

Equity Advisory Group Meeting

June 15, 2026 – Hot Sheet



Topic	Topic Primer
<p>Equity in Place-Based Planning</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <p>Infrastructure Planning: Corey Corbett, Manager – Operations and Rate Plan Performance</p> <p>Heather Mulligan, Manager, Customer Clean Energy Solutions</p> <p>Shelby Naten, Supervisor, Project Communications</p>	<p><u>Why is this topic being presented to the EAG?</u></p> <p>PSE is proposing a shift to how it plans community-level infrastructure to better create clean energy benefits communities can see and feel. PSE wants to strategically combine utility investments in named communities to create multiple benefits at once. We will talk about utility-scale investments like powerplants and transmission lines, and hyper-local clean energy technologies like DERs*. The EAG will help PSE understand what opportunities exist to collaborate with communities when planning energy systems, how infrastructure can better support local needs, and what factors beyond technical requirements could guide where and how PSE invests. This approach could become a model for how utilities partner with communities and may influence regulatory decisions about meaningful community engagement in infrastructure planning.</p> <p><u>What will you be asked to advise on?</u></p> <p>This meeting launches the EAG's strategic role as collaborators developing PSE's equity approaches in place-based planning. Following the presentation, you will be asked:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you give an example of an infrastructure project that created co-benefits, like the presenters described? What made it work well? • How will we know if a place-based investment could create positive outcomes for community? What are the signs? • When balancing community benefit, utility operations needs, and regulatory requirements, what equity principles should be front of mind? • What is the next evolution of engagement around place-based investments in named communities? • After this discussion, what EAG priorities and actions are we more prepared to push toward? <p><u>Key Terms & Acronyms You Will Hear</u></p> <p>Energy Orchestration: Coordinated deployment of multiple utility investments that create stacked benefits in strategic locations, including both infrastructure deployment and customer experience optimization</p> <p>Performance-Based Ratemaking: An alternative approach when the UTC approves utility rates by assessing a set of utility performance metrics</p> <p>Microgrid: A small, localized electrical grid that can operate independently from the main power grid during outages</p> <p>Grid hardening: Strengthening the grid to better withstand storms and disruptions</p> <p>Islanding: Ability of a microgrid/battery system to disconnect from main grid and operate independently during outages</p> <p>Load growth: Increasing demand for electricity in an area</p> <p>*DERs (Distributed Energy Resources): Smaller-scale energy resources (solar, batteries, etc.) located in communities rather than large centralized power plants</p>

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	<p>Community-Scale DERs: Energy systems serving multiple households and organizations within a community, as opposed to individual residential installations</p> <p>Demand Response: Programs that adjust electricity usage during peak times</p> <p>Net Energy Metering: A billing mechanism that credits customers for excess electricity their solar panels send to the grid</p> <p><u>Relevant context & details</u></p> <p>Regulatory Opportunity: The Commission expects meaningful community benefits and has established Performance-Based Ratemaking metrics including energy burden reduction. PSE's approach aligns with procedural justice principles while creating a framework for scaling coordinated community benefits that serve both utility operations and community needs through integrated grid reliability solutions.</p>
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The slide deck and agenda are available on the [website](#).

Additional questions or concerns? Please reach out to EAG@PSE.com

Frequent Acronyms & Key Terms

PSE's Energy Glossary is [here](#).

Relevant Policy & Legislation

UTC (Utility and Transportation Commission): The state agency that regulates utilities in Washington, setting rates and ensuring companies follow state energy laws.

CETA (Clean Energy Transformation Act): Passed in 2019 and commits WA state to a carbon-neutral electric supply by 2030 and 100% clean electricity by 2045 (RCW 19.405)

CCA (Climate Commitment Act, "Cap and invest"): Passed in 2021, state law that seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the largest emitting sources and industries, to work towards the state's greenhouse gas limits set in state law, through a market-based carbon allowance compliance cap-and-invest program. (RCW 70A.65)

HB 1589 (Decarb Bill for Large Combined Investor-Owned Utilities) – passed in 2024, it streamlines the planning processes by requiring PSE to prepare a first in the nation Integrated Systems Plan (ISP), to support the future energy choices of our customers in alignment with the Washington state's clean energy goals.

Energy Equity Tenets: Identified by the University of Michigan [Energy Equity Project](#) and adopted by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission in [Docket UG-210755, Final Order 09](#), they are: Recognition Justice, Procedural Justice, Distributional Justice, and Restorative Justice.

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PSE Terms

ISP (Integrated System Plan): a plan that considers gas and electric systems as a whole, which includes electric integrated resource plan (IRP), gas integrated resource plan, transportation electrification plan (TEP), and clean energy implementation plan (CEIP).

CEIP (Clean Energy Implementation Plan): PSE's detailed plan for achieving CETA requirements and clean energy goals. The CEIP is essentially the clean energy details of the larger ISP.

Named Communities (NCs) are a combination of Highly Impacted Communities and Vulnerable Populations. Customers in highly impacted communities as outlined in CETA.

Highly impacted communities (HICs) are areas identified by the Washington State Department of Health as facing high environmental and health risks or located on tribal lands. Census tracts scoring 9 or 10 on a cumulative impact scale are included.

Vulnerable populations (VPs) are communities facing greater cumulative risks from environmental burdens due to socioeconomic challenges (like unemployment, high living costs, limited access to food and healthcare, and language barriers) and health sensitivities (such as low birth weight and higher hospitalization rates).

Customers and communities with deepest need are those living in areas identified as clusters of severe energy burden and multiple compounding factors hindering the ability to access adequate resources

Energy Burden: The percentage of household income spent on energy bills. Higher percentages indicate greater financial stress from energy costs.

Community Terms

CBO (Community Based Organizations): Community-led groups that serve local communities and understand their unique needs.

Suggest new acronyms/terms you'd like to see on the hot sheet list by emailing them to EAG@pse.com.