

Equity Advisory Group Meeting

January 20, 2026
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: After the Floods

Know Your Resources

Washington State Resources:
FloodRecovery.WA.gov

Contact Your County

Prevention & Preparation

Take pictures once a year of your residence

Familiarize yourself with flood insurance you have or are eligible for and the details

Document everything - lists of damaged items, keep all receipts for cleanup supplies and temp housing

Know your evacuation routes and have a family communication plan

Long-term Recovery

Monitor indoor air quality - persistent musty smells need investigation

Check structural integrity - look for new cracks, sagging, or settling



Image from WA Red Cross

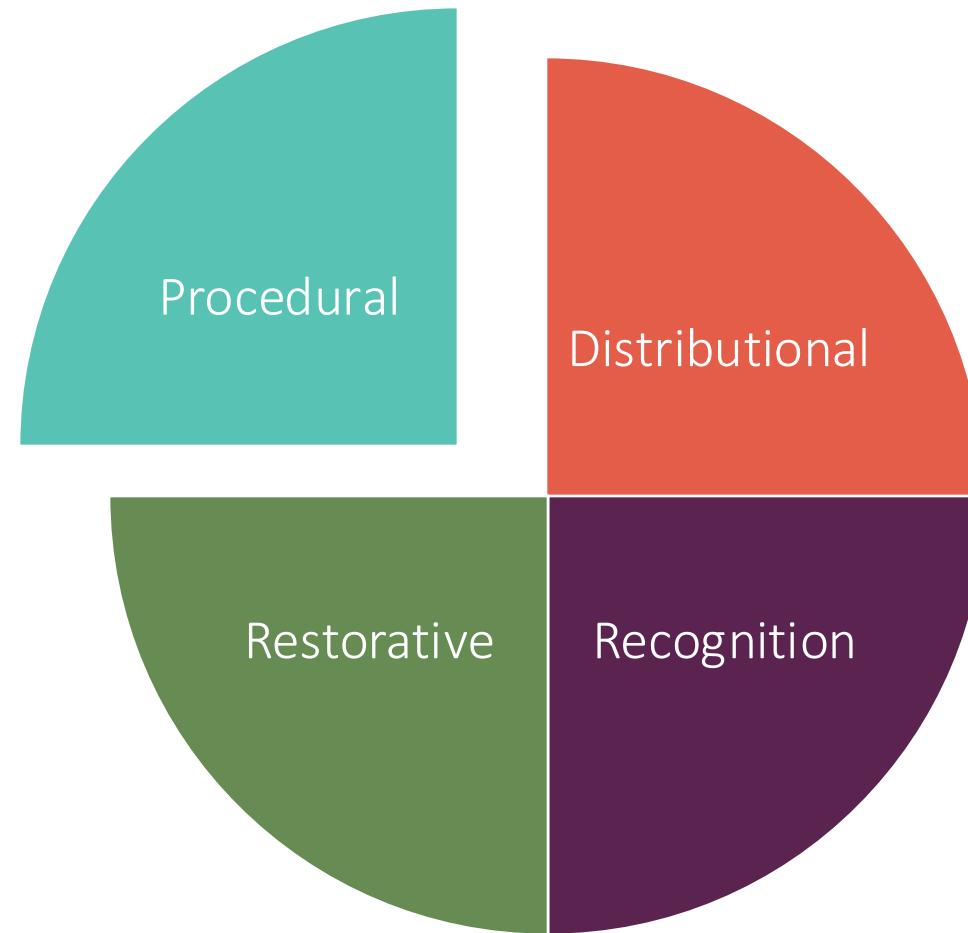
Recovery is a process - stay vigilant after flooding!

Equity Moment

Marco Morales Mendez
EAG Member



Tonight's equity focus



Equity Moment

FEMA eligibility
and its impact on
undocumented families
in **disaster recovery**

Equity Strategy in the 2026 General Rate Case

Troy Hutson, Puget Sound Energy
Director, Energy Equity



Objective

Equity Strategy in a General Rate Case

For EAG members to consider... the process by which EAG priorities are incorporated into Energy Equity strategy, as reflected in PSE's General Rate Case

EAG Feedback Level

Consult

With EAG input, we will... affirm and refine how EAG contributions shape systems-level Energy Equity strategies

Who are the decision makers?

- PSE is a regulated investor-owned utility
- Utility and Transportation Commission is led by **three Governor-appointed commissioners**, supported by staff
- **Commissioners decide** what PSE can charge customers for electricity and gas, and ensure the utility serves customers safely, fairly and reliably.



Commissioner
Milt Doumit



Chair
Brian Rybarik



Commissioner
Ann Rendahl

UTC
Washington Utilities
and Transportation
Commission

Washington State Office of
the Attorney General

Energy Facility Site
Evaluation Council



What is a General Rate Case (GRC)?

GRG is a legal proceeding where regulators determine fair costs to customer from most of PSE services.

- Commission review ensures:
 - Prudence, safety and reliability
- Commission determines if rates are in the **public interest**:
 - fair, just, reasonable, as well as
 - affordable and equitable
- Considers other aspects, such as environmental impacts

Who participates?

- Administrative Law Judge
- PSE and legal reps
- Commission Staff
- Public Counsel
- Other Approved Intervenors, ex:
 - The Energy Project
 - Joint Environmental Advocates (NW Energy Coalition, Front & Centered, Sierra Club, etc)
 - Alliance of Western Energy Consumers
 - Federal Executive Agencies
 - Nucor, Walmart, Kroger, Microsoft



How General Rate Cases Work



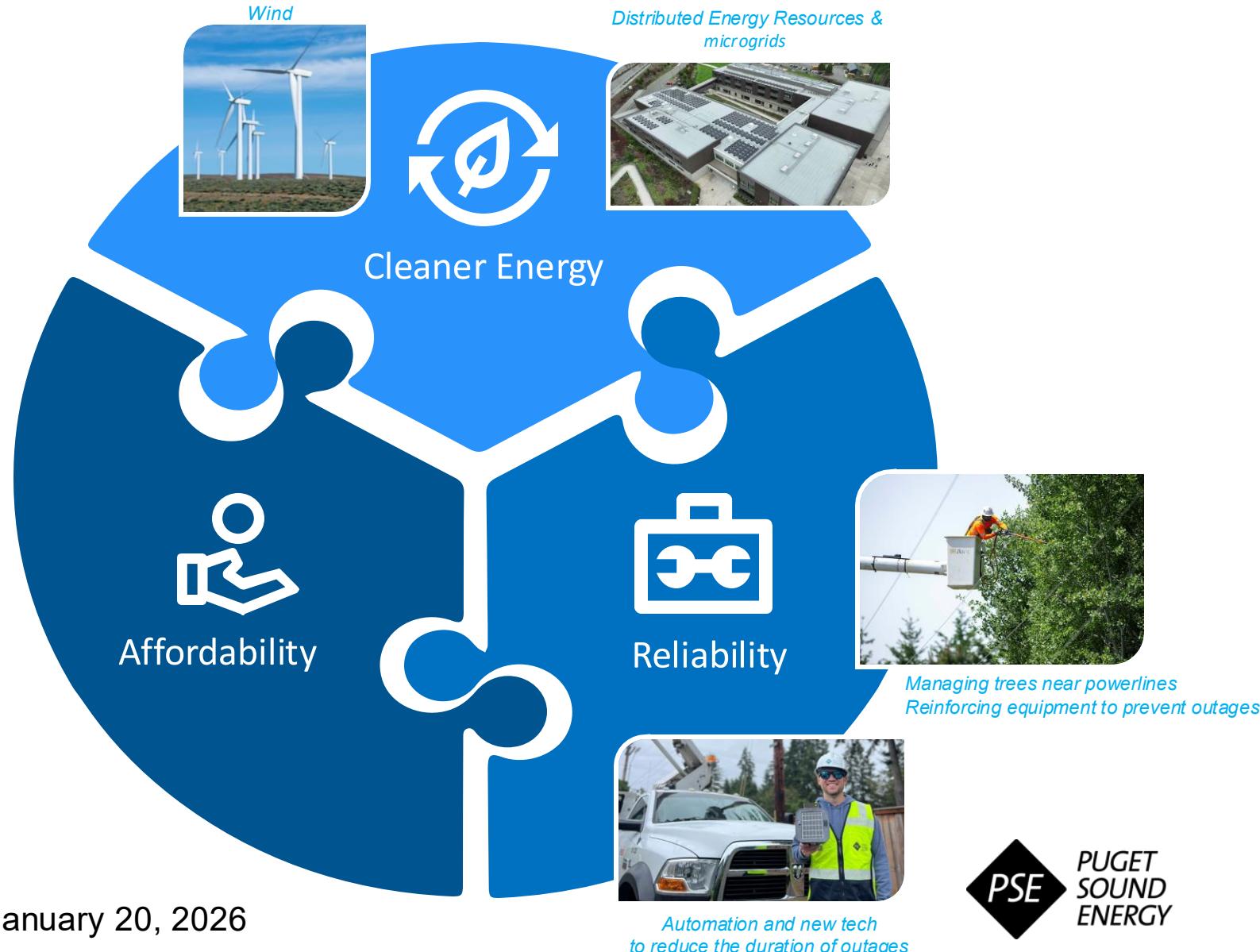
Balancing Clean Energy, Affordability, and Reliability

Clean Energy Transformation Act

*“....seek to ensure that **all customers** are benefiting from the transition to a **clean energy economy**, and provide **safeguards** to ensure that the achievement of this policy does not impair the **reliability** of the electricity system or impose **unreasonable costs** on utility customers”*

PSE's 2022 GRC Order

energy justice focuses on ensuring that **individuals have access to energy that is affordable, safe, sustainable**



Examples of Regulatory Equity Outcomes

2022 GRC

- Distributional Equity Analysis (DEA)
- Equity in Corporate Capital Planning Process
- Equity in Delivery System Planning Process
- Affordability Programs: Bill Discount Rate, Arrearage Management Program
- Targeted Electrification Pilot
- Increased low-income program funding
- Time-varying rates pilot – LI bill protection/enable technology

2024 GRC

- Low-Income Advisory Group (LIAC) 3rd Party Facilitation
- Language Access Plan
- Disconnection Policies Discussion with Advisory Groups
- Gas Depreciation Study
- Targeted Electrification Pilot Phase 2
- Increased low-income program funding
- Time-varying rates pilot – LI bill protection/enable technology

ISP

must include an assessment of energy and nonenergy benefits and reductions of burdens to named communities....

CEIP

- 30% clean energy benefits to named communities; proportion designated to deepest need customers
- DER “empowerment” engagement pilot with named communities

CCA

- CCA Decarb Programs for Low-Income and Named Communities
- Elimination of Low-Income CCA burden for Gas customers
- Mitigation of CCA burdens for Electric customers

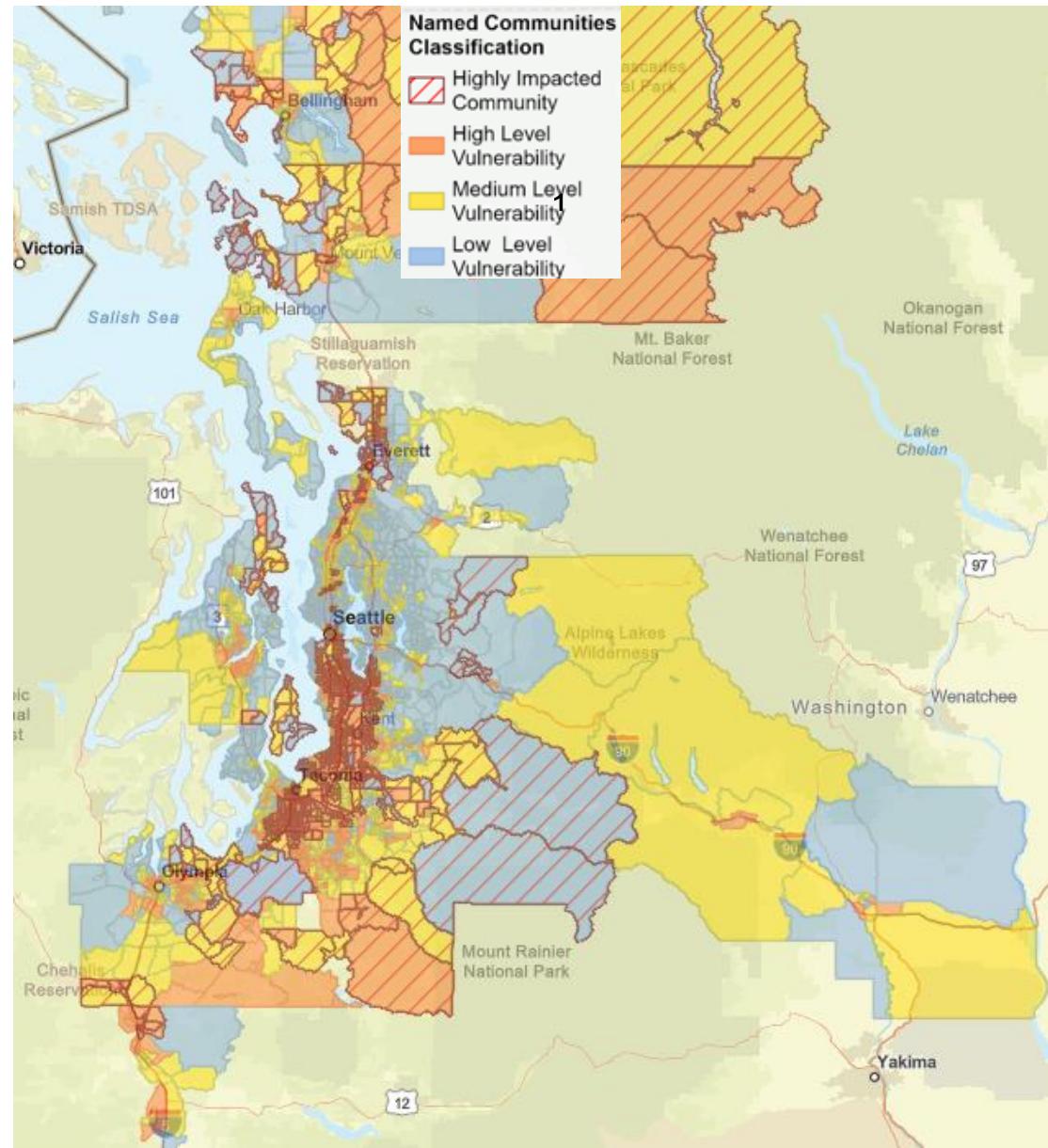
Net Energy Metering (NEM)

- Distributional Equity Analysis (DEA) on NEM



PSE Equity Demographics

- ◆ ~50% customers are estimated **low income**
 - ◆ **Low Income:** Generally based on Federal Poverty Level, Area Median Income and household size.
- ◆ ~37% are **high energy burdened**
 - **High energy burden:** Annual energy bill is more than 6% of annual household income
- ◆ ~6% electric customers are **deepest need**
 - ◆ **Deepest Need:** 10% or more energy burdened



¹ Named Communities: comprised of state defined Highly Impacted Communities and high-level Vulnerability
Source: 2024 Energy Burden Analysis

GRC Equity Strategy

What We've Heard:

Affordability

Accessibility

Tech-led requirements
miss on equity

Streamline
Applications

GRC Equity Strategy: *Flexible & Pragmatic*

Affordability

- Rate Structure
- Focus Energy Assistance on
**Energy Burdened
Customers**
 - Improve **accessibility** to
affordability programs

Reliability, Resiliency

GRC Equity Strategy: *Flexible & Pragmatic*

Affordability

- Rate Structure
- Focus Energy Assistance on **Energy Burdened Customers**
 - Improve **accessibility** to affordability programs

Reliability, Resiliency

Adjusted two-tiered rate structure



Lower rates for basic energy use

Higher rates for high energy use



Monthly fixed charge increase for basic system maintenance costs



Expected impact:

- Lower bills for **46%** of **high energy burden** customers
- Greatest improvements in **Named Communities**

GRC Equity Strategy: *Flexible & Pragmatic*

Affordability

- Rate Structure
- Focus Energy Assistance on **Energy Burdened Customers**
 - Improve **accessibility** to affordability programs

Reliability, Resiliency

Individual Benefits →
Community Benefits

GRC Equity Strategy: *Flexible & Pragmatic*

Affordability

- Rate Structure
- Focus Energy Assistance on **Energy Burdened Customers**
 - Improve **accessibility** to affordability programs

Reliability, Resiliency

Individual Benefits → Community Benefits

Key Changes

Programs benefitting **individuals** who can afford to participate



Community-Wide projects that benefit entire neighborhoods



Success Measures

- Percentage benefits to named communities
- Reliability
- Community impact report

GRC Equity Strategy: *Flexible & Pragmatic*

Affordability

- Rate Structure
- Focus Energy Assistance on **Energy Burdened Customers**
 - Improve **accessibility** to affordability programs

Reliability, Resiliency

Individual Benefits → Community Benefits

Current:

Customers sign up and pay for their own solar panels, batteries, etc

"Consumer-Led"



Additional:

Utility invests in community-benefitting projects while removing financial barriers for lower-income communities

"Utility-Led"



Ensure clean energy benefits reach all communities, not just those who can afford it

Consult

Reactions:

Is the process by which EAG priorities flow into Energy Equity strategy creating effective opportunities for systems-scale equitable changes?

Questions or comments

on the Equity Strategy,
and how we came to this point?

Other thoughts?

Year in Review, Year Ahead

Ishmael Nuñez & Ariam Ford, AICP, Uncommon Bridges
EAG Co-Facilitators



Year in Review

Equity Advisory Group



2025 Year in Review

55+ hours of engagement!

- Raised the capacity, leadership, and impact of the EAG for systemic change;
- Supporting the shift of equity as a compliance challenge to a strategic opportunity;
- Deepened connections, collaboration, and relationships across the EAG;
- Prepared the foundation for a new era of the EAG.

Impacts to Date

Customer Outreach

Customer Outreach Team tangible adjustments con

- More emphasis on
- More materials in
- Form deliberate
- Saigon and Asian
- Ensure quality a
- Have appointment
- Provide local out

The PSE Solar C

The Solar Grant provides solar installation projects to non-profit organizations, tribal governments, and local agencies.

Over the past three years, members participate in the process to help PSE decide which projects to fund. The EAG also made several recommendations to PSE.

Q&A

Why does the EAG exist?

Who is on the group and who do they represent?

What are the EAG's priorities?

Meet the EAG

The Puget Sound **Advisory Group** is a critical community of experts in the clean energy space, equitable and just, especially those most

13
EAG MEMBERS

55+
2025 TOTAL
HOURS OF ENGAGEMENT

Q&A

Why does the EAG exist?

Who is on the group and who do they represent?

What are the EAG's priorities?



PSE
PUGET
SOUND
ENERGY

2025

EQUITY
CONTEXT
ADVISORY GROUP
CORE VALUES
TRANSFORMATION ACT
Q&A
Customer Outreach
Solar Grant
2025

PSE Equity Advisory Group
Annual Impact Report
Prepared By
uncommon BRIDGES

The Year Ahead

Equity Advisory Group



Affordability

Goal: All customers, especially those in named communities, view energy affordability as standard. The cost of energy is no longer a barrier to accessing essential services. By using data and community input to guide decisions and investments, results are fair and equitable for everyone in all communities.

Accountability

Goal: PSE is a reliable partner that demonstrates how commitment to equity can enhance the well-being of customers. Its accountability systems help lessen burdens and give more power to the voices of the community.

The 4 A's

PSE Equity Advisory Group (EAG)
Priority Framework



Accessibility

Goal: Everyone can access PSE's programs and services with relative ease. No one faces unfair obstacles; operations are culturally responsive and respect the diverse experiences of all communities.

Advocacy

Goal: Through strong partnerships and community involvement, PSE and the EAG work together to create lasting change. They advocate for fair energy policies and make sure that solutions led by the community help shape a clean and equitable energy future.

2026 PSE EAG Priority Action Plan

EAG Priority

Accessibility

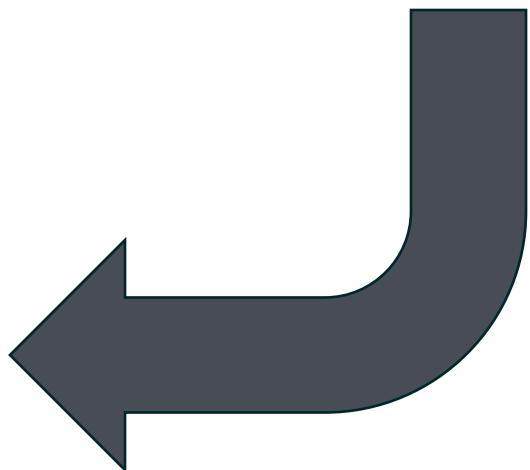
Affordability

Accountability

Advocacy

These are the EAG Priority Areas – The 4 A's.

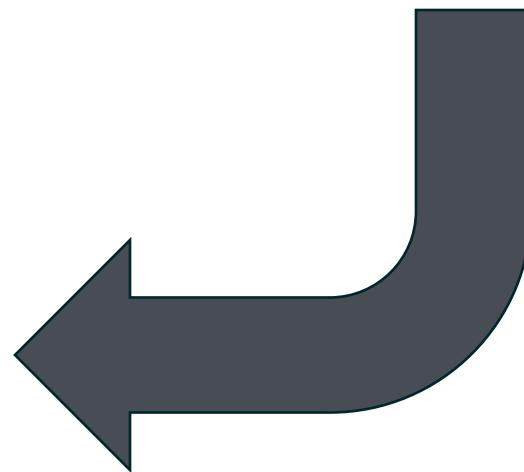
Each "A" describes a goal of the **PSE Equity Advisory Group (EAG)**.



2026 PSE EAG Priority Action Plan

EAG Priority	Goal Statement
Accessibility	Everyone can access PSE's programs and services with relative ease. No one faces unfair obstacles; operations are culturally responsive and respect the diverse experiences of all communities.
Affordability	All customers, especially those in named communities, view energy affordability as standard. The cost of energy is no longer a barrier to accessing essential services. By using data and community input to guide decisions, investments, and results are fair and equitable for everyone in all communities.
Accountability	PSE is a reliable partner that demonstrates how commitment to equity can enhance the well-being of customers. Its accountability systems help lessen burdens and give more power to the voices of the community.
Advocacy	Through strong partnerships and community involvement, PSE and the EAG work together to create lasting change. They advocate for fair energy policies and make sure that solutions led by the community help shape a clean and equitable energy future.

The EAG is working towards these goals to achieve Systems Level Impacts identified by members at the Fall 2025 EAG Retreat.



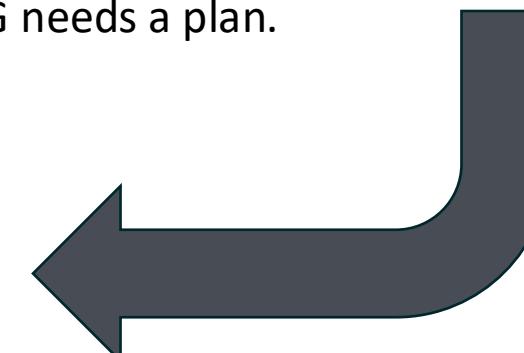
2026 PSE EAG Priority Action Plan

EAG Priority	Goal Statement	System Level Impact
Accessibility	Everyone can access PSE's programs and services with relative ease. No one faces unfair obstacles; operations are culturally responsive and respect the diverse experiences of all communities.	Greater leverage of the existing connection PSE has with named communities and deepest-need customers in PSE investments.
Affordability	All customers, especially those in named communities, view energy affordability as standard. The cost of energy is no longer a barrier to accessing essential services. By using data to guide decisions, investments, and results are fair and equitable for everyone in all communities.	Elimination of high energy burden.
Accountability	PSE is a reliable partner that demonstrates how commitment to equity can enhance the well-being of customers. Its accountability systems help lessen burdens and give more power to the voices of the community.	Quantitative and qualitative results reflect the experiential results of distributional equity efforts.
Advocacy	Through strong partnerships and community involvement, PSE and the EAG work together to create lasting change. They advocate for fair energy policies and make sure that solutions led by the community help shape a clean and equitable energy future.	Policy and practice change in the areas of energy affordability, reliability, sufficiency, and abundance.

Systems level impact means addressing more than isolated symptoms.

A systems level approach seeks **deep-rooted, sustainable transformation by reconfiguring the underlying structures, feedback loops, and interconnected relationships** that govern an entire network.

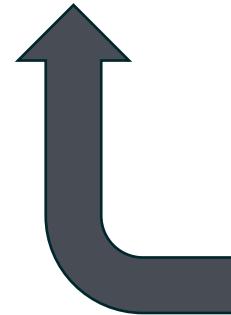
To achieve their desired system level impacts, the EAG needs a plan.



2026 PSE EAG Priority Action Plan

EAG Priority	Goal Statement	System Level Impact	EAG Actions	PSE Alignment	EAG Meeting Topics	Other Topics
Accessibility	Everyone can access PSE's programs and services with relative ease. No one faces unfair obstacles; operations are culturally responsive and respect the diverse experiences of all communities.	Greater leverage of the existing connection PSE has with named communities and deepest-need customers in PSE investments.				
Affordability	All customers, especially those in named communities, view energy affordability as standard. The cost of energy is no longer a barrier to accessing essential services. By using data and community input to guide decisions, investments, and results are fair and equitable for everyone in all communities.	Elimination of high energy burden.				
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2026 EAG Workplan



Our plan is **a collection of activities, actions, and discourse topics** that will help reconfigure the underlying structures, feedback loops, and interconnected relationships that govern energy equity in the PSE service area and beyond.

2026 PSE EAG Priority Action Plan Worksheet

EAG Priority	Goal Statement	System Level Impact	2026 EAG Actions	EAG Audience	2026 EAG Activities
Accessibility	Everyone can access PSE's programs and services with relative ease. No one faces unfair obstacles; operations are culturally responsive and respect the diverse experiences of all communities.	Greater leverage of the existing connection PSE has with named communities and deepest-need customers in PSE investments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for and advise on expanding systems that ease enrollment access Provide guidance on systemic obstacles to program participation for customers with diverse needs and circumstances 	PSE Staff, Community-Based Organizations and Other Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 EAG Meetings 9 SteerCo Meetings Recruitment & Onboarding
Affordability	All customers, especially those in named communities, view energy affordability as standard. The cost of energy is no longer a barrier to accessing essential services. By using data and community input to guide decisions, investments, and results are fair and equitable for everyone in all communities.	Elimination of high energy burden.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for a more equitable rate structure Advocate and provide perspective on finding "hidden" customers who need access but are missed by current identification methods 	The UTC, PSE Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Overnight Retreat Capacity Building Session – <i>Utilities 101</i>
Accountability	PSE is a reliable partner that demonstrates how commitment to equity can enhance the well-being of customers. Its accountability systems help lessen burdens and give more power to the voices of the community.	Quantitative and qualitative results reflect the experiential results of distributional equity efforts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support and advise PSE to build trust and stronger accountability measures Guide and provide perspective on accountability mechanisms that demonstrate how equity commitments translate into community benefits, reflected by community experience 	PSE Staff	<u>Notes</u>
Advocacy	Through strong partnerships and community involvement, PSE and the EAG work together to create lasting change. They advocate for fair energy policies and make sure that solutions led by the community help shape a clean and equitable energy future.	Policy and practice change in the areas of energy affordability, reliability, sufficiency, and abundance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leverage collaboration and influence to affect rules, laws, and business practices governing energy utilities 	PSE, Tribes, the UTC, and other regulators, legislatures, business communities, and Named Communities	

2026 PSE EAG Workplan – Breakout Group *Discussion*

Planned EAG Activities

- 9 EAG Meetings
- 9 SteerCo Meetings
- 1 Overnight Retreat
- Recruitment & Onboarding
- 1 Capacity Building Session – *Utilities 101*

Discussion Questions:

- A year from now, as a member of the EAG, **what will you have done that makes you proud?**
- Which **2026 EAG Actions resonate most** with your interests, experience, and network?

Appendix



Affordability: PSE's energy assistance program portfolio



- ◆ Improve accessibility, maximum enrollment in programs, ensure sufficient funding
- ◆ 2025-2026 program year: ~\$250M assistance
- ◆ Mitigation Efforts:
 - ◇ Energy Assistance, energy conservation programs, electrification projects
 - ◇ Reduce barriers to participation
 - ◇ Partnership with state/local agencies

