

Puget Sound Energy Equity Advisory Group Meeting

Meeting Summary

Tuesday, July 16, 2024 | 5 – 7 p.m.

Meeting purpose & topics

Equity Advisory Group (EAG) meeting objectives:

- Receive update on Integrated System Planning
- Receive update on Distributional Equity Analysis (DEA) Pilot and provide feedback on approach
- Demonstrate how the collaboration tool is used and allow EAG members to share community events with one another

Agenda

1. [Opening](#): 5:00 – 5:10 p.m.
 - 1.1. Welcome
 - 1.2. Safety & Equity moment
2. [Integrated System Planning](#): 5:10 – 5:20 p.m.
 - 2.1. Presentation
3. [Distributional Equity Analysis \(DEA\) Pilot](#): 5:20 – 6:10 p.m.
 - 3.1. Presentation
 - 3.2. Breakout rooms
 - 3.3. Report out
4. **Break**: 6:10 – 6:15 p.m.
5. [EAG collaboration tool and discussion](#): 6:15 – 6:55 p.m.
 - 5.1. Presentation
 - 5.2. Breakout rooms and discussion
6. [Next Steps](#): 6:55 – 7:00 p.m.
 - 6.1. Next Steering Committee meeting: Sept. 2, 5-6pm.
 - 6.2. Next EAG meeting: Sept. 17, 5-7pm.
7. [Public Comment](#): 7:00 – 7:10 p.m.

The [full meeting materials](#) can be found online.

Meeting action items

Below is a summary of the action items from the July 16, 2024 EAG meeting. A feedback report of questions and comments, alongside PSE's responses, is in [Attachment B: Feedback Report](#).

What	Who	When
Send poll to EAG members to ask preference on how to receive EAG and PSE updates.	PSE	Before Sept. EAG Meeting
Continue discussing ISP engagement workplan with EAG.	PSE	Sept EAG meeting

Meeting summary

Below is a summary of the presentations and discussions from the July 16, 2024 EAG meeting. A recording of the presentation portions of the meeting is also available on the [EAG YouTube channel](#).

Opening

Welcome

Sophie Glass, Triangle Associates (Interim Facilitator), opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Talysa McCall, PSE Communications Initiatives Consultant, presented a safety moment on vehicle theft prevention month. Dennis Suarez, EAG member, provided an equity moment on procedural justice regarding equity practices that can be used in EAG Equity Forums.

Yvonne Wang, PSE Energy Equity Manager, shared a brief update on the transition to Uncommon Bridges as the main facilitators for the EAG meetings. Sophie reviewed the meeting facilitator requests and meeting objectives. She noted that the agenda does not include EAG updates and launched a poll to ask members their preferences on receiving updates.

Integrated System Planning

Sophie introduced Kara Durbin, PSE Clean Energy Strategy Director.

Presentation

Kara provided an update on PSE's transition to an Integrated System Plan (ISP) required by [Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1589](#) of 2024. This bill recognizes that past planning processes need to be changed to achieve clean energy goals by integrating the Clean Energy Implementation Plan (CEIP) and gas and electric Integrated Resource Plans (IRP). In response to the bill, PSE filed a petition with the Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) to waive the filing of the 2025 CEIP and IRP and published PSE's Planning Transition Work Plan. On July 11, 2024, the Commission approved PSE's petition waiving the 2025 IRP and CEIP filing requirements and found PSE's work plan demonstrated "reasonable progress" towards meeting CETA requirements and achieving equity goals. Kara shared that PSE has begun

planning for the 2027 ISP. PSE will continue discussing ISP work with advisory groups and plans to file an engagement work plan by Oct. 31, 2024.

Kara also reviewed how interested party and advisory group feedback informed PSE's equity analysis approach regarding the electric and gas utilities. She explained that this feedback will be carried forward to support the 2027 ISP.

Q&A

EAG members had the following comments and questions (with PSE responses):

- With the 2025 waiver, does that mean there are CEIP obligations in 2027? Is the IRP disappearing?
 - We will continue to file progress reports including clean energy compliance reports. PSE will not be filing a 2025 CEIP or IRP. The new ISP will be filed in 2027 and combines CEIP and IRP requirements. An ISP has the same types of analytics but is more expansive and a bit more complex as it includes decarbonization.
- Was this feedback (on the equity approach) from prior EAG meetings or from other groups?
 - The feedback is from both the EAG and Resource Planning Advisory Group, as well as public comments.

Additional details on the Integrated System Planning are on [slides 11 to 16](#). See [Attachment B: Feedback Report](#) for additional Q&A. A recording is also available to watch on the [EAG YouTube channel](#).

Distributed Equity Analysis (DEA) Pilot

Sophie introduced Michael Wehling, PSE Energy Equity Program Manager – Data Analytics.

Presentation

Michael presented the objectives for the EAG on the Distributed Equity Analysis (DEA) Pilot, which is requesting feedback from the EAG on providing improvements on the DEA approach and identifying factors missing from the analysis. The pilot was a requirement from PSE's 2022 General Rate Case (GRC) order. Michael explained the differences between DEAs and Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) and how they complement each other using many of the same principles, concepts, assumptions and inputs. DEA is an analysis method to account for equity impacts beyond the scope of BCAs by separating customers into priority populations. These tools give a second vision to PSE's cost analysis and offer an equity lens.

PSE partnered with the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory to develop methods for a DEA pilot. It consisted of applying DEA to two Distributed Energy Resource (DER) projects: a retrospective analysis of a completed community solar project at Olympia High School and a prospective analysis of a future community solar/battery storage project(s) at the Nooksack Indian Tribe. For the Nooksack Indian Tribe, PSE established interested party engagement at the beginning of the DEA process including attending the Department of Energy's (DOE) Energy Transitions Partnership Project (ETIPP) workshop with the Nooksack Indian Tribe. PSE was invited to that workshop to be part of the site selection process with the tribe. Michael outlined the applicable customer benefit indicators for each of the projects and lessons learned in using a retrospective and prospective analysis. From this pilot, PSE can apply DEA methodology to other areas where BCA is traditionally used, including capital projects, infrastructure improvement and maintenance projects.

Breakout rooms

EAG members participated in a breakout room exercise where they had the opportunity to apply the DEA approach by reviewing a scenario, potential elements, and discussing the benefits and tradeoffs of each option. See [Attachment C: Breakout Rooms Miro](#) for screenshots of breakout room discussions.

Q&A

EAG members had the following comments and questions (with PSE responses):

- If this continues for next year, I'm wondering how these priority populations are identified. Are these BCA and DEAs applied to different priority populations?
 - Part of the design of the DEA upfront is the selection of the priority population. It is important to understand the concept of the tool. They work together and are not competing.

Additional details on DEA Pilot are on [slides 17 to 32](#). See [Attachment B: Feedback Report](#) for additional Q&A. A recording is also available to watch on the [EAG YouTube channel](#).

EAG collaboration tool and discussion

Due to time constraints, this was not covered in this meeting. EAG members will cover this discussion topic in a future meeting.

Next Steps

Sophie discussed the next steps, reminders, and planning coordination.

- Next Steering Committee meeting: Sept. 2, 5-6 p.m.

- Next EAG meeting: Sept. 17, 5-7 p.m.

Meeting materials are available at cleanenergyplan@pse.com.

Public Comment

Sophie provided instructions for observers to join the meeting to give verbal public comments.

There were no public comments.

The meeting officially adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Attachment A: Meeting Attendees

Equity Advisory Group members

1. TJ Protho, Community advocate
2. Dennis Suarez, Community advocate
3. Megan Walsh, Community advocate
4. Karia Wong, Chinese Information and Service Center
5. Xi Wang, Community advocate
6. Chris Winters, International Union of Painters and Allied Trades
7. Amasai Jeke, UTOPIA Washington
8. Demeco Walters, Community advocate
9. Elizabeth Vaughn, Sustainable Connections

Puget Sound Energy

1. Troy Hutson, Director Energy Equity
2. Yvonne Wang, Energy Equity Manager
3. Talysa McCall, Communications Initiatives Consultant
4. Michael Wehling, Energy Equity Program Manager – Data Analytics
5. Katherine Collins, Sr. Data Analyst, Energy Equity
6. Kara Durbin, Director Clean Energy Strategy
7. Wendy Gerlitz, Director Regulatory Policy

Consultant Staff

1. Sophie Glass, Triangle Associates
2. Kim Zamora Delgado, Triangle Associates
3. Zachary Ott, Triangle Associates
4. Seth Baker, Maul Foster & Alongi
5. Will Henderson, Maul Foster & Alongi

Attachment B: Feedback Report

Topic	Question/Comment	PSE response
ISP	I've seen more support from the public and petitioners of what PSE is doing (related to Initiative 2066).	Thank you for your comment.
DEA	Great way to "Make-the-case" for PSE's leadership in utilizing the distro of equity inclusion through these valuable assessments!	Thank you for your comment.
DEA	This is similar to "Value Added Services": something we use in the labor / service field while performing Business Development Management exercises with labor-management partners, or in this case vendor / utility - Customer relations.	Thank you for your comment.
DEA	Great to see you've done work with Nooksack Tribe.	Thank you for your comment.
DEA	I appreciate the methodology. Taking this and actually employing it is going to help the iterative approach.	Thank you for your comment.
DEA	For the DEA analysis do you have a list of DER projects? Will the DEA be used to prioritize what PSE projects are going to be used?	The GRC requirement asked PSE to apply DEA analysis to a specific set of processes, participate in a commission-led process, and get approval before we apply it more broadly. We are testing this approach. It is not meant to prioritize but to ensure that benefits are going to the priority populations where investments are made.
DEA	What's the difference and knowledge with the stakeholders and understanding this subject? Oftentimes when resources are available, customers who receive information may know before others who don't get information. That leads to a difference between beneficiaries who really understand what they're getting vs those who don't.	<p>These are community solar projects where customers receive benefits as credits on their bill. Income-eligible customers are able to participate for free.</p> <p>This DEA approach is meant to ensure priority populations benefit from these projects and they have a voice in the process. The Nooksack tribe pilot provided us with information. For example, in the two sites analyzed, feedback through procedural equity practices prioritized a site with a battery storage feature over one without, even though there were more priority population customers at the site without storage. Both project sites did have priority population customers within their</p>

Topic	Question/Comment	PSE response
		respective study areas. if we see a lag in participation, we make sure PSE is reaching them where they are to ensure a percentage of benefits reach priority populations.

Attachment C: Breakout Rooms Miro

