveling today, she's our director, director of regulatory marks on with this, but we just and Lori's team are on with this. But again, we just haven't talked at all yet, so.

0:44:58.390 --> 0:45:27.440

Yochi Zakai

Totally understandable that you had not had a chance to talk or digest things, and I promise you that if I could have gotten everything out earlier, I would have and was working as fast as we could to get everybody on board and the and the feedback we needed. And thank you for listening to our concerns and agreeing not to file and thank you for listening to us today. We appreciate it and we're optimistic that we can get something to.

0:45:27.910 --> 0:45:35.690

Yochi Zakai

In place to help customer soon, and we're willing to put in the time for, you know, whatever is necessary to.

0:45:36.410 --> 0:45:38.240

Yochi Zakai

To get it to get it done.

0:45:40.180 --> 0:45:42.480

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

No, all echo those sentiments.

0:45:42.560 --> 0:45:49.600

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

Umm, we do appreciate you receiving our feedback and taking this step because.

0:45:50.380 --> 0:45:56.600

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

I I'm confident that we can get forms of immediate relief to customers who need it and.

0:45:57.370 --> 0:46:2.190

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

Do it in a way that we know can be administered, administered through.

0:46:3.370 --> 0:46:6.430

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

Existing pathways and I'm also confident that we can.

0:46:8.90 --> 0:46:14.730

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

Work through a discount program that we feel good about, and we also feel good that it will be.

0:46:16.580 --> 0:46:24.690

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

Successful when it when it's launched and make sure all the pieces are in place to make sure that all of the the players involved in in.

0:46:25.780 --> 0:46:30.790

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

Implementing the program are are prepared to do that and and do that adequately.

0:46:34.790 --> 0:46:40.60

Tillis, Daniel

And since we have some time left, um, maybe a little bit of discussion on a few of the topics.

0:46:41.300 --> 0:46:44.620

Tillis, Daniel

Today. So we make make make full use of our our time together.

0:46:46.260 --> 0:47:14.170

Tillis, Daniel

Going back to the the options for providing arrearage forgiveness grants, as you know, as either we head into the winter season or we able farther into it since our last meeting, we have been working to better understand the approaches that Northwest natural and Puget Sound and other utilities. We haven't reached out to Avista. I think it's the first time I heard what they've done today. So unless I just forgot it, but to see to.

0:47:14.700 --> 0:47:20.630

Tillis, Daniel

Determine you know who they worked with at Epsilon and Experian. I already have the contact at Epsilon.

0:47:22.190 --> 0:47:41.910

Tillis, Daniel

Working on that experience contact, we're also in contact with forefront economics. Who did our low income needs assessment report. They've done some work for us in the past in the Yakima area where they actually did some propensity models for likely low income customers there.

0:47:43.230 --> 0:47:51.370

Tillis, Daniel

I don't think we ever did much with the data, quite frankly, but we wanna see if if their approach might help us.

0:47:52.30 --> 0:48:3.460

Tillis, Daniel

Uh have a higher level of accuracy with determining those likely low income customers. So we, we've done some work, some ground work very early, but some ground work on on that item.

0:48:5.280 --> 0:48:27.770

Tillis, Daniel

So update there and then for #3, I've already asked Shannon via via chat, Shannon C Via chat to start looking at what those changes would look like. I think for 3A the IT should be usage to add 25% to the past usage data not bill amount because we've works off the current we've calculator works off of bill amount.

0:48:28.990 --> 0:48:52.560

Tillis, Daniel

Or I've energy usage, not the amount, but she'll start looking at that as well as what 25% added to the Max benefit would look like. We typically don't get anywhere near our cap and and don't get to our soft cap for our budget. So we probably have some room there depending on what a reroute forgiveness API programming concert with that would look like and we can always ask for more money.

0:48:55.320 --> 0:48:57.970

Tillis, Daniel

And then there was one other item.

0:48:59.930 --> 0:49:2.400

Tillis, Daniel

Shoot, I'm forgetting it now. Talking too much.

0:49:5.50 --> 0:49:6.600

Tillis, Daniel

I might think about it in a minute, but.

0:49:8.580 --> 0:49:28.150

Tillis, Daniel

We we're already working on those couple of of areas a little bit just ohh I remember now and also Chad with Chris a little bit on integrating AMI you know it's there there are 16 counties and so it's a it's a challenge in the traditional we've calculator.

0:49:29.670 --> 0:49:51.240

Tillis, Daniel

You know, one option that Chris is presented as we could have 16 AMI calculators and each agency would only have to use the ones for their counties and then one FPL calculator. So the agencies would need to use the AMI calculator for their county or counties and then the FPL calculator and then choose the one that is best for the customer.

0:49:52.560 --> 0:50:8.930

Tillis, Daniel

And and so that's, you know, 11 possible approach we could move forward with, I don't know how long Chris would have to share with us how long he thinks that would take. But other than that we don't have any great answers for that right now. So we're open to feedback on other options.

0:50:11.90 --> 0:50:16.120

Tillis, Daniel

And if Chris wants to speak more about the 16 AMI calculator, she's welcome to.

0:50:25.910 --> 0:50:38.490

Yochi Zakai

And maybe if any of the agencies have thoughts on needing to use two calculators, is that something that is just not workable or is it something that, you know, maybe could?

0:50:39.360 --> 0:50:42.190

Yochi Zakai

Maybe could happen. It does sound like a little bit more work.

0:50:44.630 --> 0:50:49.210

Yochi Zakai

And maybe we just take that back and think about it a little more and be prepared to chat about it at the next meeting.

0:50:50.260 --> 0:50:50.890

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

And I would.

0:50:50.390 --> 0:50:57.50

DeBell, Michelle (COM)

This is Michelle from commerce and I would advise not to use two calculators. You're just gonna.

0:50:57.780 --> 0:51:1.350

DeBell, Michelle (COM)

Overly complicate things and create a lot of confusion.

0:51:2.500 --> 0:51:7.450

DeBell, Michelle (COM)

That's the decision of this group, but that is my recommendation. Don't try to use to.

0:51:11.620 --> 0:51:13.410

DeBell, Michelle (COM)

You'll wind up at cross purposes.

0:51:17.600 --> 0:51:34.400

Tillis, Daniel

But in Yochi think the suggestion of maybe the agencies and others give that some thought as far as multiple calculators or if we have. If you have other utilities with whom you're working, who have you know more than a couple of counties that you know they work in.

0:51:35.480 --> 0:51:44.50

Tillis, Daniel

You know, if there's an approach that they've created, it's working for you that we can steal. And I say we being Chris, he's smarter than me on that stuff.

0:51:45.350 --> 0:51:49.940

Tillis, Daniel

Then you know we we're we're happy to to still shamelessly so.

0:51:52.390 --> 0:51:53.900

Corey Dahl (PCU-he/him) (Guest)

Yeah, that's just what I was.

0:51:52.140 --> 0:51:59.870

Yochi Zakai

Yeah, I shared with you what we have from PSE. I think that's the probably the closest thing we have in the most overlap with your service territory.

0:52:0.590 --> 0:52:3.790

DeBell, Michelle (COM)

Right. And then the other thing is though it's it's.

0:52:4.700 --> 0:52:8.510

DeBell, Michelle (COM)

My point of view slightly more straightforward because.

0:52:9.490 --> 0:52:17.420

DeBell, Michelle (COM)

The calculation is what it is. It's your, it's your income that's gonna vary from county to county.

0:52:22.540 --> 0:52:23.670

Tillis, Daniel

Right, it's the.

0:52:22.840 --> 0:52:28.750

DeBell, Michelle (COM)

So you can set your. Yeah, you can set your income to be at 200% of the federal poverty level.

0:52:29.720 --> 0:52:34.600

DeBell, Michelle (COM)

And then whatever that is or 200% of the area median income.

0:52:35.910 --> 0:52:39.350

DeBell, Michelle (COM)

And then whatever that is you calculate against.

0:52:40.60 --> 0:52:41.220

DeBell, Michelle (COM)

Based on your account.

0:52:43.280 --> 0:53:13.510

Mickelson, Christopher

So this is Chris, maybe I don't quite understand how PSE is taking kind of that AMI FPL crossover chart that Yochi ultimately shared with us and gets applied to the benefit curve. So that's kind of the piece I struggle with at least with cascade is our benefit curve is built on either that FPL or AMI data and determining where.

0:53:13.650 --> 0:53:16.870

Mickelson, Christopher

Within that usage, how much they would get so.

0:53:18.380 --> 0:53:20.200

Mickelson, Christopher

And I don't I I didn't see that.

0:53:21.140 --> 0:53:28.260

Mickelson, Christopher

Connection based off that crossover chart so that that is kind of the piece I would need to see. I don't know if there's maybe another.

0:53:29.460 --> 0:53:35.190

Mickelson, Christopher

Maybe they have a calculator and this information feeds into that. I'm not sure, but that's the piece I'm missing.

0:53:38.580 --> 0:53:39.30

DeBell, Michelle (COM)

OK.

0:53:41.700 --> 0:53:45.330

Tillis, Daniel

And Chris, maybe if you have a contact at PSC, we could try to talk to them.

0:53:46.880 --> 0:53:47.510

Tillis, Daniel

You know, I think.

0:53:48.850 --> 0:53:53.930

Tillis, Daniel

We'll we'll work to get it done as soon as we can. If you all have any other ideas, let us know. Certainly will.

0:53:55.350 --> 0:53:59.840

Tillis, Daniel

May maybe since it's impacting this program year it's not EDP related.

0:54:0.360 --> 0:54:13.870

Tillis, Daniel

But, but since it is impacting this program, you're might be one of one of our first topics. We need to talk about on the top of the agenda for the next meeting, see where our progress is and any other ideas. If we haven't made much progress so.

0:54:17.120 --> 0:54:46.630

Sylvia Schaeffer

Daniel, this is Sylvia from Blue Mountain Action Council in Walla Walla. I would just say that the calculators, if he had two, is not gonna affect our agency in any way. You have tabs at the bottom of the one that we use now for WEAF calculations. So once said, 80 AMI and the other one said, you know, 200 or 150 or 200 FPL, we would just click on that tab and use whichever one we needed to use. I mean, it's not to us, it would not make.

0:54:46.710 --> 0:55:3.100

Sylvia Schaeffer

I any bit of difference whether we had two calculators or one, so I'm just saying I mean regardless, you know all this information that we just received is a lot and so you know that's as Community Action agencies doing the work it's it's.

0:55:5.100 --> 0:55:9.610

Sylvia Schaeffer

It's it's a lot. I mean, it's a lot of work. So with all these changes that are coming up all these.

0:55:9.690 --> 0:55:39.830

Sylvia Schaeffer

Some proposals and whatnot. Regardless, we'll do the work, but it's just, you know, it's we're working

with the customers, we're doing the work daily, everyday all day. So you know, I just wanted to put that out there that even though you're talking about like you're talking about WEA, whatever it is, it discount, you know, the benefit going either you use, we first use LIHEAP. I mean we've got tons of funds here while while county that we're very thankful for that we're able to help and access.

0:55:39.920 --> 0:56:10.650

Sylvia Schaeffer

Already, what you've what you're suggesting to access different funds. If you can't help with this, you know adding barriers as far as asking all these questions for clients to answer, some people don't want to answer those things that were brought out in this this presentation today. So you know it's those kind of things that people are afraid to come in here and ask for help. So I'll just put that out there. That's a lot of information. And you know this is I'm just speaking for myself. So as an just a director here for the.

0:56:10.760 --> 0:56:24.320

Sylvia Schaeffer

Energy assistance and the Rent assistance program that Blue Mountain Action Council. So it was a lot to take in, but I look forward to discussing anything that's presented to us. But it is kind of wanted to put that out there. So I appreciate cascade natural gases.

0:56:24.790 --> 0:56:32.500

Sylvia Schaeffer

Ohm always working so closely with us and you know anything we need always there for us. So I appreciate everybody there. So thank you.

0:56:35.690 --> 0:56:42.580

Tillis, Daniel

Great feedback, Sylvia. Thank you. And yeah, we it definitely is a lot. And so we have a lot to work on.

0:56:43.680 --> 0:57:6.390

Tillis, Daniel

And and we'll we'll continue doing that and you know we could maybe some Sylvia has provided feedback maybe Chris, one approach is to to build a A2 calculator model for for her agency and let them test it out for a couple weeks and see how it goes and if that's working well for them, expand that maybe one suggestion so.

0:57:12.340 --> 0:57:22.310

Tillis, Daniel

Alright, we're close to time here and I want to honor everybody's schedule. Anybody any other input on the topics we've discussed or any other topics?

0:57:29.840 --> 0:57:59.450

Tillis, Daniel

All right. Thank you, everyone. Like I said, we're supposed to have a small group meeting next week. We'll see if that holds with the holiday week. If not, we'll figure out the schedule after that. But you know, one of the things we've said, we are committed to is meeting more often and and so we'll, we'll we'll definitely get get that schedule set up so we can work out final WEA changes AMI and and possibly increasing the the caps and the past energy usage amount adder.

0:57:59.770 --> 0:58:1.460

Tillis, Daniel

Umm. And then.

0:58:2.660 --> 0:58:10.470

Tillis, Daniel

Really turn our focus to or keep our focus on a a great EDP program. So our energy discount of some sort so.

0:58:11.300 --> 0:58:21.750

Yochi Zakai

Yeah. Thanks to him. The other thing I wanted to mention is you. We've been making vague references to the small group that's been that's been meeting and.

0:58:22.930 --> 0:58:53.180

Yochi Zakai

We I think we should just name it that it's been Cascade Commission staff, Northwest Energy Coalition, Public Council and the energy project and the energy projects been working with Opportunity Council as we normally do as kind of the the Community Action Agency that we work closest with and if any of the other Community Action agencies are interested in participating, you know, I think that you know, we'd be open to that and you can feel free to, you know, reach out to me or Lorena or Ross.

0:58:53.280 --> 0:59:11.390

Yochi Zakai

And we can help out with that. And if any other advisory group members are interested in meeting more often and participating in some more detailed discussions, you know, I think we should, we should open that up too if if folks are interested because it kind of started ad hoc and we don't want to be exclusive in any way.

0:59:12.820 --> 0:59:42.390

Tillis, Daniel

Yeah, that that's great feedback yochi. I think it started with following up on the specific issues of 150% versus 200% cap. And then SMI versus AMI and the feedback we've received from Yogi and Cory. And then we brought a small group together and then decided I think there's another utility who has subcommittees that works on is working on the energy discount program for their utility. And so we decided to be a good idea to keep that going moving forward, but.

0:59:42.770 --> 0:59:49.190

Tillis, Daniel

The idea is definitely not to be exclusive, so if anybody feels like they'd like to be involved in another meeting to have those discussions, let us know so.

0:59:52.930 --> 0:59:55.420

Tillis, Daniel

Alright. Thanks everyone. Have a great rest of your day.

0:59:56.730 --> 0:59:58.220

Yochi Zakai

Thank you very much for your time.

0:59:57.0 --> 0:59:58.460

Navarro, Hanna (UTC)

Thanks. Thank you.

0:59:56.690 --> 0:59:59.460

Tillis, Daniel

Happy Thanksgiving. If we don't talk to you again. Alright, bye.

0:59:59.270 --> 0:59:59.820

Charlee Thompson

Thank you.

0:59:59.270 --> 1:0:0.340

DeBell, Michelle (COM)

Take care everybody.