

# PacifiCorp Equity Advisory Group (EAG)

## Meeting #6 Notes

(This meeting was previously referred to as Meeting #6A, but it has since been retitled to be Meeting #6)

Wednesday October 20, 2021, 1-4pm Pacific Time

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

## Executive Summary

EAG Meeting #6 focused on joining each piece of the EAG's work so far into one cohesive narrative. Nearly 40 individuals attended the virtual Zoom meeting, including 9 EAG members (out of 12 total members). Members of the public included advocates and regulatory staff.

At the beginning of the meeting, PacifiCorp highlighted where the EAG has contributed to the draft Clean Energy Implementation Plan (CEIP) that will be published on November 1. PacifiCorp also shared updates on CBIs, metrics, and utility actions, which include supply-side resources, community outreach and engagement, energy efficiency, and demand response. EAG members reflected on which utility action or metric they expect to be most impactful to their communities. They shared advice on the implementation of these utility actions and metrics.

Near the end of the meeting, PacifiCorp briefed the EAG on the structure of the November 1 Draft CEIP and prepared them to deliver comments on it. PacifiCorp indicated that EAG Meeting #7, to be held on November 17, 2021, will focus on the components of the CEIP.

Responses to questions and comments that did not get addressed during Meeting #6 or where PacifiCorp felt that greater detail was needed are included in this document in purple text.

## Session Objectives

- Bring together the pieces we have been working on in one complete story, highlighting the EAG's impact.
- Generate new implementation ideas from the EAG's experience working in and with Washington communities.
- Provide instructions for preparing feedback to the November 1 Draft Clean Energy Implementation Plan (CEIP).

Slides in English are available [here](#). The Spanish section of this [website](#) will have the Spanish slides.

## Opening (1:05pm)

PacifiCorp welcomed attendees, shared meeting opening remarks, reviewed meeting objectives, and provided updates since Meeting #5. Attendees were reminded this was the last EAG meeting before the Draft CEIP would be published on November 1. PacifiCorp then spoke to how the EAG's perspectives have influenced the CEIP.

## EAG Member Check-In (1:15pm)

Equity Advisory Group member	Organization
Angélica Reyes	La Casa Hogar
Erendira Cruz	Sustainable Living Center (SLC)
Kaila Lockbeam	Perry Technical Institute (Perry Tech)
Nathan Johnson	Yakima Health District ( <i>early departure</i> )
Noemi Ortiz	Northwest Community Action Center (NCAC) ( <i>early departure</i> )
Norman Thiel	SonBridge
Paul Tabayoyon	Asian Pacific Islander Coalition (APIC)
Raymond Wiseman	Yakama Power
Sylvia Schaefer	Blue Mountain Action Council (BMAC)
<b>Not in attendance</b>	
Jonathan Smith	Yakima County Development Association (YCDA)
Laura Armstrong	Independent representative (former employee of La Casa Hogar)
Isidra Sanchez	Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC)

EAG members checked in by sharing a challenge that they encountered when writing a recent report, article, or grant application. Members spoke of challenges setting goals, creating strategic plans and budgets for the future, turning achievements into impacts, and including the right level of detail for the reader, especially within document space constraints.

## Revised Draft Customer Benefit Indicators (CBIs) and Metrics (1:30 pm)

PacifiCorp presented revisions to CBIs and their associated metrics. Changes included:

- Adjustments based on the Joint Advocates’<sup>1</sup> comments
- Removal of the directional words, e.g., “Decrease energy burden”
- CBI categorization modified to reflect that multiple benefit categories may apply to each CBI
- Updated and refined metrics

EAG clarifying questions on this section included:

- Q: Can you please talk about the metric for headcount of staff supporting Washington-focused program delivery?
  - A: This metric is intended to measure the staff that are directly involved in the delivery of our programs in Washington that are women, minority, or disadvantaged. This definition was based on a Washington State certification (OMWBE). This metric includes internal staff and those organizations contracting with PacifiCorp to deliver programs.

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<sup>1</sup> “Joint Advocates” include local advocate organizations: The Energy Project, Front and Centered, Northwest Energy Coalition, and the Washington State Office of the Attorney General, Public Counsel Unit. Their submission of comments on CBIs and metrics to the Commission and Washington utilities in July 2021.

## Draft CEIP Utility Actions (1:55 pm)

PacifiCorp provided an update on the requirements and definitions of “Utility Actions.” Certain actions previously considered are no longer utility actions in the CEIP. CEIP utility actions must result in incremental cost changes directly due to the passage of CETA. PacifiCorp will still work on non-CEIP utility actions, but they will not be characterized as CEIP utility actions. PacifiCorp presented CEIP utility actions in four categories: supply-side resources, community outreach and engagement, energy efficiency, and demand response. Subject matter experts from PacifiCorp shared information on program implementation plans, followed up on EAG input previously voiced, and expected impacts on different customer classes. Questions and reactions included:

- Q: How do the outlined energy efficiency goals compare to where we are now?
  - A: To meet these energy efficiency (EE) goals, PacifiCorp will have to increase EE programs from where they are today. These targets were generated by looking at the social cost of carbon alongside non-energy benefits over a ten-year period. We extrapolated what would need to happen in the next 2 years to be on track.
- Q: How are low-income weatherization programs being handled for multi-family dwellings?
  - A: For multi-family homes, 65% of the home needs to be income-qualified for the apartment or units to be eligible for the weatherization program. That percentage could be changed if there is a better threshold for eligibility
- Q: When extreme events cause homes to be damaged, as part of the repair process can PacifiCorp leverage economies of scale to weatherize a bunch of homes at once?
  - A: PacifiCorp and their community partners would explore economies of scale in service delivery after an extreme event impacting homes. How that would look depends on the type and extent of damage and other resources (such as FEMA) that are available.
- Q: How do the weatherization program and the bill assistance interact? Can one be leveraged to increase participation in the other?
  - A: There is a close partnership between the implementers of bill assistance and weatherization. PacifiCorp partners with three community action agencies—Blue Mountain Action Council (BMAC) serving Columbia, Garfield, and Walla Walla counties; Northwest Community Action Center (NCAC) serving Yakima County (South); and OIC of Washington service Yakima County (North)—to deliver the Company’s Low Income Bill Assistance (LIBA) program. These community action agencies deliver Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and weatherization services, among other services, to income qualifying households in their local communities.
- Q: Will the electric vehicle (EV) grant program be available to landlords that serve renters?
  - A: PacifiCorp hasn't gotten to this level of detail yet, but we anticipate working with the EAG on these kinds of questions.
- Q: Can you comment on how the use of renewable resources outside of Washington are applicable to this law? Will they be double counted in the states where the resource is located?
  - A: CETA requires PacifiCorp to meet the clean energy goals to become carbon neutral. CETA does not require that the renewable resources are built in a specific location or state. Renewable resources generate renewable energy credits (RECs) which are tracking in the Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System (WREGIS). There are finite number of RECs which can be used to substantiate renewable

claims and demonstrate compliance with policies such as CETA. RECs are allocated to PacifiCorp states based on their cost allocation methodology. Under this principle each state can get a share of a renewable resource inside and outside the state without double counting.

- Q: Is there a way to close the urban/rural divide on how the EV grant program is implemented? Some rural communities do not have the infrastructure to support EVs.
  - A: These topics and concerns will be considered as the EV grant program is developed.
- Comment: The energy efficiency programs should target commercial customers who use the most energy.

## Break (2:30 pm)

## EAG Activity: Feedback on Implementing Actions (2:35 pm)

During this activity, the EAG was asked to independently journal on two prompts:

- Which of the actions and/or metrics presented today do you think will be most impactful for your community?
- Based on your experience, what advice do you have for PacifiCorp as they implement these actions and track progress on CBIs?

Then, the EAG moved into paired/small group breakout discussions to discuss their answers before providing thoughts to the entire meeting audience. EAG responses to the prompts included:

- Which of the actions and/or metrics presented today do you think will be most impactful for your community?
  - Bill assistance programs for residential households experiencing high energy burden.
  - Weatherization programs will be very helpful to create healthier living conditions, especially in the winter. These programs will have a ripple effect.
  - Energy efficiency to lower bills and make energy affordable is significant as we move toward cleaner sources of energy.
- Based on your experience, what advice do you have for PacifiCorp as they implement these actions and track progress on CBIs?
  - Keep in mind the communities that we are looking to benefit with this work.
  - Ensure access to proper information for our Spanish-speaking population on the pros and cons of clean energy implementation.
  - Access points could make it easier to provide feedback, access customers at regional to small pay points.
  - Capitalize on opportunities for feedback. An opportunity to do so is with the home energy efficiency and weatherization programs. Make sure customers are realizing the benefits we are targeting, such as lower bills and more comfortable/healthier living spaces.
  - Continue strategizing ways to connect with people. Many of these communities don't have access to the internet and other methods of communication.
  - There is a shortage of electricians, so PacifiCorp will need to think beyond the traditional means of implementing things like the Wattsmart program.

- Identify opportunities to synergize what you're doing with other programs.
- Think about local partners for workshop facilitation and communication directly with communities.
- Keep the ripple effect in mind. Some of these types of houses and communities are hard to access, but once they do, they can be forces for positive change. For example, with multi-family households, accessing 1 or 2 can cause a ripple effect.
- Customer engagement is crucial through every step of the process. They need to be aware of programs, how to access them, and the resources available from beginning to end.
- Some benefits we are targeting may be secondary to those who are scraping to save money. For example, air quality is secondary to folks who are using wood for home heating to save money.
- Fixed-income homeowners often get left out of these solutions.

### Public Comment Period (2:40 pm)

One observer contributed to the public comment period about the importance of PacifiCorp integrating the work of the Joint Advocates on CBIs into their CEIP draft. PacifiCorp plans to provide the Joint Advocates with written response and then participate in a direct discussion with the Joint Advocates after the Draft CEIP is published on November 1.

### Preparing the EAG to Deliver Comments on the Draft CEIP (3:15 pm)

PacifiCorp presented an overview of the structure of the CEIP and provided background on each section. For the costs associated with CETA, PacifiCorp distinguished between general costs and costs incurred due to CETA, as well as non-modelled costs. One EAG member asked a question:

- Q: Is the rate increase that we were notified of by email related to this work?
  - A: What we've just presented are forecasted costs, and those will be subjected to review before they result in actual rate changes. The rate change that you're referencing does not have to do with this work.

### EAG Member Check Out (3:50 pm)

EAG members checked out by sharing thoughts on what might make it easier for their communities to provide feedback on the CEIP. Their ideas included:

- Emphasize the importance of providing feedback on the CEIP in all communications
- Hard copies of the documents would be useful for those who do not have internet access
- Public meetings have made it easier to provide feedback
- Media, like radio announcements, local tv, and social media, to encourage community members to complete surveys and access programs
- Make things transparent and provide them in different languages in different media platforms
- Social media may appeal to different ages and demographics
- Include a link in bill payments to enable input sharing
- Focus groups may be helpful for folks in communities to digest and react to the information
- Offer a financial incentive to provide feedback

## Next Steps & Closing Comments (3:55 pm)

Attendees were reminded that meeting materials and notes are posted to the website, and that Meeting #7 is on November 17, 2021, from 1-4pm PT. Feedback can be shared at [ceip@pacificorp.com](mailto:ceip@pacificorp.com) and through [this survey](#), which is open to EAG members and the public.

PacifiCorp provided closing remarks with meeting takeaways. PacifiCorp thanked the EAG for taking a seat at the table to make their voices heard and acknowledged that there is still more work needed to create access for all voices.