

Pacific Power Equity Advisory Group (EAG)

January 2024 Meeting Notes

January 11, 2024, 1:00 – 4:00 pm, Pacific Time

These notes were synthesized and summarized by E Source, Pacific Power’s meeting facilitation partner, EAG member attribution.

Executive Summary

There were nine participants in attendance at the Washington EAG meeting on January 11, 2024, including four EAG members. The meeting was hosted in a virtual setting with attendees joining virtually via the ZOOM platform. The meeting largely focused on celebrating the group’s accomplishments in 2023 and sharing plans for 2024.

The following is a summary of the content and feedback received during the public meeting.

Session Objectives

- Close the feedback loop from the last meeting
- Share information on general rate cases and provide process updates for Pacific Power
- Share demand response program updates
- Share information on electric vehicles and technical assistance opportunities in WA
- Introduce new transportation electrification grants and roadmap

2023 EAG Members	Organization
Erendira Cruz	Sustainable Living Center
Todd Hilmes	Northwest Community Action Center
Paul Tabayoyon	Asian Pacific Islander Coalition
Norman Thiel	SonBridge

Presenters

Kimberly Alejandro	Equity Advisory Analyst, Pacific Power
Stephanie Meeks	Regulatory Manager, Regulatory Policy & Operations, Pacific Power
Laura James	Senior Project Manager, Customer and Community Solutions, Pacific Power
Kate Hawley	EV Senior Product Manager, Pacific Power
Steven Alaman	Transportation Electrification Customer Programs Manager, Pacific Power
Morgan Westberry	Facilitator, E Source

Pacific Power Affiliated Attendees

Selyna Bermudez	
Pampi Chowdhury	Manager, Distribution Systems Planning
Nancy Goddard	Senior Program Manager

Christina Medina	Stakeholder Policy & Engagement Manager
Jeffrey Daigle	E Source, Facilitation Team
Tag Galvin-Darnieder	E Source, Facilitation Team
Public Attendees	
Sofya Atitsogbe	Washington State Utilities & Transportation Commission
Stephanie Chase	Washington Office of the Attorney General
Chad Ihrig	Affiliation Not Identified
Paul Koenig	Washington State Utilities & Transportation Commission
Kody McConnell	Washington State Utilities & Transportation Commission
Keith Quinata	Washington State Utilities & Transportation Commission

Opening

Pacific Power’s Kimberly Alejandro opened the meeting by greeting all attendees, and E Source’s Morgan Westberry shared meeting objectives, the agenda, and presenters. Ms. Westberry reiterated the implementation of the first post-EAG meeting survey, which will be open for seven days after each meeting and serve as another vehicle to provide feedback for the engagement space.

EAG Member Check-In

All EAG members “checked-in” by responding to the prompt: *What are three things you love about where you grew up?* The group shared experiences and resonated over the ample access to resources across Washington and other home states including campgrounds, boating, skiing, and other recreational activities. Additionally, EAG members shared the importance of the resources available in places where they grew up (i.e., rivers and mountains, glaciers, and National Parks), as well as growing up in small towns with a real sense of community, in shaping the passion and drive to accomplish the objectives of the EAG.

Community Calendar

Pacific Power’s Kimberly Alejandro presented the community calendar. Kimberly noted that the calendar is still light due to the winter months. The Energy Efficiency community events will begin again starting in March 2024.

January Events –

- January 9 – [2024 H-2A, Labor Conference and Annual Meeting @ Yakima Convention Center 8:00am-4:00pm](#)
- January 10– [2024 H-2A, Labor Conference and Annual Meeting @ Yakima Convention Center 8:00am-4:00pm](#)
- January 11 – [ONLINE - Pacific Power's Equity Advisory Group Meeting 1pm-4pm](#)

- January 18 – [January 18 - The Science and Practice of Inclusion Community Workshop @ SonBridge Center for Better Living 1200 SE 12th St., College Place, WA 99324 9am-4pm](#)
- January 18 – [VOLUNTEER - Food Distribution for Seniors with Blue Mountain Action Council @ 921 W. Cherry St., Walla Walla, WA 99362 12:45pm-3:00pm](#)
- January 21 – [Walla Walla Sustainable Committee Meeting @ 15 N. 3rd Ave. \(City Hall\), Walla Walla, WA 99362 3:30pm-5:00pm](#)

Closing the Feedback Loop

Pacific Power’s Kimberly Alejandro provided a snapshot of some of the things that they heard and saw in the December 2023 session. Some of the central themes the last time the EAG convened included:

Closing the Loop

December Topics:

- Reflect on our year together (2023)
- Discuss the Washington Equity Advisory Group's impacts
- Updates and preview of 2024

December Feedback Highlights:

- Resource sharing continues to be important to the group
- Holding space to acknowledge the relevance and equity elements of this group's work together
- Celebrating our successes and lessons learned

Impacts:

- 2024 agenda items will cover several topics important to EAG members
- Addition of 'Regulation Updates' to the standing EAG Agenda to keep members apprised to what is occurring in the regulation space

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General Rate Case Background & Regulation Updates

E Source’s Morgan Westberry shared that the Pacific Power Engagement team is committed to making sure that there is space for Regulation Updates as they occur, which resulted in a new recurring agenda segment for 2024. The Regulation Update section will provide information on additional engagement opportunities, Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) related activities, and other pertinent regulation items.

Furthermore, Morgan Westberry shared background information different commissions and how rate cases proceed within the United State and within Washington State.

Morgan Westberry began the presentation by sharing what is typically regulated by Commissions and the differing commission structures. There are three ways that the Commissioners are selected, and the regulatory body is formed:

- Appointed by the governor

- Appointed by the state Legislature
- Elected

The state of Washington's Commission is located within the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, otherwise known as UTC. The regulatory body, or Commission, is made up of three Commissioners, who are appointed by the governor of the state.

The current (January 2024) Washington Commissioners are:

- David W. Danner, Chair
- Ann Rendahl, Commissioner
- Milt Doumit, Commissioner

Morgan Westberry then highlighted the divisions within the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission and the purpose of the Regulatory Services Division as highlighted in the text from the [Commission's website](#), below.

"The purpose of the Regulatory Services Division is to conduct economic regulation of investor-owned utilities, solid waste collection companies, household goods movers, private passenger ferries, excursion boats, and bus companies. Activities include reviewing company filings; petitions and applications; inspecting plants and equipment; auditing budgets and reports; making recommendations to the commission on specific filings; and presenting testimony and exhibits in formal hearings. This division has four sections: Energy, Telecommunications, Water and Transportation, and Conservation and Energy Planning."

Pacific Power's Stephanie Meeks proceeded with the presentation and reviewed the basics surrounding rate cases.

A rate case is a formal process conducted by utility regulators to determine if the utility's proposed base rates are just and reasonable. For a utility to start the application process, they must be able to demonstrate that revenues do not meet the increasing expenses and recovery of investments such as investments in renewables or other system improvements.

There are six phases after the revenue requirement is understood.

- 1) Rate case application submitted
- 2) Case announced, docket is created, and staff is assigned to the case
- 3) Interested parties or interveners
- 4) Interested parties pre-file testimony
- 5) Evidentiary & public comment hearings are held
- 6) Final order and public notification

Stephanie Meeks then shared that Pacific Power filed an application on March 17, 2023 – [Docket UE-230172](#). This application was filed due to rising power costs and new investments in renewables. There is an ongoing settlement regarding this rate case, which is not yet finalized. Information on the application filed and the ongoing settlement can be found below.

Pacific Power's WA General Rate Case | Docket UE-230172

Application Filed
March 17, 2023

Driven by:



Rising power costs



New investments in renewables.

Pacific Power Request:

March 1, 2024 - \$26.8 million

March 1, 2025 - \$27.9 million

Increase in cost to average residential customers:

2024	\$12.11
2025	\$9.34

(drop in 2025 is due to distribution of the increase)

Ongoing Settlement
December 15, 2023

This Stipulation resolves all the disputed issues in this proceeding except for Net Power Costs (NPC) and Power Cost Adjustment Mechanism (PCAM), which remain litigated issues, and acts as a modification to PacifiCorp's rebuttal filing on the issues included in this Stipulation

Settlement Reached:

March 1, 2024 - \$13.8 million

March 1, 2025 - \$21.1 million

Increase in cost to average residential customers:

2024	\$4.46
2025	\$6.74

* Average residential usage 1,200 kilowatt-hours per month

Stephanie Meeks shared some handouts created with the original rate case filing. These are available as PDF handouts. If members of the EAG are interested in obtaining a copy of the PDFs, please reach out [to Kimberly Alejandro](#).

Stephanie Meeks noted that Pacific Power understands that rising costs can be a burden for some individuals and offered resources currently available to customers. Kimberly Alejandro also added that Pacific Power offers energy efficiency incentives, and that Pacific Power continues to find ways to better serve customers. If members of the EAG see barriers to participating in a program, it is encouraged to reach out to Pacific Power's engagement team.

Demand Response

Pacific Power's Laura James shared updates on the Demand Response portfolio.

Pacific Power has shared in past meetings about the process to setting up the demand response portfolio as a part of the organization's CEIP. The utility is looking to set up five programs serving different customer groups.

- Irrigation Load Control
- Commercial & Industrial
- Optimal Time Rewards (Res)
- Residential EV Managed Charging
- Batteries

Two of these programs – irrigation load control and commercial & industrial – are live and ongoing, and the Optimal Time Rewards program for residential customers is also nearly ready to launch. The other two programs that are expected to roll out in 2024 - Optimal Time Rewards & EV Managed Charging - will return to the EAG in 2024.

The residential Optimal Time Rewards program will be discussed further during the February EAG meeting, while the Residential EV Managed Charging program is still in development and will be discussed throughout the year as more information becomes available. The company issued a Request-for-Proposal for a contractor to manage this program and has received some responses and should launch around six months after the program vendor selection is complete.

The last program within the portfolio, a battery response program, is still being developed. Pacific Power will be planning the program later this year and expects to have it operational by late 2024 or 2025.

Laura James then provided some information on the Optimal Time Rewards. Optimal Time Rewards allows customers to sign up with different models of smart thermostat or water heaters and receive incentives from Pacific Power for participation, see below for more information.

Optimal Time Rewards (Residential)

Smart Thermostats

Residential customers with

- A smart thermostat
- Electric heating or cooling
- Wi-Fi

\$50 to enroll + **\$25** annual participation

- Sign up through thermostat manufacturer app
- 20 min notification, can opt out of any event

Launch Q1 2024

Water Heaters

Residential customers with

- An electric water heater
- Wi-Fi

\$25 to enroll* + **\$25** annual participation

*Incentives also available for property managers

- Sign up through property manager, control via Armada app
- No notification or event opt-out
- Pre-heat ensures sufficient hot water

Single Family: Launch Q4

Multifamily: Recruiting Now!

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The Optimal Time Rewards program for hot water heaters has a soft launch and Pacific Power is recruiting multifamily participants by working with landlords and property managers to identify units that could accommodate the program and to recruit tenants. Customers within single family homes will also be eligible to enroll in hot water heaters later in 2024.

The Optimal Time Rewards for Smart Thermostats, however, will launch at the end of January 2024. This portion requires residential customers to sign up for this program individually and is open to customers within single family homes and multi-family homes.

Laura also provided an update on the EV Managed Charging Program. The concept for this program is that customers who participate will allow Pacific Power to control when a registered EV is charging. If the customer wishes, the ability to opt-out and override the management of the charging does exist. The program details will be finalized when a contractor is in place. The program benefit includes allowing

Pacific Power to better manage the load (and therefore create heightened reliability of the system) by having insight and some flexibility on when Electric Vehicles are charging.

Lastly, Laura James touched on the RFP for an evaluation contractor that will be issued. Laura will return to the EAG to share the draft workplan with the advisory group in the coming months.

Transportation Electrification

Pacific Power's Steven Alaman kicked off the presentation on transportation electrification.

There are many types of electrification options for vehicles such as electric school buses, electric mail delivery or plug-in electric fleet vehicles. For example, Pacific Power also has a hybrid bucket truck that uses only electric power to operate the lift and is much quieter.

To incentivize the uptake and help educate customers, Pacific Power offers a variety of outreach to on electric vehicles, such as free ride-and-drive events spoken about previously at the EAG. At these events, the company tries to combine electric vehicle ride-and-drive events with other events in the community to share information on owning electric vehicles.

During the event in Yakima, hosted at the Farmer's Market, Pacific Power shared the Polestar and a Volkswagen ID. This event only had two test drives, but a lot of people came to see the cars. Moving forward, Pacific Power hopes to increase participation in these events and get additional exposure of electric vehicles within the community. If a member of the EAG has a recommendation of local events that Pacific Power should collaborate with, please reach out to [Steven Alaman](#).

Steven highlighted many benefits for shifting to electric vehicles, including:

- Cleaner air
- Fight Climate Change
- Battery technology continues to improve
- More environmental regulations on the way
- OEMs are committing to electric
- Energy dollars stay local
- Lower total cost of ownership

One anecdote shared by Steven was that there are 75 percent fewer moving parts within an electric vehicle, which reduces maintenance costs and makes electric vehicles more affordable to operate than internal combustion vehicles over time.

There are many charging options for electric vehicles. Currently, more than 80 percent of charging is done at home. Some electric vehicle drivers stick with a 110 outlet as most electric vehicles come with a regular plug. This is commonly referred to as Level 1 charging and charges the vehicle to get 3-5 miles per hour. It works well for drivers with those that drive 40 or fewer miles per day. Level 2 charging requires a 240v outlet and can charge the vehicle about 20-40 miles per hour. Almost all vehicles use the same plug type (J1772) for Level 1 and Level 2 charging. The most common exception are Tesla vehicles, which can use the Tesla plug type without needing an adaptor.

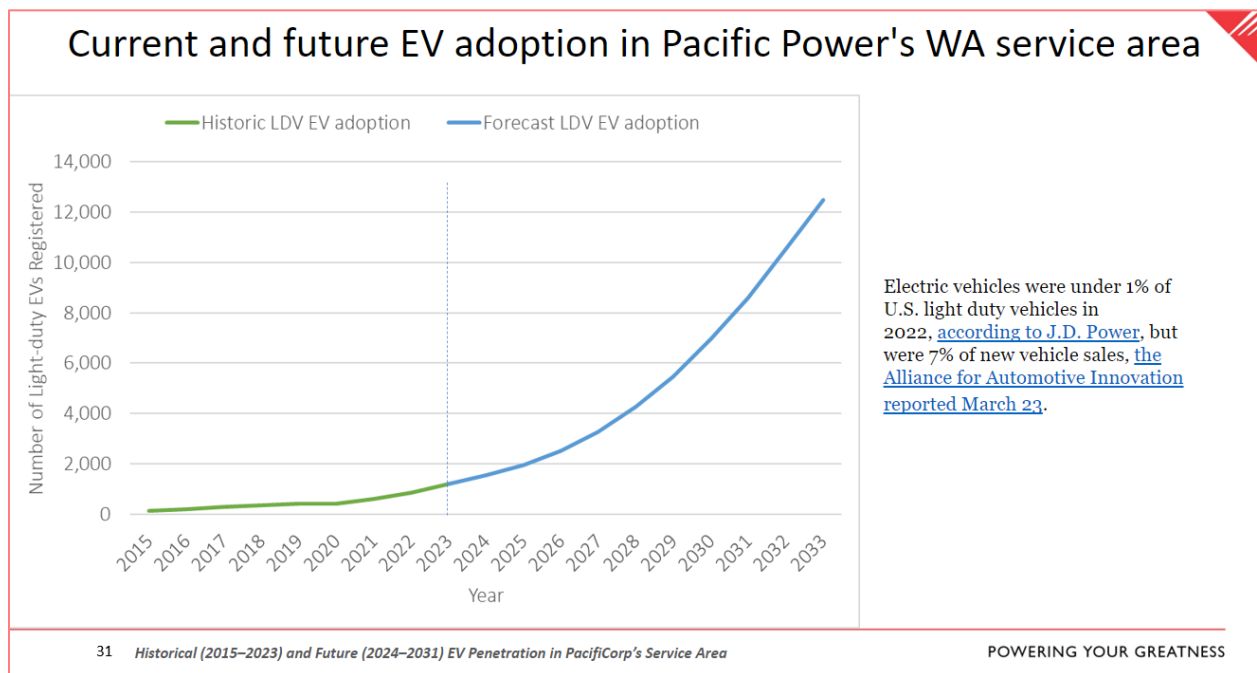
When it comes to DC Fast Charging, there are three types of chargers similar to the way that different cell phones use different connectors. DC Fast Charging is typically used to manage longer trips or to support fleet vehicles that require short charging time between routes. The three standards for these charges are:

- CCS is the European standard
- CHAdeMO is the Japanese standard
- NCS (Tesla) is the North American Standard.

When using a DC fast charger, the speeds will vary based upon the speed of the charge itself and the charging capacity of the vehicle. For example, the Chevy Bolt limits charging capacity to 50 kWh - even if the charger itself can go up to 350 kWh.

Customers looking to find a nearby public electric vehicle charger can search online using Plugshare and on the Plugshare mobile app. Steven shared that there is publicly available charging structure available in Yakima and Walla Walla. Currently, there are about 73 ports in Yakima and 44 in Walla Walla.

Pacific Power shared data from the vehicle registration data. The green line is historic adoption and is anticipating exponential growth over the next decade.



Steven also discussed key barriers to adoption. These key barriers are:

- A general lack of exposure to electric vehicles
- Cost of electric vehicles
- Lack of charging at multifamily properties

Pacific Power's Kate Hawley then presented on New Transportation Electrification Programs. These programs go beyond the current outreach and education activities the utility is conducting within Washington.

Kate provided a recap about the community grant program presented to the EAG in previous months. Pacific Power is excited to share the updates as they have done a significant amount of work to get to this point.

There are five key objectives to this transportation electrification grant program.

- Reduce costs of ownership
- Encourage traditional industries to adopt and shift towards transportation electrification
- Raise awareness and education around transportation electrifications for customers by highlighting what transportation electrification can do
- Remove barriers to applying for grant funding
- Provide a simple, flexible and equitable grant funding mechanism.

Pacific Power has also defined program eligibility requirements. These program eligibility requirements are below:

Program Eligibility & Requirements

Who should apply?

- Non-residential Washington customers that focus on serving named communities

What's covered?

- Costs associated with studying, planning, promoting, and marketing, or deploying electric transportation infrastructure, technology, vehicle purchase or lease and projects
- Other eligible expenses include project management costs, upfront network subscription costs, ongoing operations and maintenance costs, ongoing network subscription or other software costs and co-marketing projects with PacifiCorp.

What's NOT covered?

- Ineligible expenses would include energy costs, insurance, private fleet costs, auxiliary equipment costs (e.g., solar systems, battery storage systems) and costs that would occur without the project (e.g., staff salaries, landscaping)

What are the project requirements?

- Must benefit residential customers
- Benefits accrue to and within named communities, which includes "highly impacted communities" and vulnerable populations.
- Selected applicants will be required to provide reports throughout the process on a quarterly basis
- For projects installing infrastructure, recipients would be required to share data with the scheduled reporting and allow PacifiCorp to be the aggregator

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Kate also highlighted that these requirements do not limit the project proposers to be located within named communities; however, the project must benefit a named community. Furthermore, Kate shared that these grants aim to also help ensure the infrastructure stays up and running, so subsidizing operations and maintenance costs is an allowable cost.

All projects will have specific reporting requirements to ensure the projects provide benefits to the community and to determine if there is a way to get additional funding through the Washington Clean Fuels Program.

Kate then shared the proposed schedule calendar. The program will take place over five years. The vendor to help manage the program will be identified and help facilitate as a neutral 3rd party evaluator of the grant applications. Pacific Power expects this vendor to support developing an application portal available

through the Pacific Power website. Lastly, the vendor will help put together some marketing materials including brochures, fact sheets, FAQs, and an implementation manual. Pacific Power anticipates that the first grant window will open in May of 2024 and end in August. The award process for this round of grand funding would be wrapped up by the end of 2024. The entire five-year grant schedule is below:

Washington Community Grant Program Timeline	Y1				Y2				Y3				Y4				Y5			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1.0 Launch steps																				
1.1	Develop application portal																			
1.2	Develop grant program materials (application, terms and conditions, etc.)																			
1.3	Develop program implementation manual																			
1.4	Launch outreach																			
1.5	Open application window																			
2.0 Application Screening																				
2.1	Application window opens																			
2.2	Application window closes																			
3.0 Evaluation & Selection																				
3.1	Develop selection committee																			
3.2	Conduct initial screening																			
3.3	Host selection committee decision meetings																			
3.4	Selection completed for grantees																			
4.0 Funding Awarded																				
4.1	Executive approval of awardees																			
4.2	Notify recipients																			
4.3	Grant agreements executed																			
4.4	Prepayment available																			
4.5	Project delivered																			
4.6	Project closeout executed																			

Chat Questions and Meeting Comments:

- SonBridg shared that there are electric buses within Walla Walla.
- Sustainable Living Center added Drive Electric has an annual Drive Electric Week that encourages communities to host an event. More details can be found at driveelectricweek.org
- Asian Pacific Islander Coalition recommended that it may be worth doing more cross collaboration with the Drive Electric Week and other events that are happening across the state.
- Asian Pacific Islander Coalition also shared that it may be worthwhile for Pacific Power to participate in a car show. Previously attended car shows have allowed electric cars to participate for free. This would allow for the showing off of EVs for little to no cost.
- E Source added via chat: “As someone who converted to an EV last year, I love it. However, I still have range anxiety. I don’t really drive long distances but somehow, I get scared about it.”
- Asian Pacific Islander Coalition asked: “I am seeking information for electric tractors”
 - **Pacific Power was unable to provide a response during the meeting but will be following up to provide information.**
- Asian Pacific Islander Coalition included that two barriers to the adoption are a lack of large employers making charging available and large commercial development areas not creating focal parts for charging and parking.
- Asian Pacific Islander Coalition agreed about the barrier surround access to charging at multifamily properties. There are properties with more vehicles than allowed and there is a lack of easements. This adds to project costs to getting chargers installed. The Member has spoken with city entities and suggested methods to improve the planning process so that chargers can

be installed without adding years to the planning progress. Furthermore, the power for a DC fast charger is at such a high voltage but it's difficult to get that voltage within the current infrastructure.

- Pacific Power thanked the group for their addition to the dialogue.
- Northwest Community Action Center asked for Kate's (TE subject matter expert) contact information for follow up
 - Kate's email address is kate.hawley@pacificcorp.com
- Northwest Community Action Center also asked for the webpage for the grant program.
 - The grant program webpage is not live for the state of Washington. It will be similar to the one for Oregon which is available here: <https://www.pacificpower.net/savings-energy-choices/electric-vehicles/charging-station-grants.html>

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Next Steps

Pacific Power's Kimberly Alejandro highlighted that the next EAG meeting will take place in February and take place online. The February meeting will feature a presentation from Pacific Power's Integrated Resource Planning team.

Looking further ahead, March will be a hybrid meeting and will be hosted by WorkSource Yakima which is in Union Gap, Washington. This meeting will feature a presentation by the South-Central Workforce Council.

The agenda for the remainder of the year is not set in stone and Pacific Power will continue to bring important topics to the group. For example, the second hybrid meeting of the year will take place in September and is targeted to be in Walla Walla or College Place. If an EAG member wants to propose a topic, please contact Kimberly Alejandro.

- For more information: [Washington Clean Energy Implementation Plan](#)
- Washington Feedback Tracker: [Washington CEIP Feedback Tracker Through June 2023 Uploaded 10 10 2023.xlsx \(live.com\)](#)
- Energy Resource Center: [Energy Resource Center \(pacificpower.net\)](https://www.pacificpower.net)
- February 8, 2024 (Online) 1pm-4pm [Washington Equity Advisory Group Meeting Zoom Link](#)

Lastly, Kimberly recognized Selyna Bermudez as a member of Pacific Power who has participated in the EAG meetings regularly. Selyna Bermudez' last day at Pacific Power will be January 16, 2024. Selyna wishes the group and the community well.

E Source's Morgan Westberry closed the meeting by sharing the January 2024 EAG meeting survey link. The survey link provides another avenue to provide feedback on EAG meetings and is available for both EAG members and members of the public.