

PacifiCorp Equity Advisory Group (EAG)

Meeting #1 Notes

Thursday May 13, 2021, 9am-12pm Pacific Time

These notes were synthesized and summarized by RMI, PacifiCorp's meeting facilitation partner, without EAG member attribution.

Executive summary

PacifiCorp's Meeting #1 focused on relationship building, the purpose of the work, the role of the EAG, and definitions of important terms. EAG members introduced themselves, and we heard presentations from three PacifiCorp staff members. EAG members gave the team feedback on draft definitions of terms important to this work, and then EAG members were divided into two breakout groups for a discussion on equity priorities.

The EAG shared these insights and others during the session:

- Saving money on energy is extremely important to residents of Yakima and Walla Walla counties.
- Energy infrastructure in these areas would benefit from an update. Rural parts of Washington have less access to critical energy resources.
- It is important to respect different cultural needs in this work: different demographics have different needs.
- Reducing the cost of energy on low-income individuals can help ease the path to self-sufficiency.
- COVID has had a particularly high burden on some communities in PacifiCorp's region.
- Utility customer assistance programs exist, but they are not always accessible to those that need them most.

Session objectives

1. Introduce and get to know members of the Equity Advisory Group (EAG) and PacifiCorp team who will be working together to inform the Clean Energy Implementation Plan (CEIP).
2. Provide background context on PacifiCorp, resource planning, and the need for the Equity Advisory Group.
3. Establish a common language to talk about this work going forward and share perspectives on the group's goals.

Opening remarks (9:00-9:25am)

Etta Lockey, Vice President of Regulation, Customer, and Community Solutions at PacifiCorp

PacifiCorp Background

- PacifiCorp serves 137,000 customers in Washington and serves 2 million customers in 6 states.
- PacifiCorp's goal is to provide safe, reliable, affordable electricity to all customers.
- We are seeing major transitions across all systems.
 - New wind resources in Wyoming, new transmission to accommodate new resources, seeking to acquire about 4,000 megawatts (MW) of new wind, solar, and storage.
 - This resourcing is part of a long-term resource plan.

Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA)

- One of the requirements of CETA is to engage in equity-based discussions with stakeholders to support the development of long-term clean energy plan.
- PacifiCorp has stakeholder engagement for other projects, but the EAG process is new and unique.
 - This is the first time that long-term resource planning is focusing on equity in this format.
 - This project is a new journey for PacifiCorp.
 - PacifiCorp is excited to have EAG members here to be a part of it, and PacifiCorp asks for everyone's grace as we learn together.
- PacifiCorp's intentions with the EAG
 - PacifiCorp does not want to just talk to members and the public—this is an opportunity for PacifiCorp to learn and listen and gain a better understanding from each member of the EAG.
 - PacifiCorp wants to know how to best implement long-term resource plans in Washington for all customers and communities that we serve.
 - EAG members were invited to join based on their commitments to their communities, their unique voices, and the perspectives that they can bring to this process.
 - PacifiCorp is appreciative of and grateful for EAG member participation.

EAG member introductions (9:25-10:05am)

Equity Advisory Group member	Organization
Erendira Cruz	Sustainable Living Center (SLC)
Isidra Sanchez	Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC)
Jonathan Smith	Yakima County Development Association (YCDA)
Kaila Lockbeam	Perry Technical Institute (Perry Tech)
Noemi Ortiz*	Northwest Community Action Center (NCAC)
Paul Tabayoyon	Asian Pacific Islander Coalition (APIC)
Sylvia Schaefer	Blue Mountain Action Council (BMAC)
Raymond Wiseman	Yakama Power

*Noemi had technical challenges and was not able to give a full introduction or fully participate in this session.

PacifiCorp presentation (10:05-10:35am)

[Slides available here](#)

- Overview of PacifiCorp
 - Pacific Power is a part of PacifiCorp that serves Oregon, Washington, and California customers.
 - PacifiCorp's Washington service territory is primarily Yakima and Walla Walla counties, but also serves Benton, Columbia, Garfield, and Kittitas counties.
- Overview of the Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA)
 - The goal is for the three major Investor-owned Utilities (IOUs) in Washington to supply clean electricity (greenhouse gas-free) by 2045 to the state.
 - The Clean Energy Implementation Plan (CEIP) will describe the utility's pathway to meet the goals of CETA in the next 4 years.

- CETA requires these three utilities (PacifiCorp, Puget Sound Energy, and Avista) to form Equity Advisory Groups (EAGs).
- Overview of PacifiCorp's long-term planning process
 - Reviewed the associated CETA-compliance Washington-specific 10-year (CEAP) and 4-year plans (CEIP).
- EAG members, collaboration, and process overview
 - We currently have eight EAG members representing the counties of Yakima and Walla Walla, as well as Yakama Nation.
 - To prepare for this EAG meeting, PacifiCorp and RMI spoke with all EAG members and other stakeholders throughout the month of April and early May to capture important insights and advice.
 - EAG members will engage in developing metrics, focus on paths to expanding equity, and highlight opportunities to mitigate barriers.
 - PacifiCorp is planning to host seven EAG meetings this year.

EAG Member Questions and PacifiCorp Answers

Q: What was PacifiCorp doing on clean energy before CETA? Is this new?

A: PacifiCorp has been working on clean energy for some time. This formalizes and standardizes that work.

Q: Will this process be deployed across other states in PacifiCorp's territory?

A: There are separate ongoing stakeholder processes that have a multi-state scope, and some of these issues will be addressed for other states through those processes.

Q: Washington customers represent a small customer base for PacifiCorp. However, there is significant interstate transmission between other states in PacifiCorp's service territory. This process raises interstate issues that allow utilities to sometimes bypass customer input. Will we be discussing any Federal issues that are being handled across state lines in PacifiCorp's territory?

A: PacifiCorp is a multistate entity serving six states. Through this process, the EAG and PacifiCorp will discuss the complexities across state lines.

Q: What's the process for partnering with other utilities to share best practices?

A: We have collaborated with other utilities in Washington to share best practices for this process and will continue to do so going forward.

Q: PacifiCorp is looking to the EAG to provide input into how the utility can better deliver equitable solutions to communities that the EAG represents. But PacifiCorp is an investor-owned utility with shareholders that they need to satisfy. Regarding the input that the EAG will be giving: is it more about practical solutions that fit the mold, or input that PacifiCorp will evaluate and decide what is best to implement?

A: One of the key outcomes of the EAG process is Customer Benefit Indicators (CBIs), which are metric driven. We are looking to the EAG to help answer: what should we be measuring, how do we apply those to CETA compliance, and to the CEIP? How do we really measure community benefits and

community impacts? There are many layers, and programs are just one layer of this. The way the EAG engages can be very in-depth. On the planning side of things, we are currently completing our integrated resource plan (IRP). This includes the 10-year Clean Energy Action Plan (CEAP) and the 4-year CEIP. The IRP will also include energy efficiency targets for the state. Together, we will make sure benefits are equitably distributed from the implementation of the CEAP. We haven't finished the analysis, and we don't know what the impact on 4-year planning will look like. As we move through this process, we will have a better view of it, and it will inform the EAG's work as well.

Break (10:35-10:50am)

Definitions discussion (10:50-11:15am)

The goal of this portion of the meeting was to establish a common definition for seven terms: equity, environmental justice, energy justice, energy security, energy burden, highly-impacted communities, and vulnerable populations. The initial definitions that were discussed are available [here](#). PacifiCorp and RMI made modifications based on EAG member feedback and posted them with meeting follow-up materials for further review and input.

EAG member feedback on definitions:

- **Equity**
 - Include specific language on the most underserved communities, and tie these definitions together (i.e., using “highly-impacted communities”).
 - Include actions that the utility could take like “providing individuals with different resources or program adjustments.”
- **Environmental justice**
 - This definition could use more specificity like “*sustainable use* of natural resources,” “*improving* air quality,” and “*improving* waste management services.” It should include more language about access to these resources in addition to the kinds of communities.
- **Energy justice**
 - No comments.
- **Energy burden**
 - Consider the relative component of income (i.e., burden relative to income).
 - Consider industrial and commercial customers and how costs are distributed to customers from those industries.
 - Consider including the costs of firewood for heating.
- **Energy security**
 - “Affordability” depends on who you are, so revise the definition to “**equitable** price” or “**equitably** affordable price.”
- **Vulnerable populations**
 - Be specific about what is being accessed (e.g., food, capital, credit).
- **Highly-impacted community**
 - This definition should account for ownership. If people don't own their own homes, they can't access the same affordability programs as homeowners. We should align with the Washington State definition on this.

Breakout room discussions (11:15-11:40am)

EAG members joined breakout rooms and discussed two questions:

1. Based on your organizational and/or community priorities, what are some important equity considerations related to the transition to clean energy in Washington?
2. How could the EAG support PacifiCorp in incorporating those considerations into their programs and planning?

Breakout room 1

- There is a need for the EAG to access data and EAG members noted that there has been difficulty with getting important customer data in the past.
- Many customers are renters and don't necessarily realize the benefits of energy savings at the building level, so landlords should be involved in this process.
- Outreach, education, and updates to existing customer programs are needed to benefit those without access to capital.

Breakout room 2

- The group highlighted the need for:
 - Outreach and education
 - Assistance with new equipment costs
 - Accessibility to customer programs and energy savings opportunities
 - Translation for people with limited English proficiency
 - Incentives to promote clean energy work
 - More grassroots participation to build trust
- In addition, the group discussed the inequality related to access to capital, whether its lack of home ownership, inability to access clean energy savings from things like rooftop solar, and lack of housing collateral for tribes.

Public participation discussion (11:15-11:40am)

During EAG member breakout groups, PacifiCorp shared information about the plan for public participation and invited questions or comments from the public participants. Approximately 30 public participants joined the Zoom for PacifiCorp's EAG Meeting #1.

- PacifiCorp prepared and filed a public participation plan earlier this month; it is currently under consideration.
- PacifiCorp is considering public participation through three methods: outreach, accessibility, and how to work with the EAG and other advisory groups.
 - Outreach
 - PacifiCorp reached out to form the EAG and other access groups through IRP public input meetings and other forums.
 - PacifiCorp is getting public input on preferences for their resource strategy.
 - Demand-side management (DSM) and low-income advisory groups will have roles as well.
 - Resources

- The website (<https://www.pacificorp.com/energy/washington-clean-energy-transformation-act-equity.html>) has meeting materials (including the participation plan), and information on the EAG.
 - Email CEIP@pacificorp.com to share more input or ask questions.
- Accessibility
 - Posting meeting materials on the website for public review.
 - Posting notes/minutes from public meetings on the website for those who cannot attend.
 - Website (and materials) will have Spanish translation.

Public Comment: There are lots of good options for public participation. I would be interested in seeing responsiveness to equity issues in the PacifiCorp service area beyond assessments and learnings from Department of Health assessments (for example, contractor-led assessment of what equity looks like). There is deeper work at hand about why this needs to happen to inform discussion in meetings to expand equity focus.

PacifiCorp Response: Our clean energy plan will focus on identifying historic barriers to equity.

Next steps and check out (11:40-12pm)

- This year, we plan to have six more EAG meetings occurring monthly
- We plan to have these topics of discussion at next month's meeting:
 - The EAG charter
 - Priorities for highly-impacted communities (HICs) and vulnerable populations
 - Analysis to identify HICs and vulnerable populations
- EAG members will receive a meeting invitation to the next session, it is being scheduled based on the survey (<https://forms.office.com/r/L6j91bEZ3>) EAG members and the public can complete after this session.
 - We will share materials for EAG members to review in advance of the next meeting.
 - Materials will also be posted to the website for the public to access.