

Equity Advisory Group Meeting

September 15, 2025

5 p.m. – 7 p.m.



Welcome and Introductions

Ishmael Nuñez, Uncommon Bridges
Facilitator



Safety Moment

Em Piro

Energy Equity Program Manager - Community Partnerships



Safety Moment: “A Safe Culture is an Equitable Culture”

While anyone can experience an incident, the **likelihood and impacts are not equal**

Exposure to hazards and Severity of impacts can be increased by:

Infrastructure issues like inadequate housing, transportation safety disparities, crumbling infrastructure

Environmental impacts like higher pollution levels and greater disaster risk (flood plains, heat islands, industrial hazards, etc)

Health disparities from social and environmental factors

Higher-risk jobs with fewer protections

Access to adequate healthcare, time off for recovery, financial safety nets

*Energy Equity leads to safer, more resilient communities
where people can better **prevent**, **respond to**, and **recover** from incidents.*

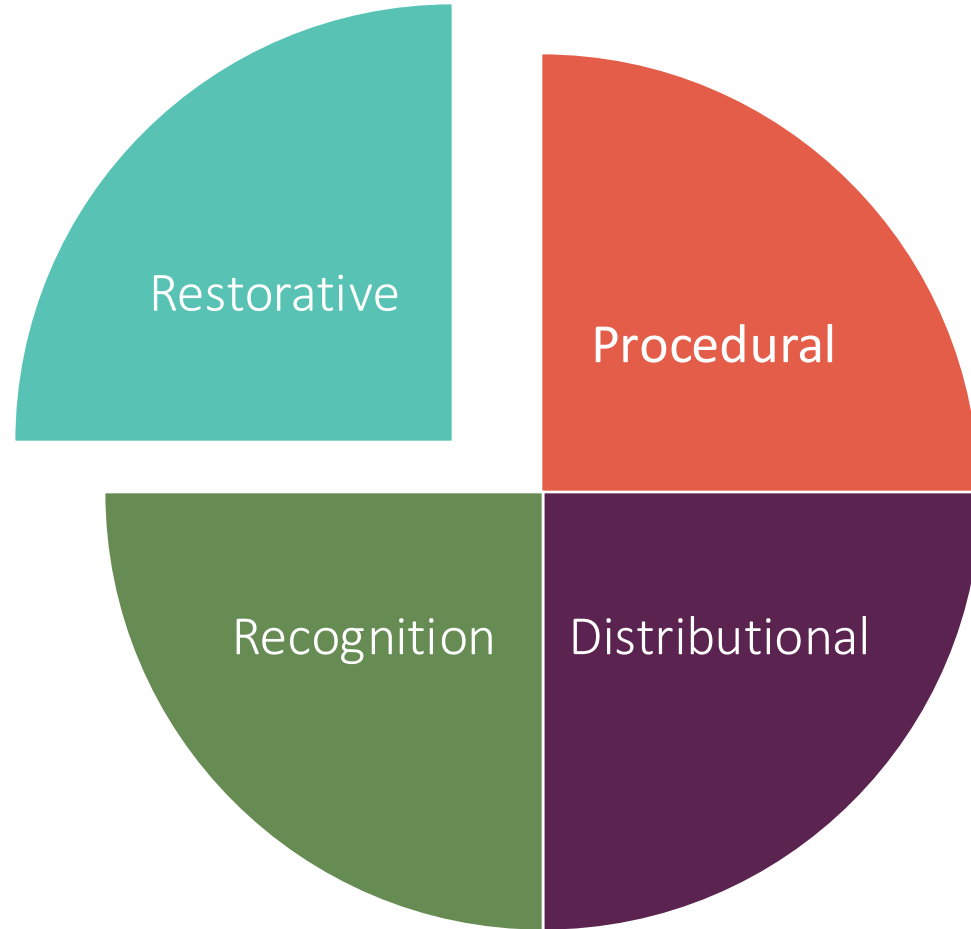
Equity Moment

TJ Protho

EAG Member



Tonight's equity focus



Equity Moment: Active Listening to Strengthen Relationships when working with communities

What is Active Listening?

Hearing + understanding thoughts and feelings = building trust across cultures

Key Techniques

- **Be fully present** in the conversation
- **Show** interest through good eye contact
- Notice and use **non-verbal** cues
- **Ask open-ended questions** to encourage dialogue
- **Paraphrase** and reflect what you've heard
- Listen **to understand**, not to respond
- **Withhold** judgment and advice

Why It Matters

- ✓ Shows the conversation is about **them**, not you
- ✓ Helps you **understand problems** and collaborate on solutions
- ✓ Can **reduce unintentional harm** to individuals and communities

Agenda

5:00 p.m. – Welcome

5:20 p.m. – Distributed Equity Analysis (DEA) - Part 1: Refresher on DEA, Net Metering* Requirement

6:10 p.m. – BREAK

6:15 p.m. – Distributed Equity Analysis (DEA) - Part 2: DEA for 80 MW Portfolio of Distributed Energy Programs

6:50 p.m. – Public Comment

7:00 p.m. – Next steps

*PSE uses net energy metering and net metering interchangeably

Facilitator requests

Participants, please:

- Listen to and appreciate the diversity of views and opinions
- Actively participate in the group
- Behave constructively and courteously towards all participants
- Respect the role of the facilitator to guide the group process

Observers, please:

- Respect the Equity Advisory Group's time to discuss meeting topics

YouTube livestream and Public Comment for observers

Public Comment

- The public comment period will start at 6:55 p.m.
- Instructions to join will be presented during break.
- **Please do not join the meeting until then.** The first 5 individuals will have 2 minutes each to speak.

Livestream

- Observers can watch the meeting through the YouTube livestream link.
- Prepare to provide your verbal comments during the observer comment period on the agenda.

Housekeeping

- **Reminder:** Register for Fall Retreat
 - Oct 18-19
 - Renton
- **New EAG member joining in October:** Rachel Gates

Distributed Equity Analysis (DEA) for Net Energy Metering

Michael Wehling

Energy Equity Program Manager – Data Analytics



What are we here to discuss?

1. Defining Equity Metrics

What should PSE measure to assess equity in our Net Energy Metering program?

- **Navigating Core Equity Tensions**

Individual vs Community adoption of Net Energy Metering, and how we understand the Individual and Community benefit experienced

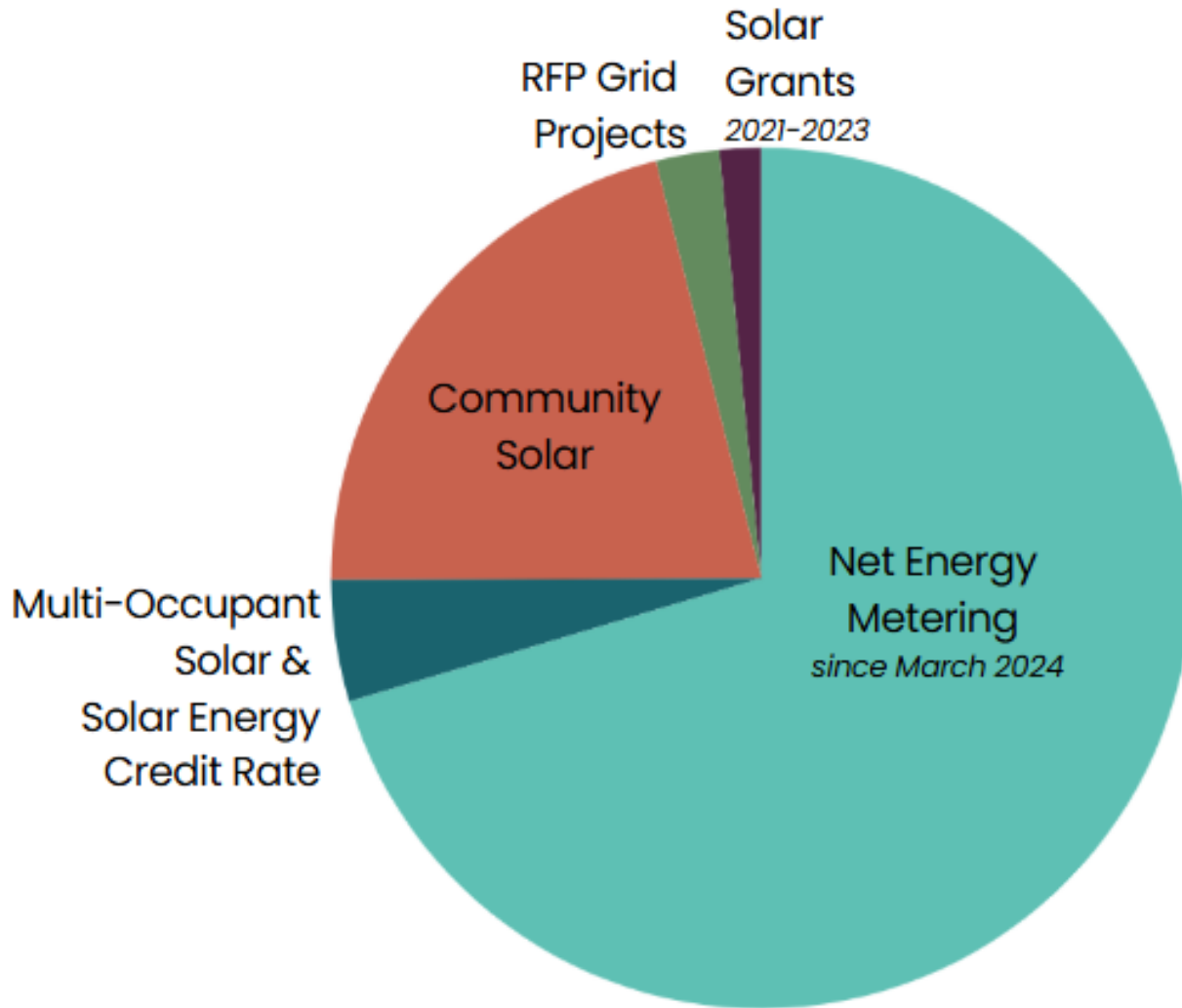
2. Portfolio Strategy

Early-stage collaboration with the EAG: How should we approach the distributed equity analysis for our broader distributed energy resources (DER) (80 MW) portfolio?

EAG Feedback Level

Consult

PSE's "80 MW" Distributed Energy Resources Programs



- The 80 MW DER Portfolio Context
- **Today's focus: Net Energy Metering (NEM)** (the oldest DER program)
- Lessons learned will inform broader portfolio

NEM: How did we get here?



Original NEM Program Context



Reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Original
NEM law
was
passed to:



Create green jobs



Allow customers to
generate electricity and
receive credit for energy
supplied to the grid



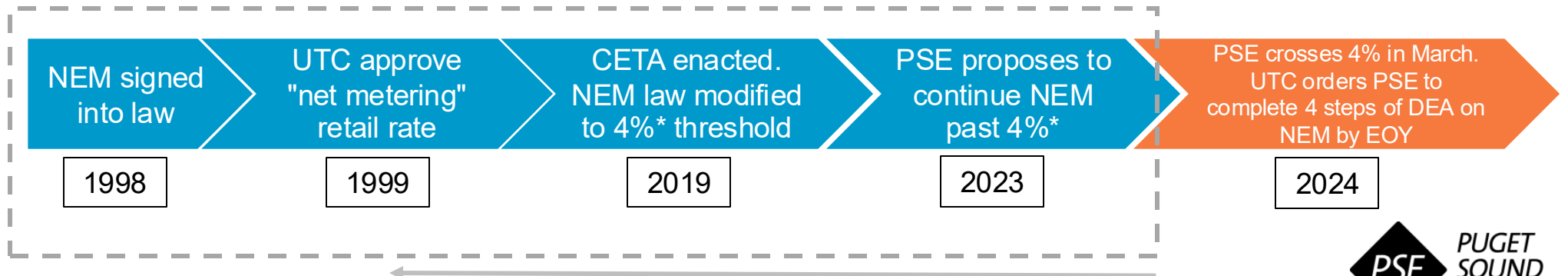
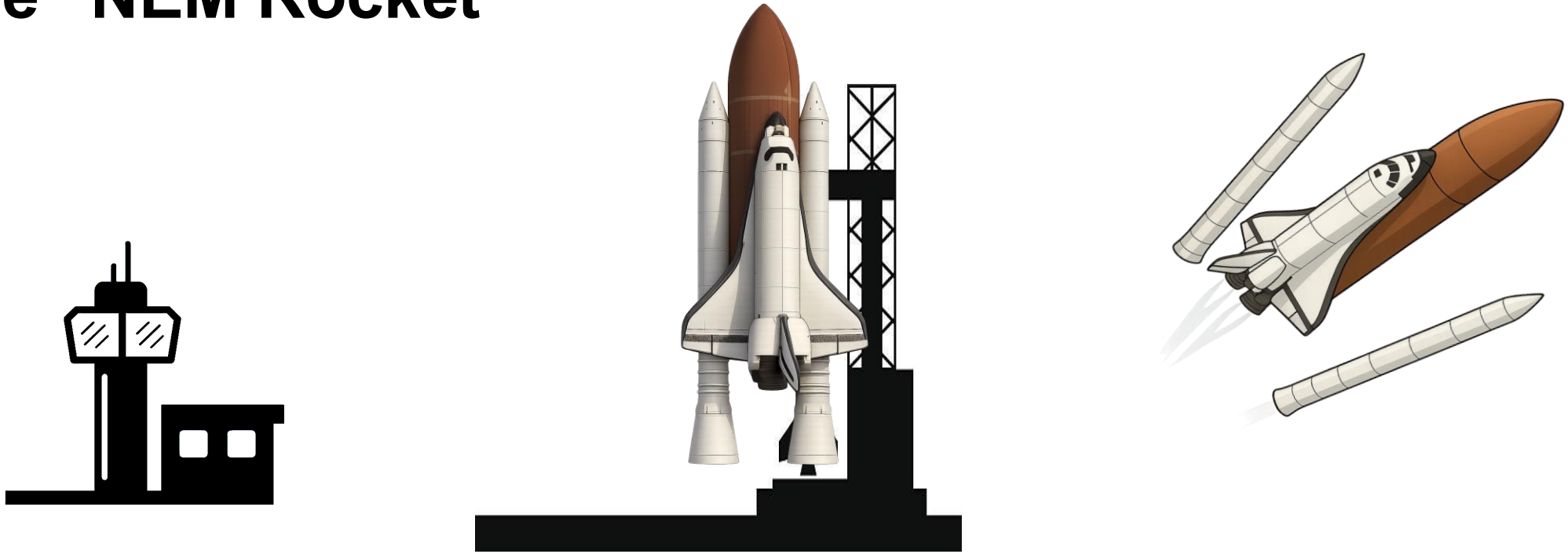
Require utilities to offer NEM on
a first-come, first-served basis
up to a defined megawatt limit



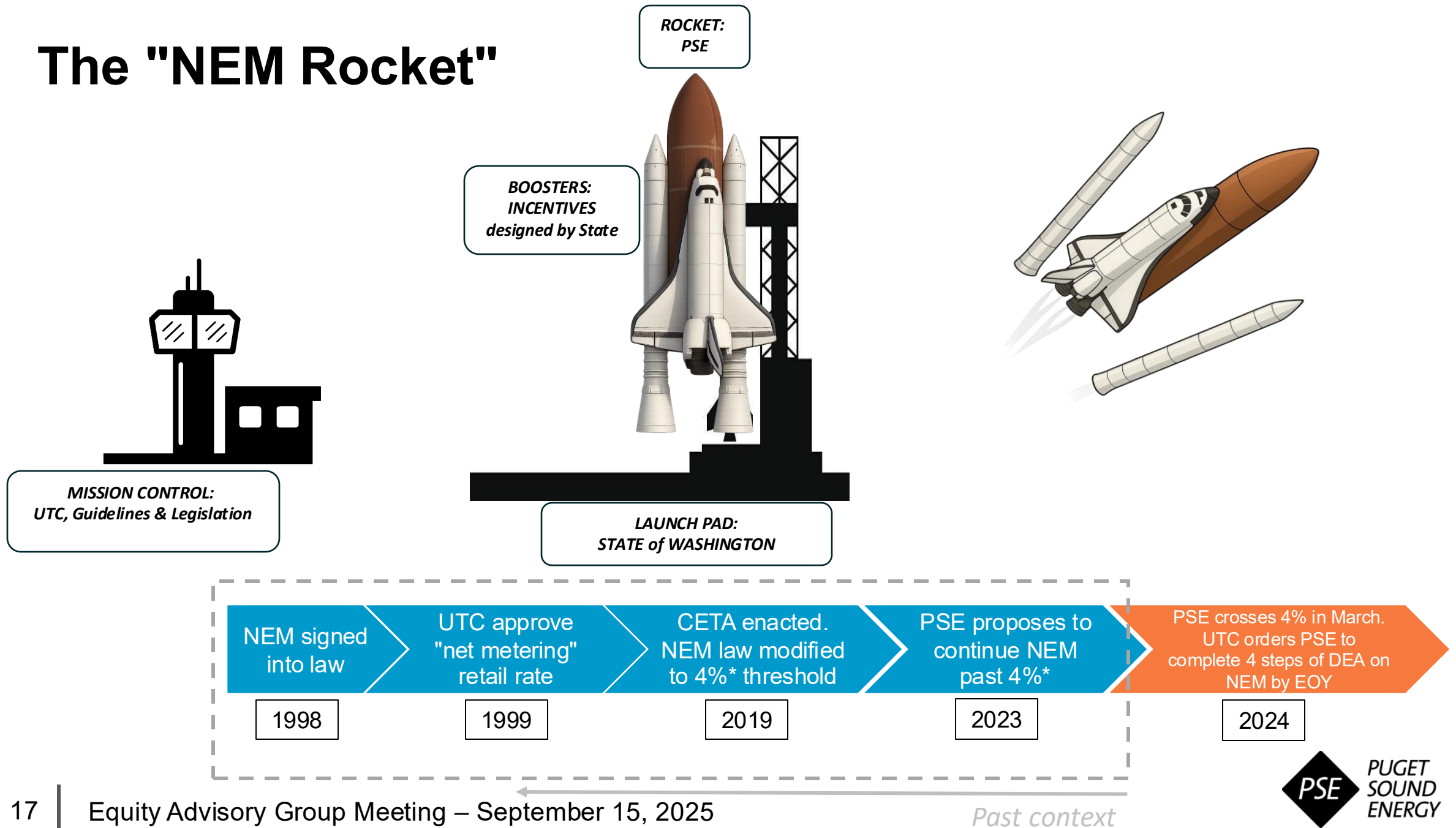
Promote private investment
in clean energy in
Washington

Low Income Advisory Group Meeting – January 14, 2025

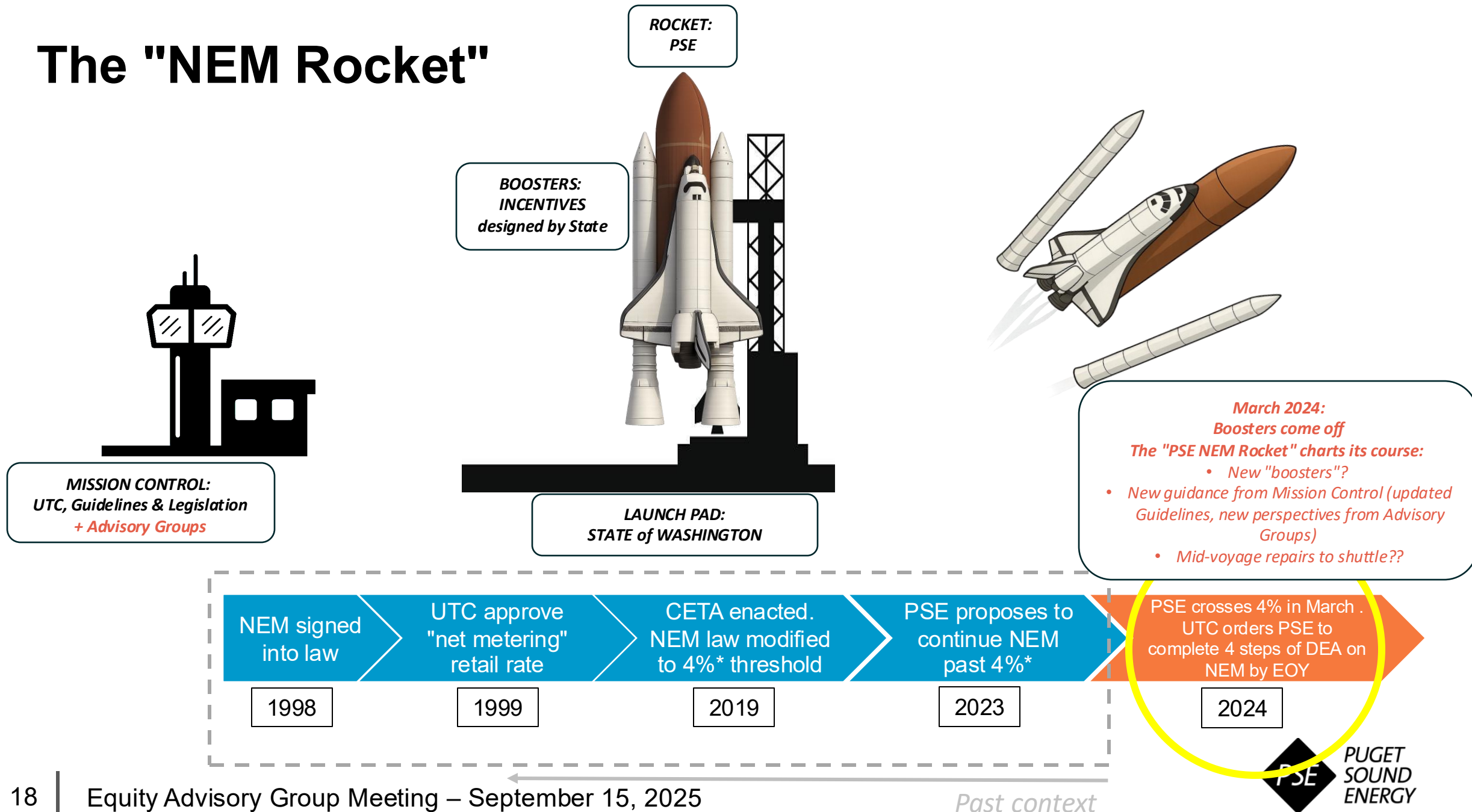
The "NEM Rocket"



The "NEM Rocket"



The "NEM Rocket"



The "NEM"

ASSESS FOR EQUITY
Using a Distributed Equity Analysis,
With **EAG** input
specifically around
the **Metrics**

ROCKET:
PSE

RS:
IVES
by State

LAUNCH PAD:
STATE of WASHINGTON

MISSION CONTROL:
UTC, Guidelines & Legislation
+ Advisory Groups

March 2025:
Boosters come off
The "PSE Rocket" charts its course:

- New "boosters"?
- New guidance from Mission Control (updated Guidelines, new perspectives from Advisory Groups)
- Mid-voyage repairs to shuttle??

NEM signed
into law

1998

UTC approve
"net metering"
retail rate

1999

CETA enacted.
NEM law modified
to 4%* threshold

2019

PSE proposes to
continue NEM
past 4%*

2023

PSE crosses 4% in March.
UTC orders PSE to
complete 4 steps of DEA on
NEM by EOY

2024

The Distributed Equity Analysis (DEA)

- UTC required equity analysis of NEM
- Follows a specific framework with defined steps
- We need **metrics** to measure equity impacts
- EAG/your input shapes how we measure equity

What's on our mind?

July 2025 EAG meeting:
***“Is technology
implementation
driving how equity is
framed in programs?”***

August 2025 LIAC
meeting:
***“What about income-
limited people who
have prioritized NEM
and are depending on
a return?”***

Other feedback:
***“How are benefits
distributed and felt?”***

Equity Tensions: Discussion

**Individual Adoption
Vs.
Community Adoption**

**Individual Benefits
and/or
Community Benefits**

- What do Named Communities **experience** with NEM?
- How should benefits be captured/**measured** when we assess distributed equity?
- What does the analysis need to **seek out** from community voices?

DEA Metrics

DEA can use a **range of metrics** to assess energy inequities:

- E.g.:
 - DER participation
 - Energy rates
 - Bills
 - Energy burden
 - Health and environmental impacts on priority populations
 - Economic development in priority populations.
- Can be **quantitative** or **qualitative**.
- Past metrics used: program **participation**, participant **vulnerabilities**, **participant-determined criteria** they used for program design and technology selection

Example Metrics from pilot DEA

Analysis Process Applied to Project Sites

| Olympia Project | | PSE Customer Benefit Indicators as DEA Metrics | | Nooksack Sites | |
|--------------------|-----------------|---|--|-------------------|-------------------------|
| General Population | Income Eligible | Metric | Units | Whispering Cedars | Administration Building |
| | X | Improved Participation in clean energy programs from named communities | Count of participating customers | X | X |
| | X | Decrease in number of households with high energy burden | Count of project customers moved from EB | X | X |
| | | Increase in culturally-and-linguistically accessible program communications for named communities | Outreach materials and impressions count | X | X |
| X | X | Reduced Greenhouse gas emissions | Reduction vs PSE portfolio standard | X | X |
| | | Decrease in frequency and duration of outages (if battery storage included in project) | Using standard utility industry outage metrics vs. neighboring circuit average | X | |
| | | Improved access to reliable, clean energy | Count of customers with access to emergency power | X | |



Interactive Activity

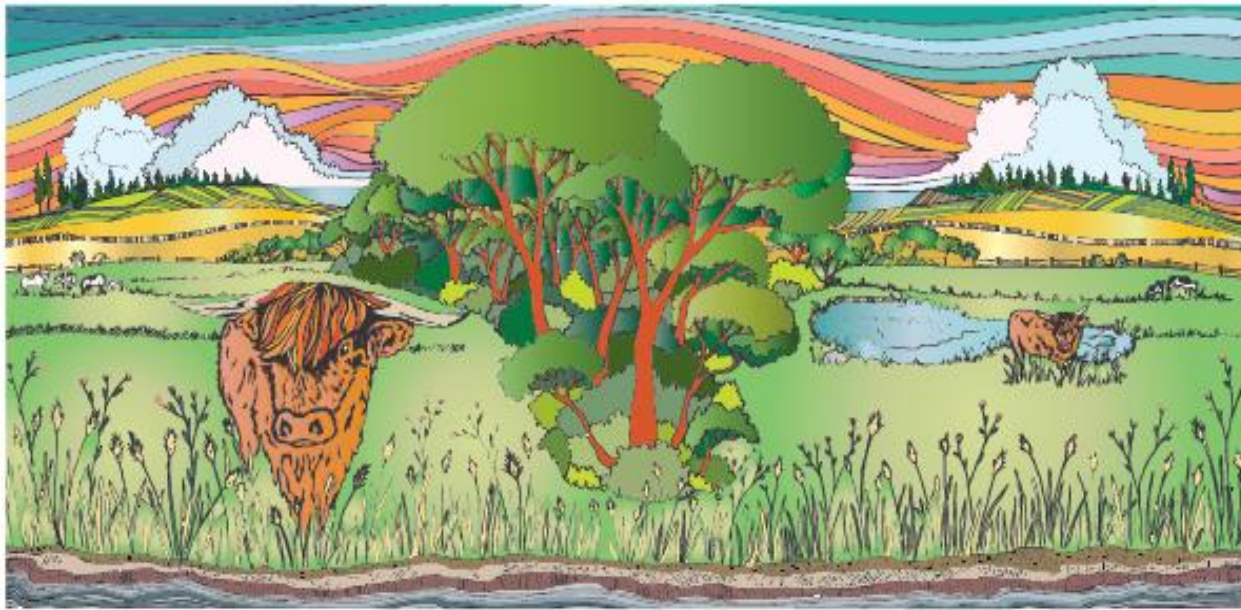
What metrics would you find most relevant to assess distributed equity of Net Energy Metering?

15 minutes for Mural activity

15 minutes for discussion

Break

Please return at 6:15 pm



“Farmscapes” by Tia Savedo of Whidbey Island, WA

The public comment period will start at 6:50 p.m.

Please do not join the meeting until then. The first 5 individuals will have 2 minutes each to speak.

1. Join the Zoom meeting:
 - a) Visit <https://zoom.us/join>
 - b) Insert Meeting ID: 819 5803 4613
2. Call in to the meeting:
 - a) Call number: +1 253 215 8782
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Interactive Activity

What metrics would you find most relevant to assess distributed equity of Net Energy Metering?

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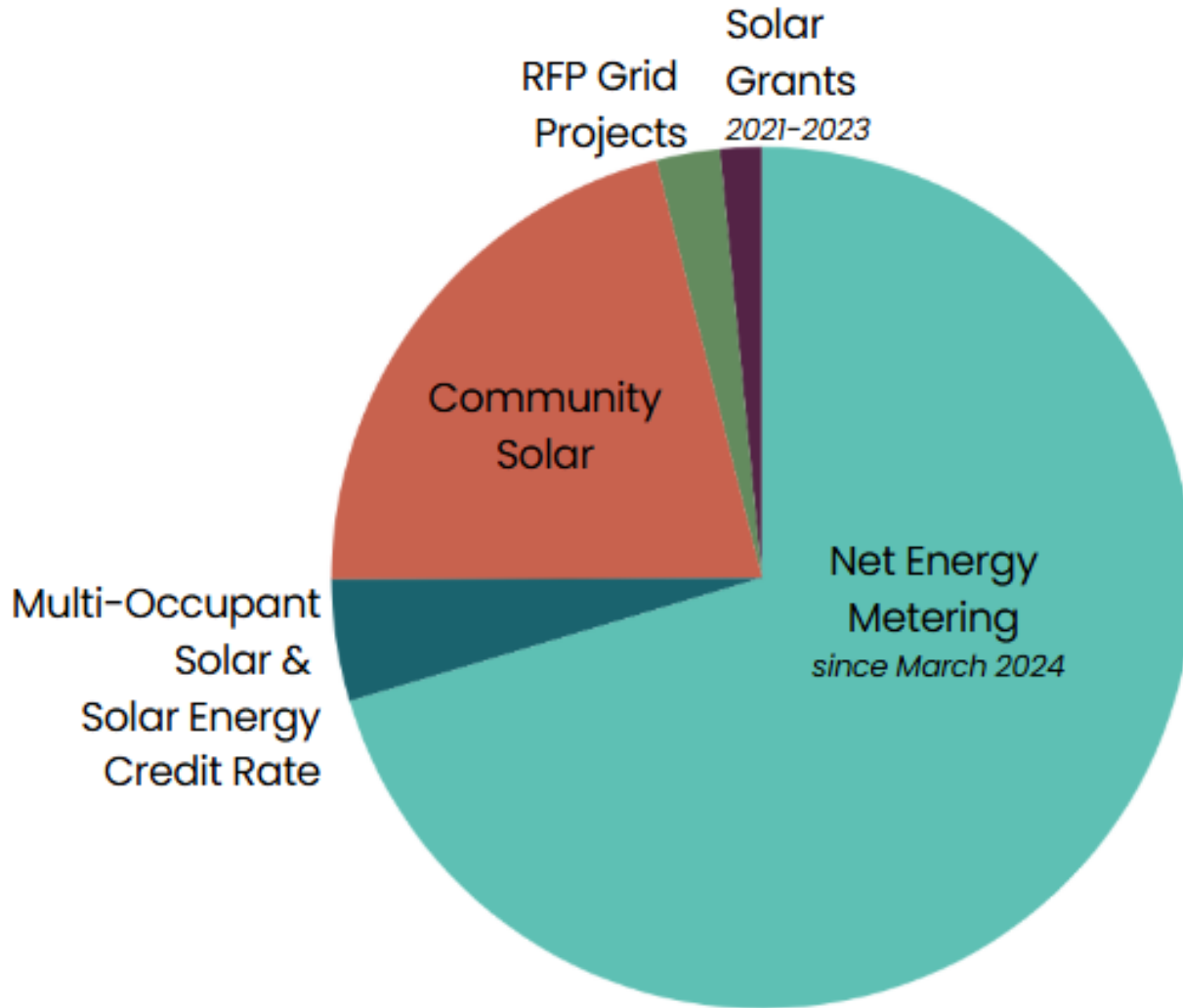
Distributed Equity Analysis (DEA) for 80 MW Portfolio of Distributed Energy Programs

Michael Wehling

Energy Equity Program Manager – Data Analytics

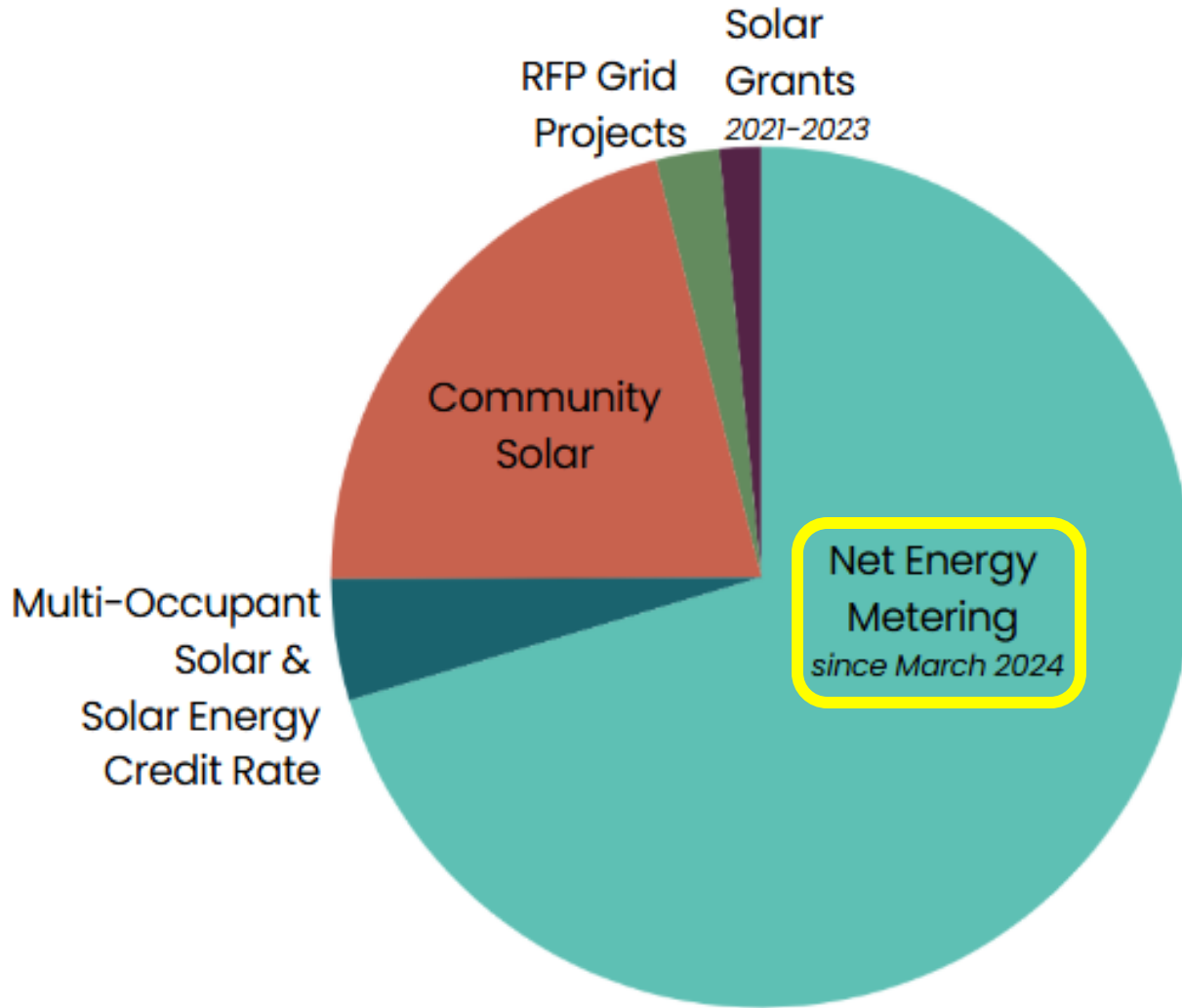


Walk through Distributed Energy Resources (DER) (80 MW) Program Components



What makes up the DER "80 MW" Portfolio?

Walk through DER Program Components



NEM



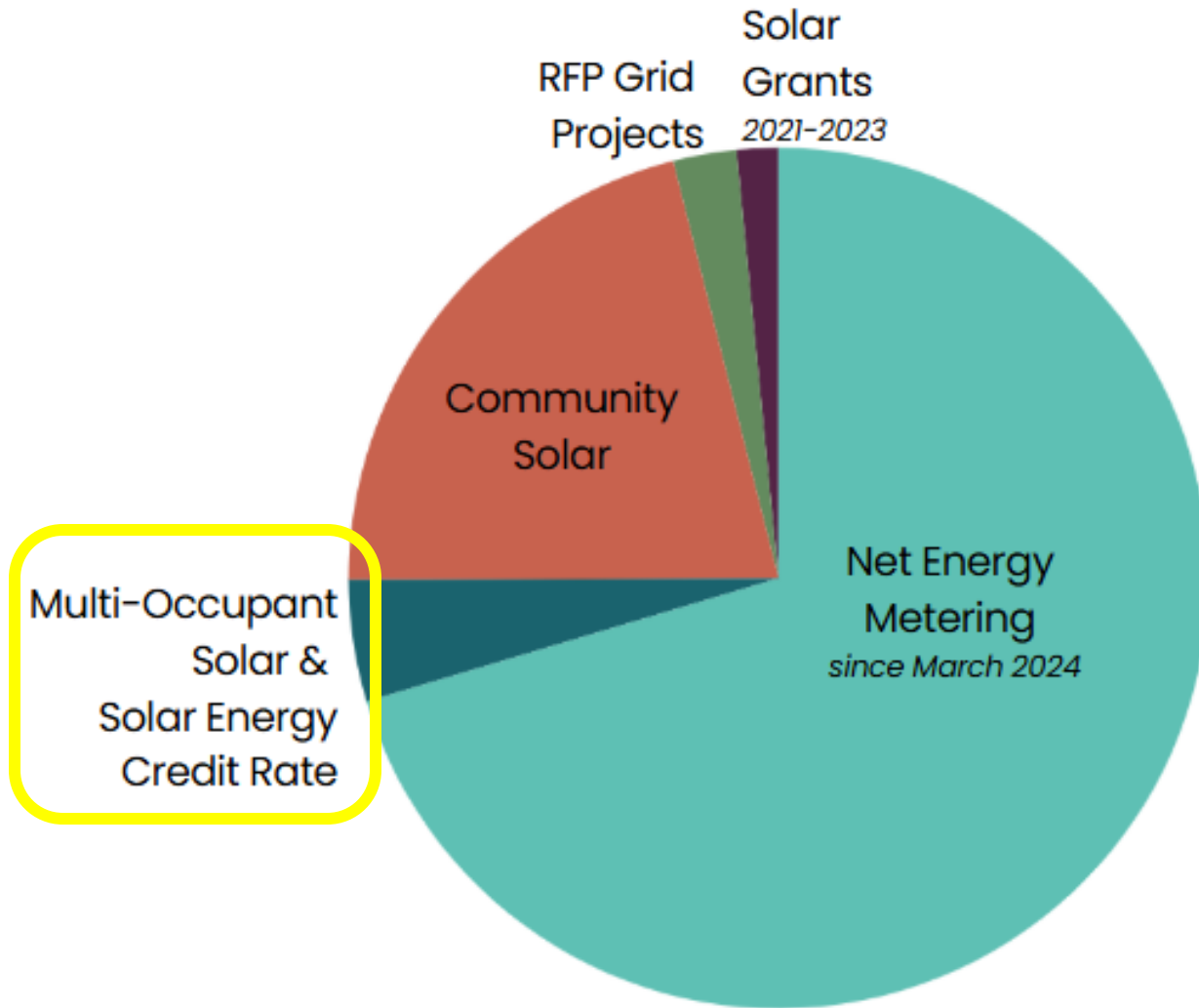
Customers connect their systems to PSE's infrastructure. (Ex: Rooftop solar on your home)

Receive credits for surplus production

Mostly used on individual homes or businesses

Consumer-driven

Walk through DER Program Components



Multi-Occupant Solar & Solar Energy Credit Rate



MOS

Shared solar projects on multi-occupant buildings
Customers receive credits on their utility bills
Lowers electricity costs for both property owners and occupants

Mostly renters, apartment dwellers, and multi-tenant commercial properties

Consumer-driven

SEC

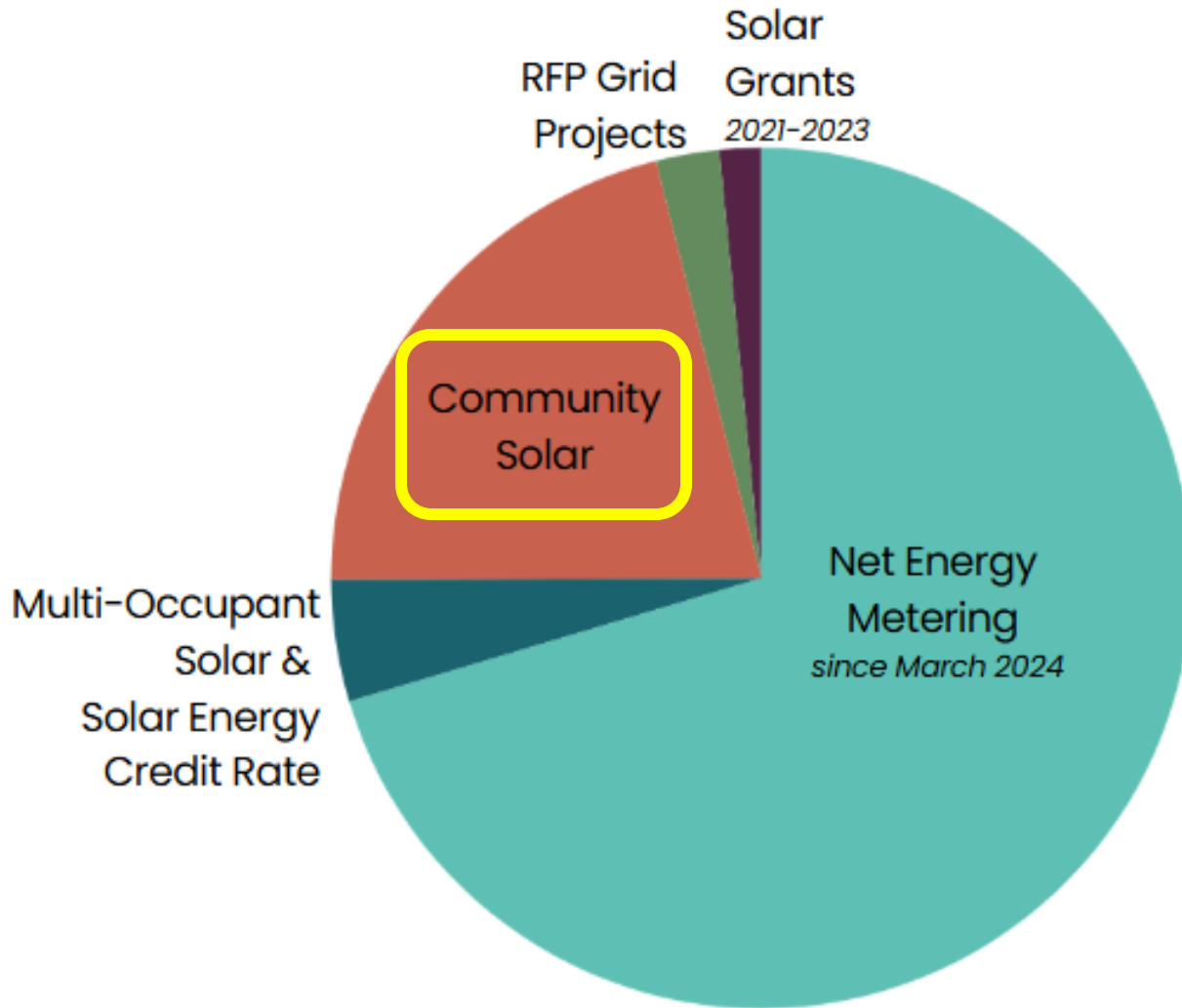
Meant for properties with larger rooftop solar.
PSE pays for the excess energy returned to the grid in the form of monthly bill credits.

Mostly commercial/municipal/school/etc.

Consumer-driven



Walk through DER Program Components

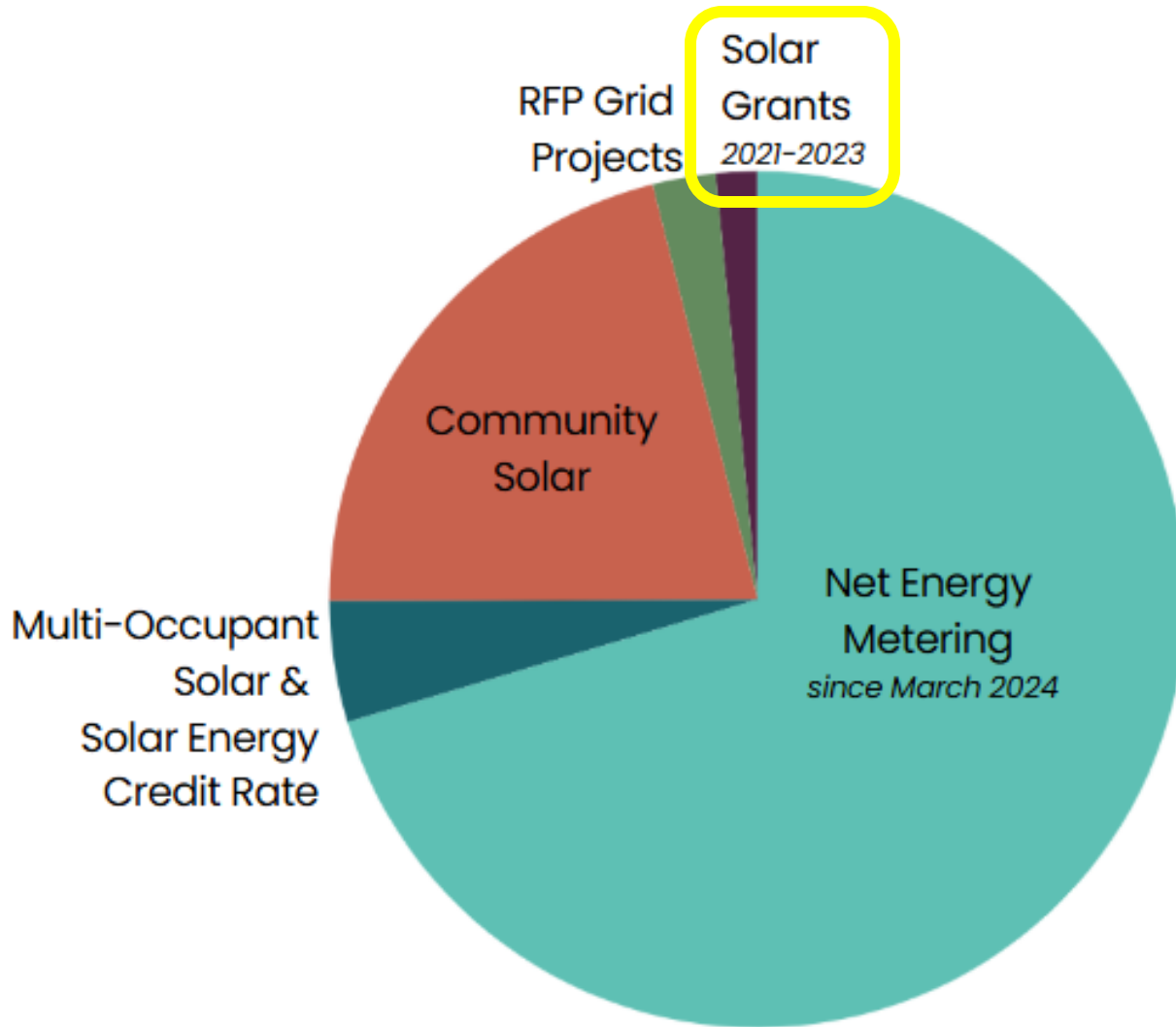


Community Solar



Local communities in PSE's Service Area host solar panels
Solar energy delivered to PSE's grid for everyone
Subscribers share benefits without needing to install panels at their dwelling.
Income Eligible breakout.
Community + Utility-Driven

Walk through DER Program Components

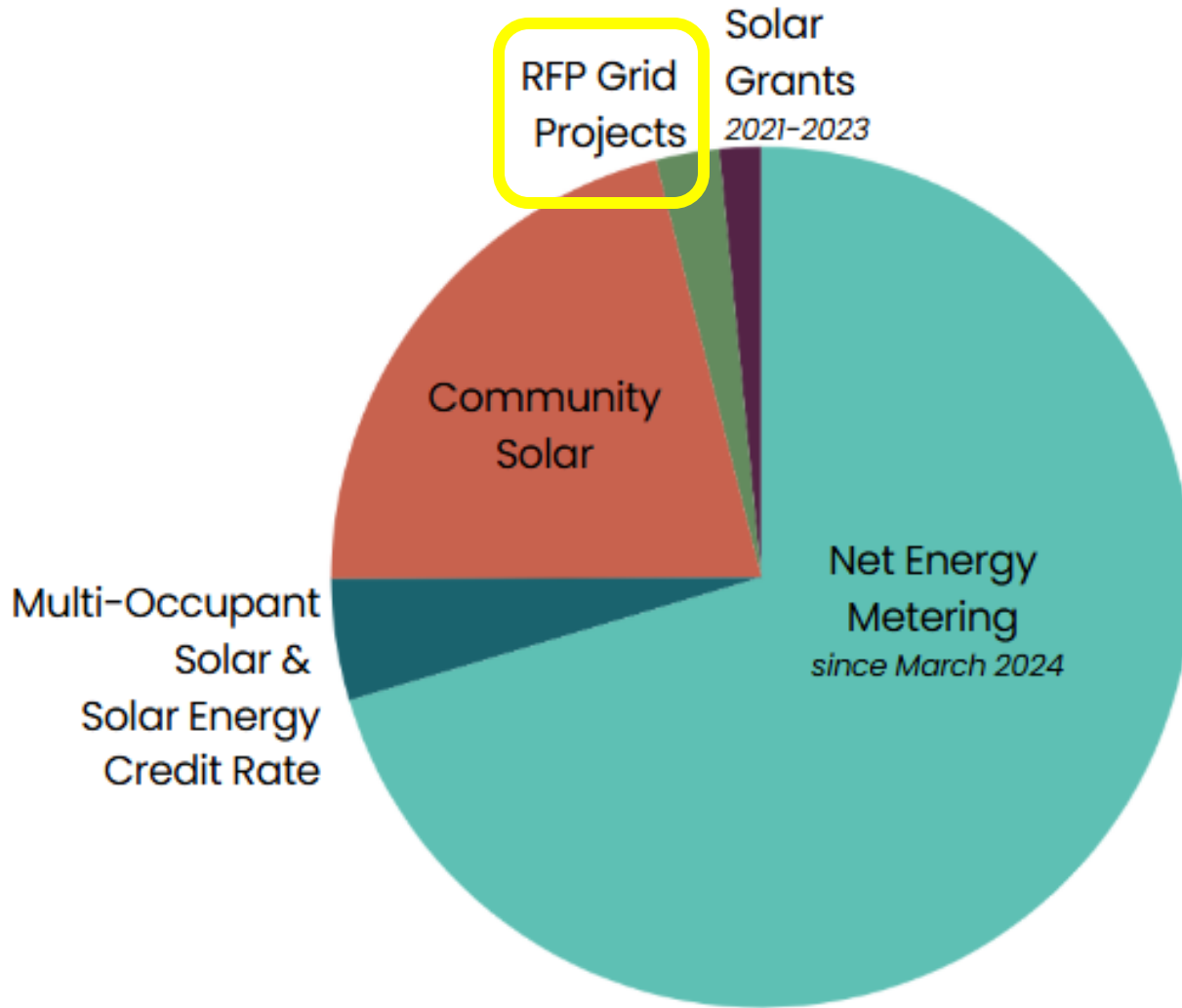


Solar Grants



Grants for organizations for solar projects of their own design (EAG supports selection)
Reduces operating and installation costs
Mostly used by nonprofits, CBOs, and Tribes
Community-driven

Walk through DER Program Components



RFP ("Request for Proposals") Grid Projects



Customers propose solar and/or battery systems hosted on their premises. All energy is provided to the grid

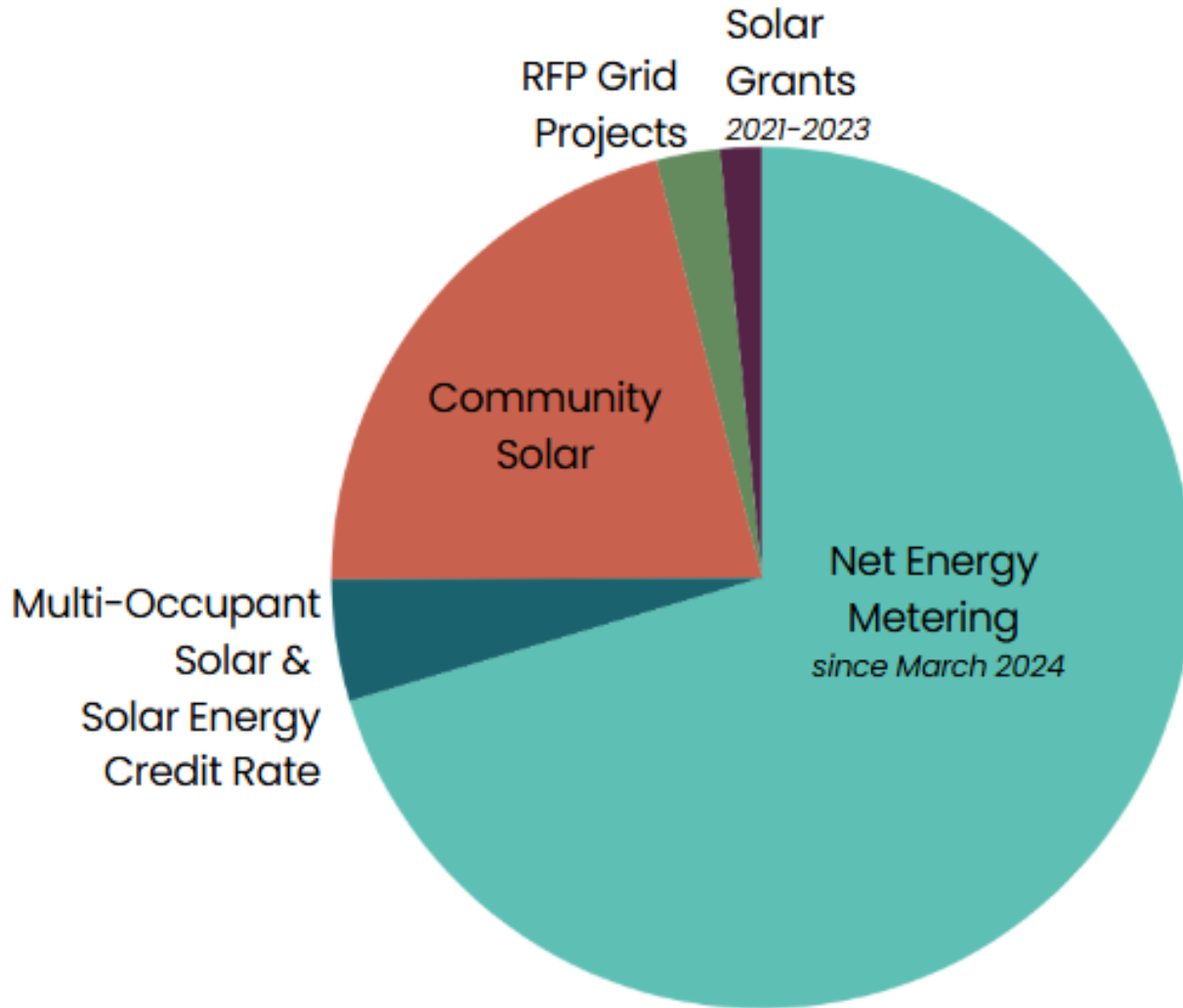
Mostly projects under 5 MW

Compensated via Power Purchase or Lease Agreements

Large commercial/industrial customers, small developers, and community orgs

Utility-driven

Approaching the DER Portfolio DEA



- PSE's 80 MW DER Portfolio includes various project types -community solar, battery storage, multi- and single-occupant solar, system capacity supports, etc.
- July 2024 Pilot DEA on two **Community Solar** Projects
- PSE's 2024 GRC Order requires PSE to conduct a DEA on a **broader sample** from this portfolio to analyze for equity impacts.

What would make a DEA most useful to Named Communities?

Public Comment



Public comment – How to join

Public Comment

- The first five individuals will each have 2 minutes to speak.
- There are two ways to join →

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Option 2: Call-in by phone

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Next steps

- Meeting follow-up and action items
- Retreat Registration – complete EventBrite by Sept 21
- Governance Committee Member Opt-In – contact Em or Ariam

- **Next EAG Steering Committee Meeting**
Oct. 6 at 5:00 p.m.
- **Fall Retreat**
Oct. 18-19 in Renton
- **Next EAG meeting**
Oct. 20, from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Appendix

Refresher: Previous DEA sites

Two DEA applications for two different DER project contexts.

| Project Site | DER(s) | Timeframe | Application |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|---|
| Olympia High School | | | |
| Olympia High School | Community Solar | Retrospective | DEA compares the outcomes for the priority population to the base population |
| Nooksack Indian Tribe | | | |
| Apartment Complex Everson, WA | Community Solar + Battery Storage | Prospective | DEA compares the outcomes of the projects by predicting subscriber enrollment within a 2-mile radius. |
| Administrative Building Deming, WA | Community Solar | | |