

# Pacific Power Equity Advisory Group (EAG)

February 2024 Meeting Notes

February 8, 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 February 8, 2024, including eight EAG members. The meeting was hosted in a virtual setting with attendees joining virtually via the ZOOM platform.

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

## Session Objectives

1. Continue the conversation on the Transportation Electrification Community Grant Program and discuss approach to anchor equity in selection process
2. Provide a Weatherization overview from the utility perspective
3. Introduce Integrated Resource Planning (IRP)

2023 EAG Members	Organization
Erendira Cruz	Sustainable Living Center
Todd Hilmes	Northwest Community Action Center
Silvia Leija	Yakima Community Aid
Frank Martinez	OIC of Yakima
Sylvia Schaeffer	Blue Mountain Action Council
Jonathan Smith	Yakima County Development Association
Paul Tabayoyon	Asian Pacific Islander Coalition
Norman Thiel	SonBridge

## Presenters

Kimberly Alejandro	Equity Advisory Analyst, Pacific Power
Randy Baker	Director of Resource Planning
Stephanie Meeks	Regulatory Manager, Regulatory Policy & Operations, Pacific Power
Kate Hawley	EV Senior Product Manager, Pacific Power
Charity Spires	Low-income Program Manager
Morgan Westberry	Facilitator, E Source
Jeffrey Daigle	Facilitator, E Source

## Pacific Power Affiliated Attendees

Nancy Goddard	Senior Program Manager
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Christina Medina	Stakeholder Policy & Engagement Manager
Stephanie Starr	Resource Innovations
Tag Galvin-Darnieder	E Source, Facilitation Team
<b>Public Attendees</b>	
Stephanie Chase	Washington Office of the Attorney General
Candi Jaeger	
Paul K	
Jaclynn Simmons	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.

## EAG Member Check-In

All EAG members "checked-in" by responding to the prompt: *What are two goals you have for yourself this year?* The group shared experiences and resonated over the various personal and professional goals the members are striving to accomplish.

## Community Calendar

Pacific Power's Kimberly Alejandro presented the community calendar, including the following events:

### February Events –

- February 1 - [ENGLISH - Money Smart Program @ Safe Haven Community Center, Toppenish 5:30pm-8:00pm](#)
- February 6 – [SPANISH - Money Smart Program @ Safe Haven Community Center, Toppenish 5:30pm-8:00pm](#)
- February 8 - [ONLINE - Pacific Power's Equity Advisory Group Meeting 1pm - 4pm](#)
- February 10 - [Blue Mountain Community Church Clothing Swap @ 928 Sturm Ave, Walla Walla, WA 99362 9:00am-10:00am](#)
- February 13 - [SPANISH - Money Smart Program @ Safe Haven Community Center, Toppenish 5:30pm-8:00pm](#)
- February 15 - [Supervisor Training DAY ONE @ 1401 Arboretum Drive, Yakima, WA 98901 9am-4pm](#)
- February 16 - [Supervisor Training DAY TWO @ 1401 Arboretum Drive, Yakima, WA 98901 9am-4pm](#)
- February 18 - [Free Food Distribution @ Amigos del Altisimo 1802 Willow St, Yakima, WA 98902 10:00am - 12:00pm Drive-Thru Event](#)
- February 20 - [SPANISH - Money Smart Program @ Safe Haven Community Center, Toppenish 5:30pm-8:00pm](#)

- February 21 - [HYBRID - Yakima Sustainability Committee @ City Hall \(Council Chambers\) @ 4:30pm](#)
- February 22 - [ENGLISH - Money Smart Program @ Safe Haven Community Center, Toppenish 5:30pm-8:00pm](#)
- February 27 - [Free Food Distribution @ Radio KDNA 121 Sunnyside Ave, Granger, WA 98932 10:00am - 12:00pm Drive-Thru Event](#)
- February 29 - [ENGLISH - Money Smart Program @ Safe Haven Community Center, Toppenish 5:30pm-8:00pm](#)

#### March Events –

- March 8-10 - [Central Washington Home & Garden Show @ Yakima SunDome 1301 S Fair Ave. ALL DAY](#)
- March 14 - [HYBRID - Pacific Power's Equity Advisory Group Meeting @ 1205 Ahtanum Ridge Dr, Union Gap, WA 98903 1pm-4pm](#)
- March 19 - [Drip Irrigation Educational Workshop w/ Kate Frey @ 640 Water Center Dr, Walla, Walla, WA 99362 5:30PM - 7:30PM](#)
- March 28 - [Financial Aid Night for School @ Walla Walla Public Library \(238 E Alder St.\) 5:00pm - 6:30pm. Bilingual event.](#)
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## Closing the Feedback Loop

Pacific Power's Kimberly Alejandro provided a snapshot of some of the things that they heard and saw in the January 2024 session. Some of the central themes the last time the EAG convened included:

#### January Themes:

- Shared educational information on general rate cases and provided a Pacific Power update on its own process
- Provided updates on Pacific Power's Demand Response Program
- Shared educational information on electric vehicles
- Introduced Pacific Power's new transportation electrification grants in Washington

#### January Feedback Highlights:

- Members appreciate the efficient use of time and the preparedness of the team
- Enjoyed hearing about new and upcoming programs
- Bolstering advisory group numbers in 2024 will be important

#### Impacts:

- Additional resources shared to members for Transportation Electrification activities that are outside of Pacific Power's direct purview
- Resurfacing the Transportation Electrification Grant Program with a broader equity lens
- Planning for opportunities to better engage, including a deeper dive on increasing membership and ability to schedule tours and field trips while meeting in person

## Regulation Updates

Pacific Power’s Stephanie Meeks provided information on regulation activities in Washington. The updates provided were regarding the 2024-2025 Biennial Conservation Plan, which was approved with conditions by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) in [Docket UE-230904](#). The Biennial Conservation Plan outlines actions the utility is putting into place to achieve its total conservation (energy efficiency) goals

## Transportation Electrification Grant Program

Pacific Power’s Kate Hawley recapped 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.

E Source’s Jeffrey Daigle then lead an activity aimed at getting input to help refine scoring criteria leading up to program launch. The draft criteria include the following items for consideration:

Categories	Subcategories
<b>Community Benefit</b>	How many in the community will be served by the proposed project?
	What are the benefits for Named Communities?
<b>Sustainability</b>	Lifetime of the project, can it be maintained?
	Long-term adequate access to it in the future.
<b>Innovation</b>	Creative project design, partnerships, and utilization of resources, particularly serving underserved populations.
	Likelihood of stimulating the electric mobility marketplace.
	Is the project innovative? Has this been done before?
<b>Use of Funds</b>	Applicant has internal financial commitment to match funds and/or leverages funds from other reliable sources.
	Reasonableness of the proposed budget.
<b>Project Feasibility/ Utilization</b>	Reasonableness of the project plan and timeline.
	Identified potential project barriers and demonstrated strategic response.
	Readiness of the project team.
<b>Additional Benefits</b>	Proposed projects include commitment to community visibility and outreach to community about the project.
	Project expresses plans to expand upon the proposed project in the future.
	Educational benefits and opportunities.
<b>Equity</b>	Detailed plan to directly address barriers to mobility for communities currently underserved by electric transportation (ex. Rural communities, low-income communities, low-medium priced multi-family housing etc.)

	Detailed methods within plan to ensure timely input and oversight from community members.
	Project is easily accessible to the surrounding communities.

### **Activity Discussion:**

#### **Equity**

- SonBridge resonated with the word ‘detailed’, however, suggested an approach that reflected a story. This would help convey value at the human level.
- Pacific Power’s Kimberly Alejandro added that language barriers and necessary technical support are significant accessibility concerns.
  - E Source’s Jeffrey Daigle provided an example of ADA requirements that need to be resolved in the EV space.
- Asian Pacific Islander Coalition Pacific Islander Coalition agreed that having a detailed plan is essential, exemplifying with a recent apartment building development and the energy needs that need to be balanced. Some of the biggest accessibility issues are infrastructure in nature, and creating detailed plans can really help to overcome some of the issues that are likely to occur.
  - Pacific Power’s Kate Hawley clarified the language is intended to mean community development in the design of the project and demonstrating the stakeholder processes that occur. Does that seem like a reasonable approach?
  - Asian Pacific Islander Coalition and other EAG members noted agreement. Anything Pacific Power is able to do will increase involvement, which may take education to bring the communities to a point where impacts can be made.
- Asian Pacific Islander Coalition suggested getting relationships with developers earlier on to overcome the high cost that comes with competition without the education piece.
- Sustainable proposals should determine specific barriers for the intended beneficiaries and how the project will remove those

#### **Community Benefit**

- Pacific Power’s Kimberly Alejandro suggested that beyond quantity, it would also be nice to know who will be impacted in the different areas of the applications. The details (i.e., barriers being removed become important in showing if it will be of interest to the community or a more singular interest. It would make for a strong application if it showed if there are barriers removed in the process.
- SonBridge noted that adding value to named communities includes creating systems and tools that are shared. There is a balance between security and ease of access (language, complexity, etc.).
- SonBridge provided examples of measuring service at facilities through visits, while funders typically ask number of people. Both are valid measures of service, so grants should have at least two.
- Sustainable Living Center added that when the emphasis is on the numbers, opportunities to make impacts to communities and populations will inherently be missed. For example, if a

foodbank requested an EV for operations – how will that affect the participants being served. Maybe 100% of the participants could be served instead of 70%. How does that get captured.

- Asian Pacific Islander Coalition agreed in the chat.
- Sustainable Living Center relates ‘early adopters’ to agencies that are serving the public, especially in the named communities, will be the best position to be the early adopters. For example, when the EV bus there are no fumes which is a huge benefit/impact. How are the downstream benefits going to be considered.

## Innovation

- Sustainable Living Center added that as an early adopter on EVs, community organizations have the opportunity to lead the charge. One example would be the use of a Zipcar. There is so much opportunity for innovation, and it could be projects that are already done that is just expanded to communities.
- SonBridge thinks of two pieces: 1. technology innovation, which may have more risk. 2. Process innovation, where the process connects with named communities in a new and better way.
- Pacific Power’s Kimberly Alejandro spoke to Sustainable Living Center’s point (re: innovation means different things to different communities) and that there are technologies that are applied elsewhere to these communities. For example, ride sharing. The areas served struggle with reliable transportation from the family to the community level – buses are being used to help with agricultural workers transportation in the face of this challenge currently. The concept of ride sharing is not new, but the adjustment to be more applicable to communities in Yakima and Walla Walla could be considered innovative.

Mo to add ranking graphic

Jeffrey Daigle and Kate Hawley touched on the next steps, which will involve returning to the EAG in March and throughout the year.

1. Pacific Power will review the feedback from today and update the scoring rubric
2. The Transportation Electrification team will close the loop with the EAG during the March meeting
3. Launch the grant program later this year!

## Weatherization Updates

E Source’s Morgan Westberry revisited Weatherization as a concept to close the loop further after comments and questions received at the September 2023 EAG meeting, which featured Energy Efficiency Updates as part of the Biennial Conservation Plan discussion.

Ms. Westberry explained that weatherization encompasses a range of techniques and measures designed to improve the energy efficiency and comfort of buildings. These measures can include insulation, sealing air leaks, upgrading heating and cooling systems, and installing energy-efficient windows and doors. The primary goals of weatherization programs are to reduce energy consumption, lower utility bills for residents, improve indoor comfort, and decrease greenhouse gas emissions by reducing the energy demand of buildings.

Overall, weatherization plays a crucial role in improving the energy efficiency, comfort, and affordability of housing while also advancing environmental sustainability goals.

Pacific Power's goal is to maximize opportunities for income qualified customers to participate in weatherizing homes. The funding is now being leveraged to be reimbursed at 100% and there is no funding cap currently.

Pacific Power's Charity Spires added that a significant change was made to the schedule in January 2022 that allowed for electric conversions, meaning that homes that currently use gas or wood burning systems could be served. This would also open the door for other upgrades to be made, such as insulation or windows. Pacific Power hasn't had a customer that chose to convert with this update yet.

### ***Meeting Discussion:***

- Yakima County Development Association asked if there is a sense of the number of people or households that would be eligible?
  - Pacific Power's Charity Spires responded that it isn't a number that the utility has a number on. It depends on how partners interact in the communities. Over the last few years, it ranges from 85-125, which is lower than usual due to covid.
- Yakima County Development Association stated that the Yakima County clean air staff has gone out to work with customers who work with wood burning stoves and asked if there has been any coordination with Pacific Power on that effort?
  - Pacific Power's Charity Spires stated that communication to customers is to reach out to the community action agencies that serve the areas. This is where customers will be able to start the process to get the free weatherization.
  - Pacific Power's Nancy Goddard chatted "thank you for that info. Found this online and will share it with the Home Energy Savings team. Woodstove Information - Yakima Regional Clean Air Agency ([yakimacleanair.org](http://yakimacleanair.org))"

E Source's Morgan Westberry asked the group: What have you seen as barriers to participation or program access for community members?

- Sustainable Living Center spoke to the income qualification being a barrier, as a lot of people are close to the income guideline and still financially struggling. Another barrier is how to approach those who have used the program before but either was a while back or not holistically done. Lastly Weatherization Assistance program capacity has been a barrier in the past.
- Asian Pacific Islander Coalition also spoke to the income guideline being a barrier to participation (re: SLC comment on customers who are close to the income guideline, but do not qualify). Additionally, some local organizations don't always have people to assess or educate the end user on which upgrades to make and break down some of these technical concepts around the mechanic of the measures.
- Asian Pacific Islander Coalition chatted in that the electrical load needed for some of the upgrades is a barrier as well.
- Blue Mountain Action Council added that there is quite a bit of funding to help with the heat source upgrades (wood, oil, pellets, etc.) and leveraging the Low-Income Home Energy

Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Weatherization programs has helped several customers sign up.

## Break

### Integrated Resources Planning (IRP)

Pacific Power's Randy Baker, Director of Resource Planning, presented general background information on what is involved in the planning process and the factors considered during Integrated Resource Planning.

Pacific Power's IRP approach includes:

1. Make the customer the primary Focus, completed through the following actions:
  - Maximum transparency
  - Agnostic to technology
    - Cost driver
    - Reliability driver
  - The first pass, is the least cost, least risk limited by system constraints
  - The second pass, is the least cost, least risk limited by state constraints
    - No cost shifting for state compliance
2. Maximize benefits of a multi-state system, made possible by:
  - Specific timing for milestones in six states
  - Stakeholder feedback is critical to improving the quality of the work product
  - Milestones will be delivered based on the most restrictive state timing
  - Meetings are scheduled at Lloyd Center Tower, but locations may be revised as technology becomes available at other locations

The multi-state system, serving nearly 2 million customers systemwide, is comprised of extensive generation, transmission, and distribution infrastructure across the west, and company-wide efforts are underway to decarbonize and expand efficient energy use to benefit consumers.

The Pacific Power operates its two balancing authority areas as a single system, or in other words in a way that planning aligns across states resulting in one plan for all states served. Updating the plan occurs on a two-year IRP cycle, with updates made on off years to highlight how changes in the planning environment affect the plan.

Bringing this to the EAG space, along with other engagements that are planned, is a crucial part of the IRP process to maintain adequate coverage of the system.

Pacific Power's Randy Baker then provided context to the upcoming IRP engagements, which can be found in the table below. After a very successful first in person meeting (post- COVID) that led to a rich dialogue from interested parties, additional face-to-face meetings will be offered for those comfortable to join in that setting.

<b><i>2025 IRP Upcoming Public Input Meeting Date(s)-Calendar Year 2024<sup>1,2</sup></i></b>
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Thursday, January 25, 2024 – General Public Input Meeting 1
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Thursday, March 14, 2024 – General Public Input Meeting 2
Thursday, May 2, 2024 – General Public Input Meeting 3
Wed-Thurs June 26-27, 2024 – General Public Input Meeting 4
Wed-Thurs August 14-15, 2024 – General Public Input Meeting 5
Wed-Thurs September 25-26, 2024 – General Public Input Meeting 6
Wed-Thurs November 6-7, 2024 – General Public Input Meeting 7
Wed-Thurs December 18-19, 2024 – General Public Input Meeting 8
<b><u>Calendar Year 2025</u></b>
➤ January 1, 2025 - Distribution of the 2025 Draft IRP
Wed-Thurs January 22-23, 2025 – General Public Input Meeting 9
Wed-Thurs February 26-27, 2025 – General Public Input Meeting 10
➤ March 31, 2025 – Filing of the 2025 IRP

PacifiCorp is constantly in a state of improvement to refine the stakeholder process and make it more equitable and inclusive. One of the significant inroads that has been made since the launch of this series is providing a recorded medium that is also posted externally on the PacifiCorp website for each public input meeting that takes place throughout the IRP planning cycle. So toward the end of the 2023 IRP planning cycle, the team is able to establish a sync there and a methodology to get that process in place.

Mr. Baker shared the following additional information and resources to the EAG:

- 2025 IRP Upcoming Public Input Meetings:
  - March 14, 2024 (Thursday)
  - May 2, 2024 (Thursday)
- Public Input Meeting and Workshop Presentation and Materials:
  - [Public Input Process \(pacificcorp.com\)](https://www.pacificcorp.com/public-input-process)
- 2025 IRP Feedback Forms:
  - [IRP Stakeholder Feedback \(pacificpower.net\)](https://www.pacificpower.net/irp-stakeholder-feedback)
- IRP Email / Distribution List Contact Information:
  - [IRP@PacifiCorp.com](mailto:IRP@PacifiCorp.com)
- IRP Support and Studies:
  - [IRP Support & Studies \(pacificcorp.com\)](https://www.pacificcorp.com/irp-support-studies)

## Public Comment

There was no public comment.

## Next Steps

Pacific Power’s Kimberly Alejandro highlighted that the next EAG meeting will be a hybrid meeting and will be hosted by WorkSource Yakima, which is located in Union Gap, Washington. The March meeting will feature a presentation from Pacific Power’s Energy Efficiency team.

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 \(pacificpower.net\)](#)

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.