

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION



Steve McGeehan
Commission Chair
sec@ci.moscow.id.us

Regular Meeting
~Minutes~

Kyle Steele
Staff Liaison
208-883-7133

<https://www.ci.moscow.id.us/551/Sustainable-Environment-Commission>

Tuesday
July 20, 2021

6:00 PM

Mayor's Conference Room
206 E. 3rd St.

The meeting was called to order at 6:09 p.m.

PRESENT: Steve McGeehan-Chair; Victoria Seever-Vice; Amber Ziegler; Tina Hilding; Jassen Bluto; Jamal Lyksett

ABSENT: Natalie Wiley; Marley Pankratz

STAFF: Jenifer Rossini, Administrative Assistant; Kelli Cooper, Environmental Education and Sustainability Specialist, Tyler Palmer; Deputy City Supervisor

OTHERS: David Schott, Al Poplasky, Nicole Xiao, David Hall, Paul Kimmell, Garret Cabaza, Jeff Hicke, Zena Hartung, Ian Schlater, Grace Covinger, Sandra Kelly, Eric Willadsen

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of Sustainable Environment Commission April 20, 2021 Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

Minutes presented for approval. NOTE the May SEC meeting did not have a quorum; therefore, the minutes are not official and do not be approved.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve minutes as presented; approve minutes with amendments; or provide staff further direction.

Amber moved April 20, 2021 minutes, Tina second to approve minutes as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

2. Public Comment and Response to Previous Comments (limited to 10 minutes)

Members of the public may speak to the Commission regarding matters NOT on the agenda or currently pending before the Commission. Please state your name and city of residence for the record and limit your remarks to three (3) minutes.

David mentioned that Moscow City Council and Planning and Zoning are interested in a water use budget. Al expressed concern over water use in the community due to all the new development and inquired if Moscow has plans for further water conservation. The City will be asking the City Parks Department to become more involved in future water conservation strategies, according to Tyler. Tyler went on to say that Moscow does not have a short-term water supply issue.

There will be a City workshop involving City Council in the near future. This workshop will include planning for our future local water supply. There is currently a plan in development for an alternative water supply, that is being researched by Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee (PBAC). Currently, Genesee and Harvard are having water quality and supply issues.

Paul stated that the Palouse Basin Water Aquifer Summit is October 21, 2021. Amy Vickers is the keynote speaker.

3. Consideration of the 2020 Weed Monitoring Report (ACTION ITEM)

David Schott will present the 2020 Weed Monitoring Report for Lillian Woodworth Otness Park and Almon Asbury Lieuallen Park. He will discuss a proposed new pilot program to create one pesticide free park each calendar year.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Recommend selection of option #2 to create a pesticide free park each calendar year beginning in 2022, or provide staff further direction.

In April 2019 Parks Department discontinued using pesticides and started monitoring weeds in Lillian Woodworth Otness Park and Almon Asbury Lieuallen Park (Otness Park and AAL Park). Parks staff did see increase in total weeds and in man hours to control weeds. David recommends resuming pesticide use in AAL and Otness park. He recommends creating a rotating pesticide free park each calendar year (excluding fertilizer). Plan would exclude East City Park, Oylear fields, the Moscow School District playfields.

The City does have a hot water weed control machine for weed crack control, but has not been tried in the parks. Victoria would like the Parks to try the hot water weed control on weeds that are in the rocks.

Victoria moved to create a pesticide free park each calendar year beginning in 2022, Jassen second.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

Power point presentation attached.

4. Avista's Clean Energy Goals

Paul Kimmel (Avista Business & Public Affairs Palouse Region) will provide an update on Avista's clean energy goals. In particular, Paul will discuss Avista's commitment to significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and 100% clean energy by 2045.

Avista is 51% hydroelectric and has facilities on Spokane River and Clark Fork River. They have natural gas facilities on the Rathdrum prairie and Portland, OR. Avista is one of six owners of the coal strip in Montana. They are also involved in some wind projects. Avista is among the lowest emissions in the country. Avista supports a pathway to decarbonization and clean energy future. The goal is to provide electric customer with 100% clean energy 2045, and carbon neutral by 2027. Reduce natural gas emission by 30% by 2030 and carbon neutral by 2045. Adams Neilson Solar project in Adams County, WA video available to watch. In the next decade Avista is looking into decommissioning their interest in coal strip, contracting out natural gas, and adding wind. As well as more hydro projects and making upgrades to the existing hydro facilities.

Power point presentation attached.

5. Funding Request for a Paid Consultant

At our June 15 meeting, representatives of the Sierra Club and Climate Justice League presented the idea of requesting funds to support climate action planning with a paid consultant. In addition, the city received several requests for significant support of this idea ahead of its July 12 budget workshop. Steve and Kyle will review and discuss the appropriate process for making these types of budget requests on behalf of the SEC.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Receive the report and take such other action as deemed appropriate.

Tyler went over the Climate Action Strategic Plan preview for the City. The City Council is taking the Strategic Plan very seriously. The City will create a draft Climate Action Plan in a September workshop and in December the draft will go to Council for feedback. Finalized plan planned for adoption in the Spring 2022. Sandra (Council member) says the Council is very interested in a Climate Action Plan and supports it 100%.

6. CJL RF100 Update (Action Item)

Representatives of the Climate Justice League (CJL) will discuss the 7/17 RF100 webinar, 7/19 petition delivery at the city council meeting, and the \$20k consultant request.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Endorse the proposed consultant request as presented, or take such other action as deemed appropriate.

Ian and Grace talked about updating the City code wording to include climate change and the positive points to hiring a consultant. One main point was mentioned that a consultant would be able to provide more diversity with their findings.

Hiring a consultant will be tabled until a future date.

7. Funding Opportunities for Electric Vehicles

The League of Women Voters of Idaho and participating local Leagues are exploring Idaho's energy use and opportunities in our state. Tina will discuss several grant opportunities for funding of electric vehicles and charging stations, and share information about a ZOOM event (***Drive Clean with the League***) describing electric vehicles and their associated infrastructure.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Receive the report and take such other action as deemed appropriate.

Tina informed the group of several grants that are still available. Tyler stated that the City's Grant Manager, Alisa, has done a thorough review of the grants. There are eight probable locations for electric charging stations. The only public charging station is at The Monarch Motel.

1. City Sustainability Report- Kelli Cooper

Kelli has been working on Climate change and water impacts. City has been talking with the Parks Department about getting a strategic grass browning program within the parks. This will allow certain areas of parks to allow the grass to go dormant and also start to implement Wisescape in the Parks.

2. Moscow High School Subcommittee Report- Ilan Carter

No report.

3. Climate Action Working Group (CAWG)-Tina Hilding

Tina will be giving presentations to Affordable Housing Commission and Tree Commission.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Climate Action Workshop is Sept 27th 5pm. Budget and Fee resolution hearing is August 2nd 7pm. American Rescue Plan workshop is August 23rd.

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

1. Next Commission meeting is August 17, 2021

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 PM



Steve McGeehan, Chair *(or stamped by Deputy City Clerk)*



2020 WEED MONITORING REPORT

LILLIAN WOODWORTH OTNESS AND ALMON
ASBURY LIEU ALLEN PARKS

Sustainable Environment Commission – July 20, 2021



Introduction

- ▶ Beginning in April of 2019, the Parks and Recreation Department began general observations and established photopoints at Lillian Woodworth Otness Park (Otness) and Almon Asbury Lieuallen (AAL) Park to monitor weeds within each park.
- ▶ Both parks have been pesticide free since April 2019.
- ▶ Overall findings in 2019 found a slight increase in weeds and an increase in staff time controlling weeds through mechanical means.
- ▶ After the 2019 season, Parks recommended monitoring both pilot programs at Otness Park and AAL Park in 2020.



2020 Results

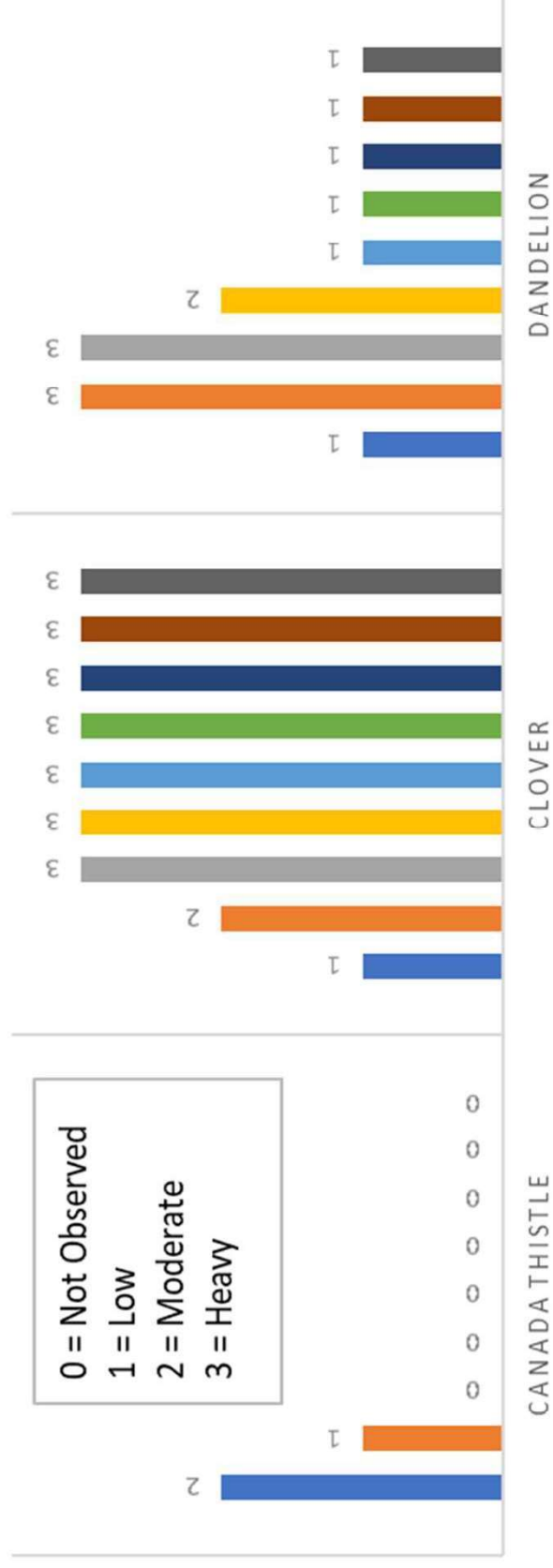
- ▶ Overall, staff time to mechanically control weeds in both Otness Park and AAL Park increased from 8.5 hours in 2019 to 14.5 hours in 2020.
- ▶ With the exception of the Canada thistle in the turf area of Otness Park, weeds are overall increasing.
- ▶ Of particular note is the increase of field bindweed at Otness Park and the first observation of field bindweed at AAL Park.
- ▶ Another concern is the rock planter areas at Otness Park. These planters have become inundated with unwanted vegetation that is persistent after string trimming.

General Observations

Lillian Woodworth Otness Park - Turf Area											
	4/15/2020	5/6/2020	5/28/2020	6/17/2020	7/8/2020	7/29/2020	8/20/2020	9/9/2020	9/30/2020		
Canada Thistle	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Clover	1	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3		
Dandelion	1	3	3	2	1	1	1	1	1		

LILLIAN WOODWORTH OTNESS PARK - TURF AREA

■ 4/15/2020
 ■ 5/6/2020
 ■ 5/28/2020
 ■ 6/17/2020
 ■ 7/8/2020
 ■ 7/29/2020
 ■ 8/20/2020
 ■ 9/9/2020
 ■ 9/30/2020

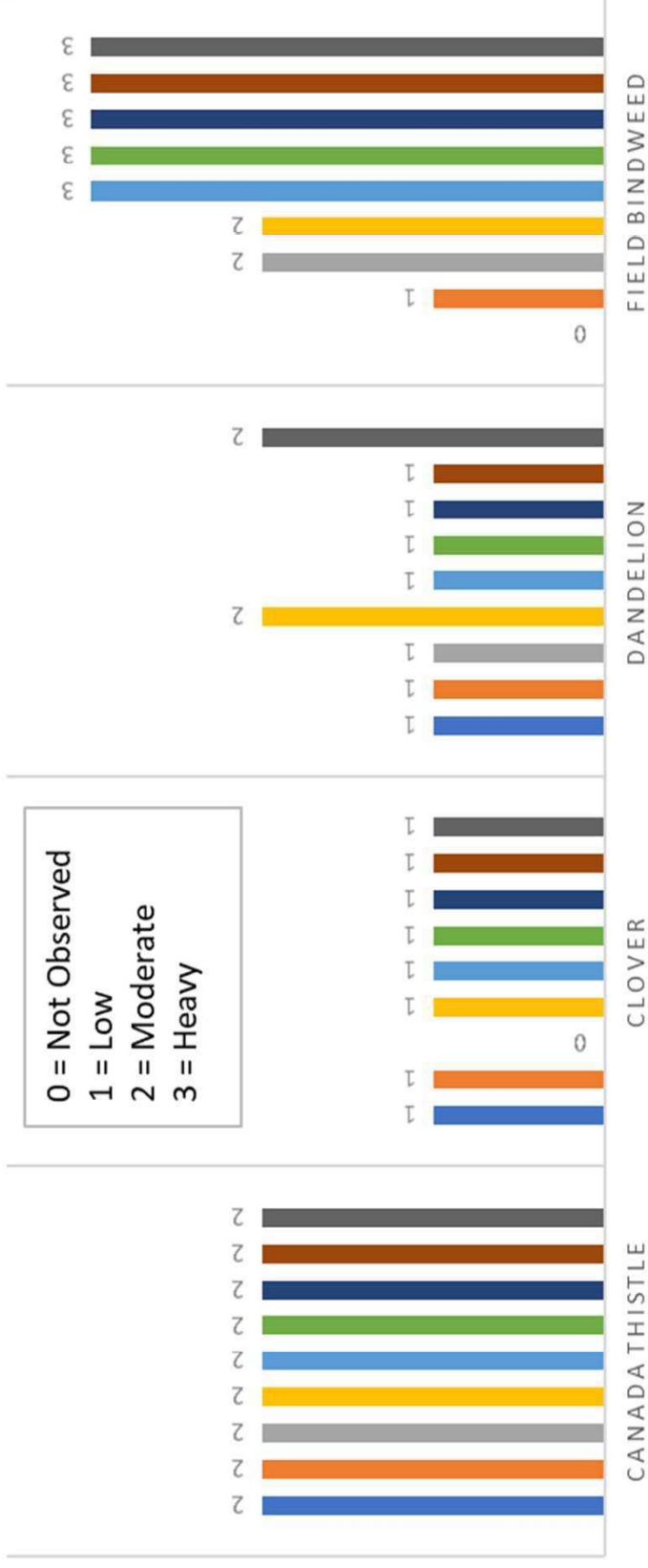


General Observations

Lillian Woodworth Otness Park - Creek Area	4/15/2020	5/6/2020	5/28/2020	6/17/2020	7/8/2020	7/29/2020	8/20/2020	9/9/2020	9/30/2020
Canada Thistle	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Clover	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dandelion	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	2
Field Bindweed	0	1	1	2	2	3	3	3	3

LILLIAN WOODWORTH OTNESS - CREEK AREA

■ 4/15/2020 ■ 5/6/2020 ■ 5/28/2020 ■ 6/17/2020 ■ 7/8/2020 ■ 7/29/2020 ■ 8/20/2020 ■ 9/9/2020 ■ 9/30/2020

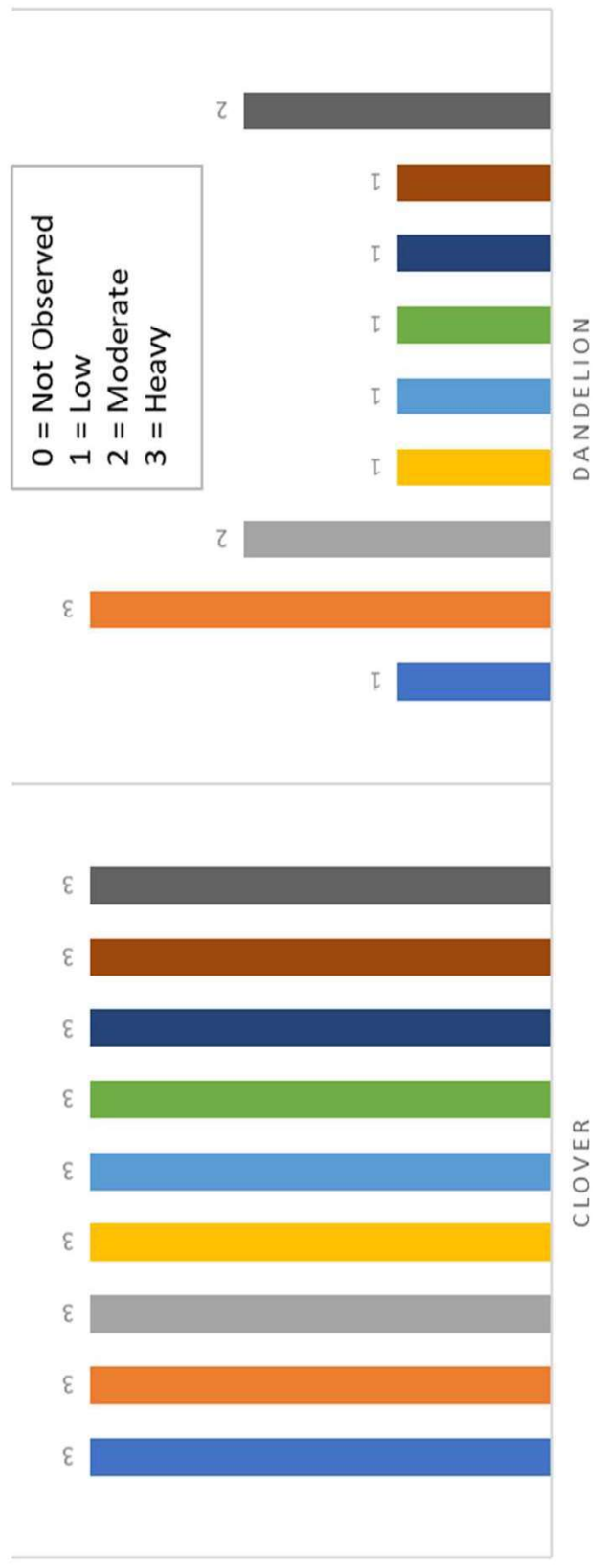


General Observations

Lillian Woodworth Otness Park - Tree Lawn Area										
	4/15/2020	5/6/2020	5/28/2020	6/17/2020	7/8/2020	7/29/2020	8/20/2020	9/9/2020	9/30/2020	
Clover	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
Dandelion	1	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2

LILLIAN WOODWORTH OTNESS PARK - TREE LAWN AREA

■ 4/15/2020
 ■ 5/6/2020
 ■ 5/28/2020
 ■ 6/17/2020
 ■ 7/8/2020
 ■ 7/29/2020
 ■ 8/20/2020
 ■ 9/9/2020
 ■ 9/30/2020

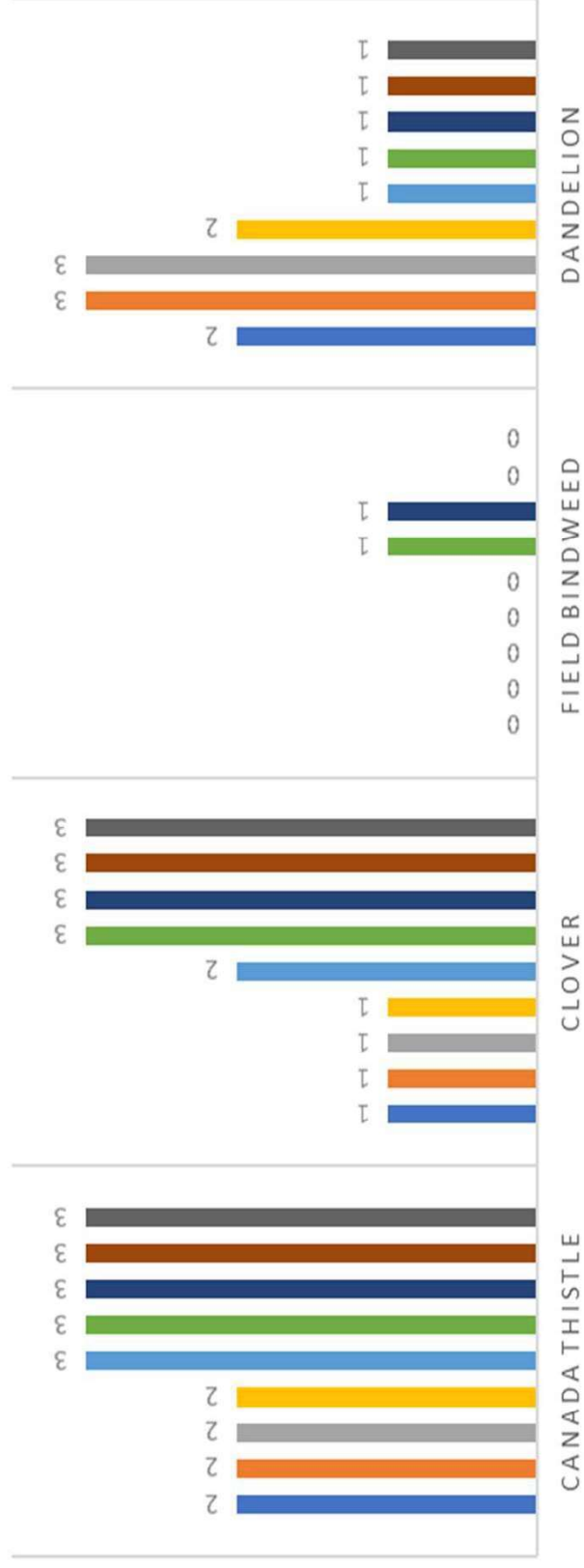


General Observations

Almon Asbury Lieuallen Park - Turf Area	4/15/2020	5/6/2020	5/28/2020	6/17/2020	7/8/2020	7/29/2020	8/20/2020	9/9/2020	9/30/2020
Canada Thistle	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3
Clover	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	3	3
Field Bindweed	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Dandelion	2	3	3	3	2	1	1	1	1

ALMON ASBURY LIEUALLLEN PARK - TURF AREA

4/15/2020 5/6/2020 5/28/2020 6/17/2020 7/8/2020
 7/29/2020 8/20/2020 9/9/2020 9/30/2020



Parks Staff Time Increase

FISCAL YEAR	2020	
CALENDAR YEAR	(All)	
Month	(All)	
DATE	(All)	
Employee	(All)	
Position	(All)	

Sum of RT	Column Labels	
Row Labels	514 Turf Care Cultural	Grand Total
Almon Asbury	8.00	8.00
Lillian Otness	6.50	6.50
Grand Total	14.50	14.50

FISCAL YEAR	2019	
CALENDAR YEAR	(All)	
Month	(All)	
DATE	(All)	
Employee	(All)	
Position	(All)	

Parks & Facilities Staff Time Card Data

Sum of RT	Column Labels	
Row Labels	514 Turf Care Cultural	Grand Total
Lillian Otness	8.50	8.50
Grand Total	8.50	8.50

General Pictures



Recommendation – Option 1

- ▶ Staff recommends suspending the Weed Monitoring Program and resume limited pesticide applications in low traffic areas at Otness Park.
 - ▶ The turf area and tree lawn will remain pesticide free until unwanted weeds are observed and become a nuisance.
 - ▶ Areas treated will include: the creek area, sign planters, the tree lawn rock planters, and the rock planter around the poplar trees.
- ▶ Staff recommends resuming pesticide applications at AAL Park based on the increase in Canada thistle and the observation of field bindweed. Both of these weeds are on the Department of Agriculture noxious weed list.

Recommendation – Option 2

- ▶ Take what we have learned in 2019 and 2020 and apply it to a new pilot program.
- ▶ Designate one park per calendar year to be pesticide free, excluding fertilizer.
- ▶ Selected by City staff and communicated to SEC and PRC.
- ▶ Rotate each year.
- ▶ Include a playground.
- ▶ Gives visitors with pesticide sensitivities with a park option.
- ▶ Fits with the 2019 Parks and Recreation Master Plan to reduce pesticides.
- ▶ Excludes East City Park, Oylear Fields and the Moscow School District Community Playfields.



Proposed Action

- ▶ Staff recommends approval of option #2 to create a pesticide free park each calendar year beginning in 2022.
- ▶ Recommend approval of option #2 to create a pesticide free park each calendar year beginning in 2022, or provide staff further direction.



Avista's Clean Energy Future

Moscow Sustainable Environment Commission

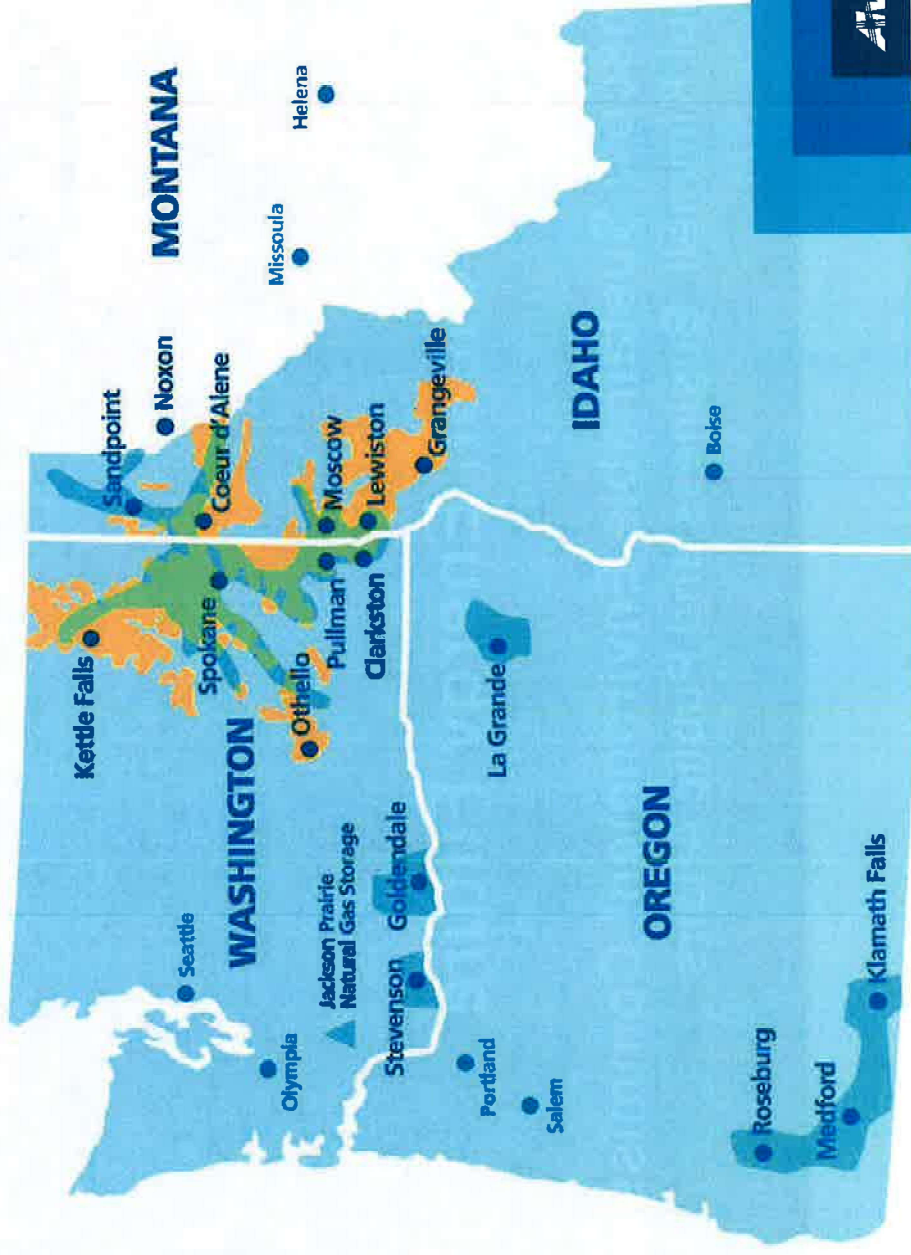
Paul Kimmell, Business and Public Affairs

July 20, 2021

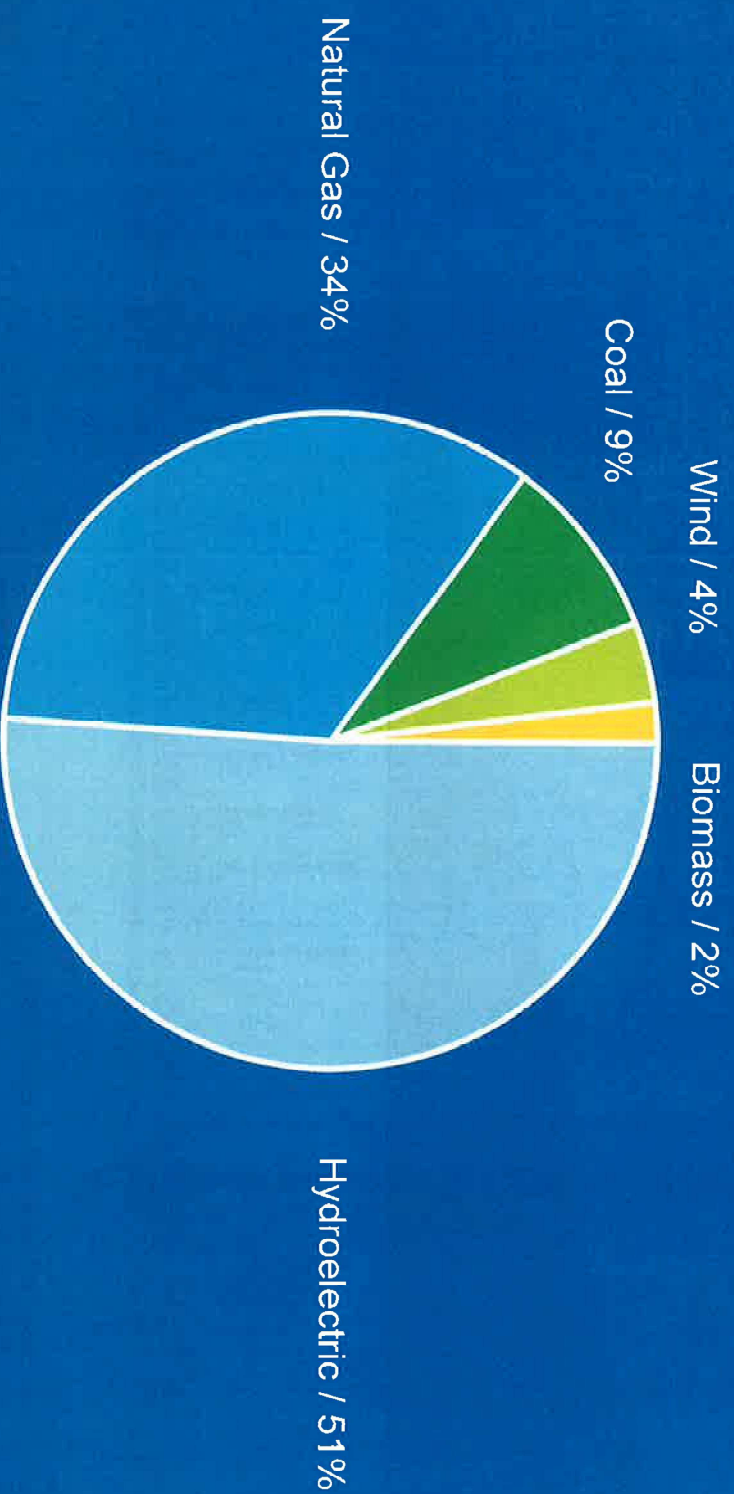
About Avista

Avista Electric and Natural Gas Service Areas

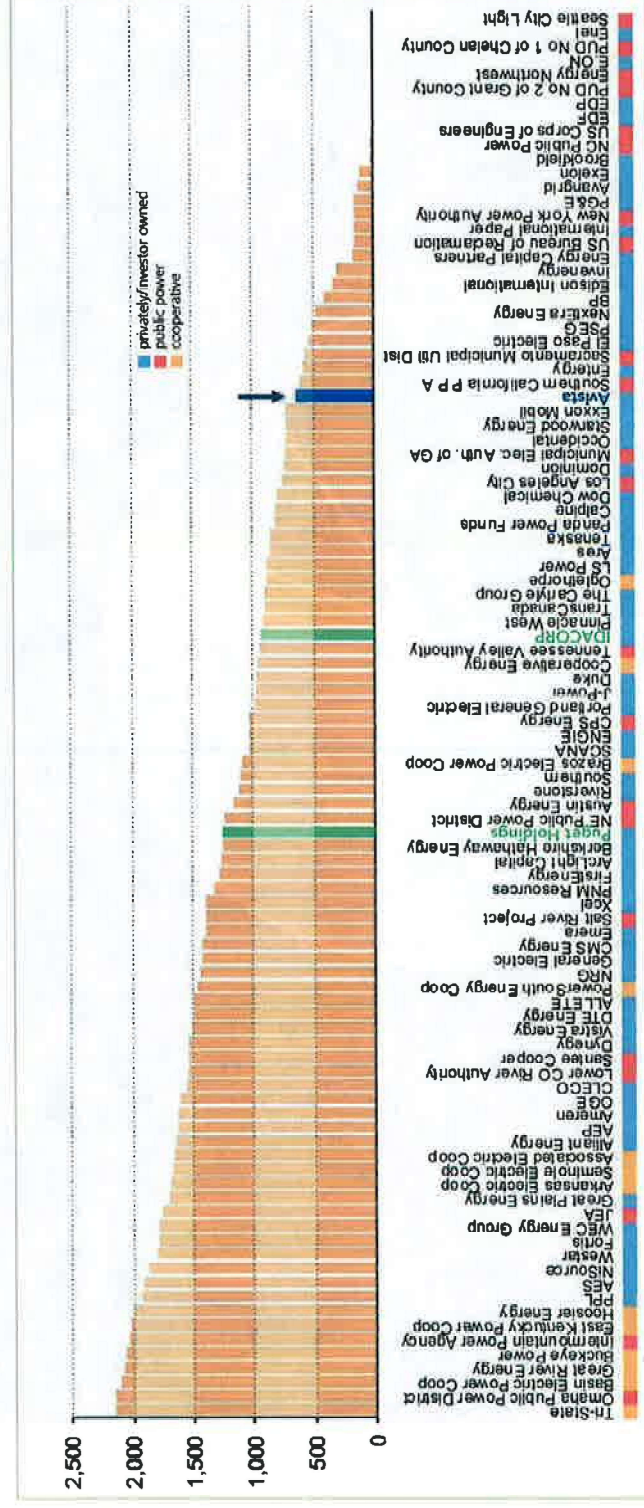
- Electric
- Natural Gas
- Electric and Natural Gas



Our Current Generation Mix



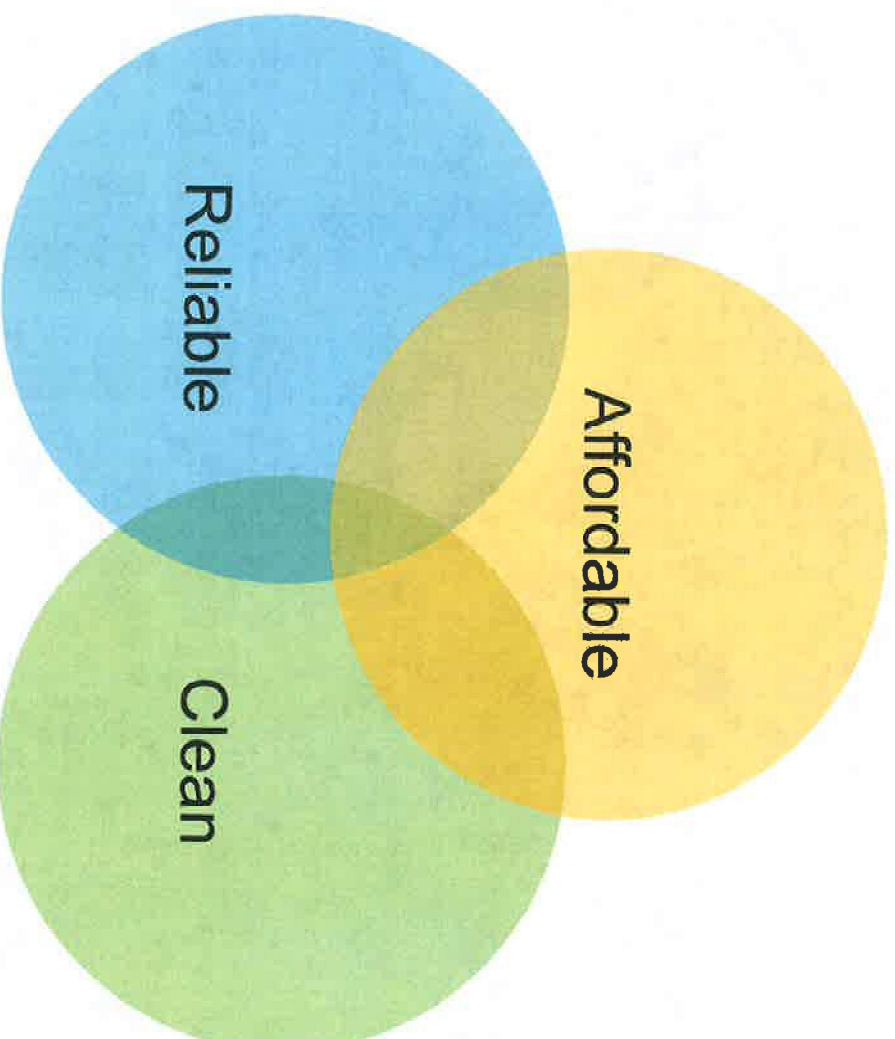
Avista Emissions are Among the Lowest in the Country



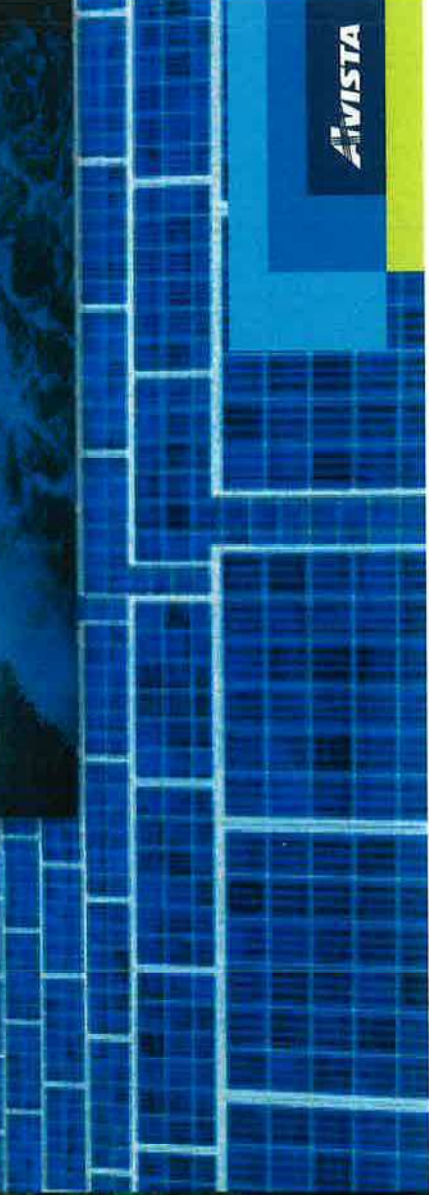
Carbon Footprint
Rate of CO₂ Emissions of Company-Owned Generation
 Source: M. J. Bradley & Associates. (2018).
 Benchmarking Air Emissions of the 100 Largest Electric Power Producers in the United States.



Maintaining Balance is Important



Our Future: decarbonized, decentralized, and digitized



AVISTA

Our Future: A more dynamic power grid

Technology, economic forces, customer / community expectations, and public policy are shaping the power grid of the future.

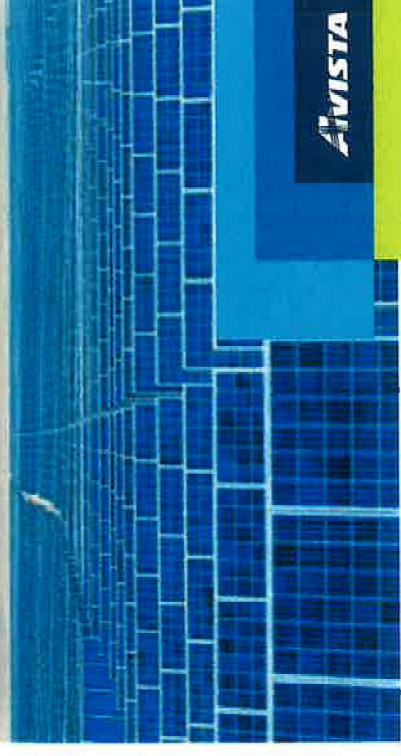
Along with developing strategies to meet future energy needs, we recognize that climate change threatens every aspect of our society.

Support a pathway to decarbonization and a clean energy future.



Avista's Clean Electric Goals

- Avista's goal is to serve our customers with **100 percent clean electricity by 2045** and to have a **carbon-neutral** supply of electricity by the end of **2027**
- We will maintain focus on **reliability** and **affordability**
- **Natural gas** is an important part of a clean energy future
- **Technologies and associated costs** need to emerge and mature in order for us to achieve our stated goals
- It's **not** just about generation



Providing Cleaner Natural Gas

- We are committed to **reducing greenhouse gas emissions** in our natural gas business too. Our aspirational goal is to reduce natural gas emissions by 30% by 2030 to be carbon neutral by 2045
- Achieving reductions requires an “**all-of-the-above**” approach:
 - **Natural gas supply and distribution opportunities** like renewable natural gas and hydrogen
 - **Upstream strategies** like targeted sourcing with suppliers
 - **Engagement with customers** to increase energy efficiency, demand response, and voluntary programs
- Just like our clean electricity goals, reducing greenhouse gas emissions in our natural gas system will require **advances in technology** and **reductions in the cost** of those technologies
- **Affordability** will guide our decisions



Recent Additions

- Rattlesnake Flat Wind in 2020
- Chelan County PUD Hydro – Starting in 2024



AVISTA

Adams Nielsen Solar Project

Adams County, WA

Solar Select™

<https://vimeo.com/303859194/f84af89f20>





Rattlesnake Flat Wind Farm

Adams County, WA

<https://vimeo.com/491390697>



Parts of our forward path

Load reduction of 187 aMW due to Energy Efficiency by 2045

2021-2030

- Coal out, contracted NG out
- Add new wind
- Add pumped hydro
- Add upgrades of existing gen
- Incorporate demand response

2031-2040

- Additional renewable upgrades
- Additional demand response
- New storage
- Retire some NG

2041-2045

- Significant new storage needed
- Other?

Serving our Customers into the Future

- Additional clean generation
- “Controllable” generation and storage
- Ongoing energy efficiency programs
- New ways to partner with customers
- Electric transportation



Renewable Energy Credits – What is a REC?



When a renewable resource such as wind or solar produces electricity two things are created:

1. The actual electricity to power a home or business (Megawatt-hour)
2. An environmental benefit acknowledging the electricity was produced without burning fossil fuels (REC)

REC – Renewable Energy Credit

- REC is the method to track the environmental benefit or “attribute” of the renewable resource
- RECs may offset associated environmental impacts from fossil fuel energy as permitted by law
- RECs are utilized by sales to third parties, reducing customer energy bills
- RECs can also be “retired” – a regulatory requirement for clean energy goals and no longer available for sale



Renewable Energy Credits – Additional Information

REC – Renewable Energy Credit

Avista utilizes RECs generated from our portfolio of clean energy sources:

- To meet regulatory requirements (EIA – 937 and CETA)
- To meet Company-initiated clean energy goals
- To share the value of the clean energy with our electric customers – value is applied as a credit to customers electric rates (**2018-\$4.8M; 2019-\$2.8M; 2020-\$4.1M**)

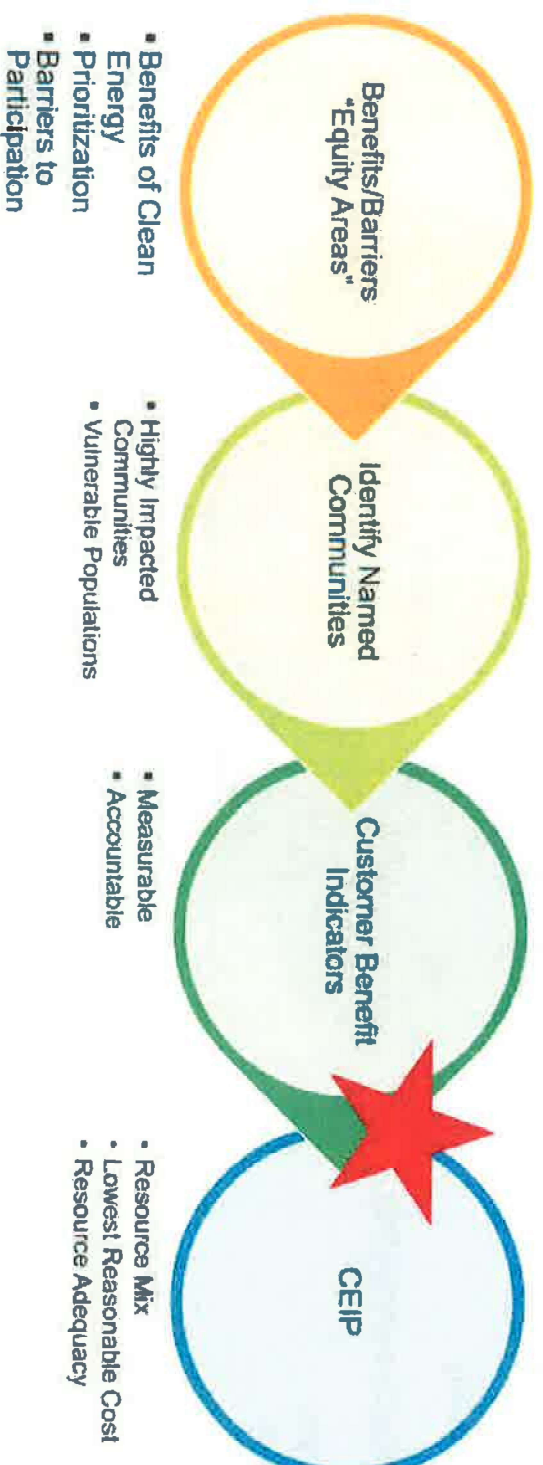


ENERGY SAVINGS



Clean Energy Implementation Plan

Clean Energy Implementation Plan Process Overview



Clean Energy Implementation Plan

Identifying impacts of transitioning to clean energy

How might our customers benefit from the transition to Clean Energy?

- Community and Economic Development
- Equitable Distribution of investments
- Location of Clean Resources

Affordability and Availability

- Ability to Pay
- Number of Households participating

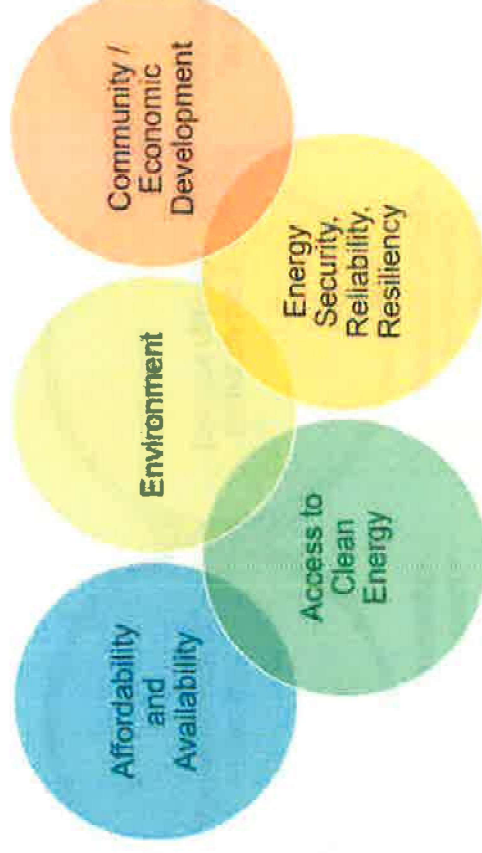
Access to Clean Energy

- Different Languages
- Communication

What are some barriers identified?

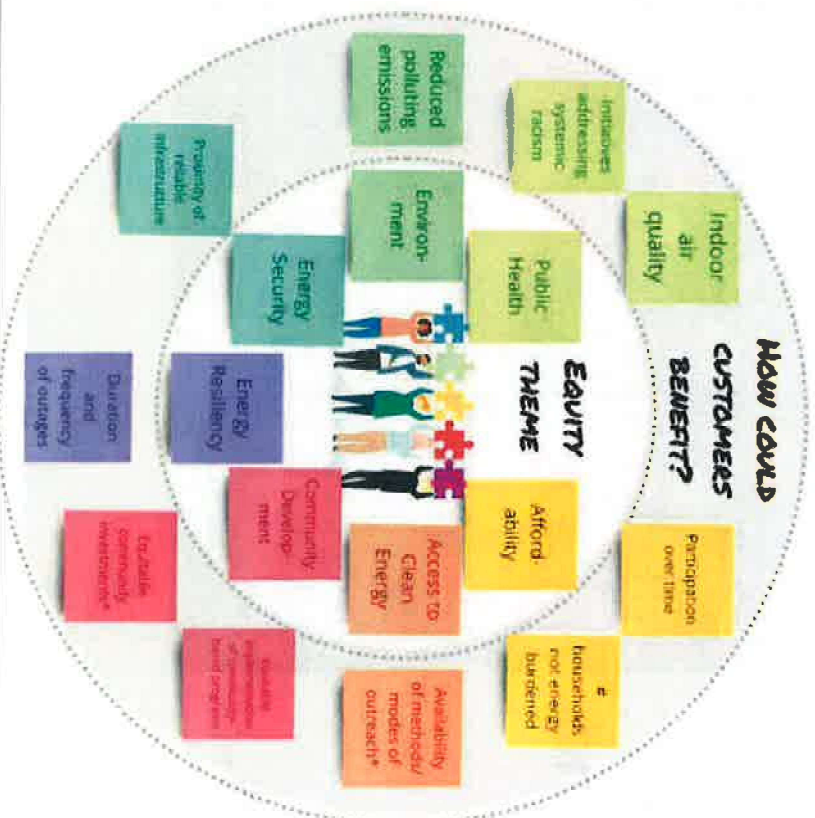
- Language
- Education Limitations
- Methods of communication
- Cultural

Equity Areas



Clean Energy Implementation Plan

Prioritized Customer Benefit Indicators



Resources investments and resources will be primarily comprised of:

- ✓ Energy Efficiency Measures
- ✓ Additional Programs
- ✓ Clean Sources of Power
- ✓ Company Initiatives & Programs

As we build solutions to navigate this clean energy transition over the next several years, decades, and beyond – our touchstone will always be our customers and communities.

It's our responsibility, our challenge, and our privilege.





Questions and Discussion

