

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION



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

Regular Meeting
~Agenda~

Kyle Steele
Staff Liaison
208-883-7133

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

Tuesday
April 15, 2025

6:00 PM

Mayors Conference Room
1st Floor City Hall
206 E. 3rd St.

WELCOME AND ATTENDANCE

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of Sustainable Environment Commission March 18, 2025 Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

Minutes presented for approval.

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

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.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: receive the public comment.

3. City Parks Pesticide List

David Schott (Moscow Parks & Facilities Manager) has provided a list of pesticides and herbicides available for use by the city. The SEC typically reviews this list each year and makes recommendations if needed. David will also present a brief summary of the city's pesticide use policy, the plan to manage one pesticide-free park per calendar year, and an update on the City's Edible Forest - Harvest Park.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Receive the report or take other action as appropriate.

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6:00 PM

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4. Table at Farmers Market

The SEC will discuss available dates and potential activities for a table at the Farmers Market.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: discuss and take action as deemed appropriate

5. Table at Art Walk

Signups are open for commission tables at Artwalk (June 25). The SEC will discuss members' interest in staffing a table.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: discuss and take action as deemed appropriate.

REPORTS

1. City Sustainability Report- Kelli Cooper
2. Moscow High School Subcommittee Report – TBD
3. Climate Action Working Group – Tina Hilding

NOTICE: It is the policy of the City of Moscow that all City-sponsored public meetings and events are accessible to all people. If you need assistance in participating in this meeting or event due to a disability under the ADA, please contact the City's ADA Coordinator by phone at (208) 883-7600, TDD (208) 883-7019, or by email at adacoordinator@ci.moscow.id.us at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting or event to request an accommodation. The City of Moscow is committed to ensuring that all reasonable accommodation requests are fulfilled.

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION



Steve McGeehan
Commission Chair
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Regular Meeting
~Minutes~

Kyle Steele
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Tuesday
March 18, 2025

6:00 PM

Mayors Conference Room
1st Floor City Hall
206 E. 3rd St.

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m.

PRESENT: Victoria Seever, Steve McGeehan, Tina Hilding, Al Poplaski, Sam Gallagher, Asaph Cousins

Council: Bryce Guests: Paul Kimmel, John Gross (via Teams) both with Avista

STAFF: Kelli Cooper

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of Sustainable Environment Commission January 21, 2025 and February 18 2025 Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

Minutes presented for approval.

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

Victoria moved to approve the minutes as presented. Sam seconded.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried.

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.

None.

1. Avista's Grid Capacity and Electric Load Growth

Paul Kimmel (Avista Business & Public Affairs, Palouse Region) will discuss plans to address electric load growth (data centers, transportation, carbon reduction policies) and grid capacity.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: receive the report and take action as deemed appropriate.

Solar energy does not show on the supply mix portfolio because it is such a small amount; 24 kilowatts.

Avista's goal is to serve customers with 100% clean electricity by 2045 and to have a carbon neutral supply of electricity by the end of 2027.

John says solar, wind and battery storage is the future.

Paul touched on building grid resiliency in the community from wildfires. They have installed fire detection cameras and weather stations across their service area. They have also partnered with local and state agencies to improve forest and landscape health.

Historically, winter has been the higher demand for electricity, however they have seen a slight change to summer months recently.

Avista has seen a growth in rooftop solar but not enough to incentivize yet.

*Complete presentation attached.

2. Community Solar

Al Poplawski will make a short, general presentation about community solar.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: receive the report and take action as deemed appropriate.

Community solar is when solar panels are put on a community building and shared by subscribers across the community. Subscribers then get a credit on their energy bill.

Part of the City of Moscow's' Climate Action Plan is community solar. This would be the first community solar project in Idaho.

There are tax credits available to help fund the project.

Al has started talks with Kelli on working to get this project active in Moscow.

*Complete presentation attached.

3. Mayor's Earth Day Awards

The SEC will discuss nominations for the Mayor's Earth Day Awards.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: discuss the awards and take action as deemed appropriate

The group discussed submitted nominations.

4. Climate Action Prioritization Tool

Tina and Kelli will continue the discussion regarding a questionnaire to help prioritize climate action planning.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: discuss and take action as deemed appropriate

CAWG did not meet this month, no report.

REPORTS

1. City Sustainability Report- Kelli Cooper

Pollinator summit was a huge hit.

Conservation Plan update should be going to Council in April.

Inland North Waste is hosting an Earth Day event on April 26th.

2. Moscow High School Subcommittee Report –

No report.

3. Climate Action Working Group – Tina Hilding

CAWG did not meet this month, no report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

1. Next SEC meeting set for April 15, 2025

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM



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



Powering our Future

John Gross, Manager of System Planning

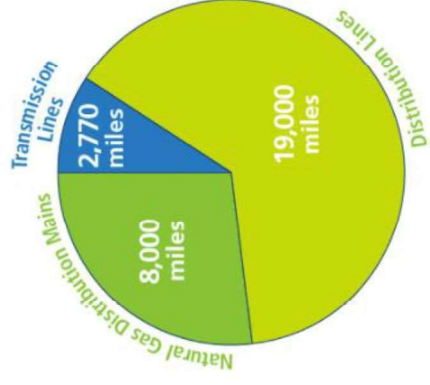
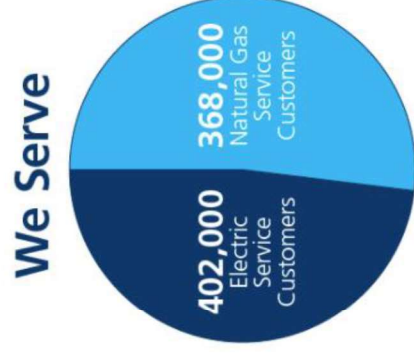
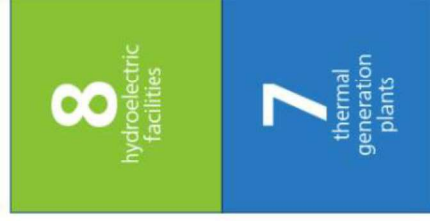
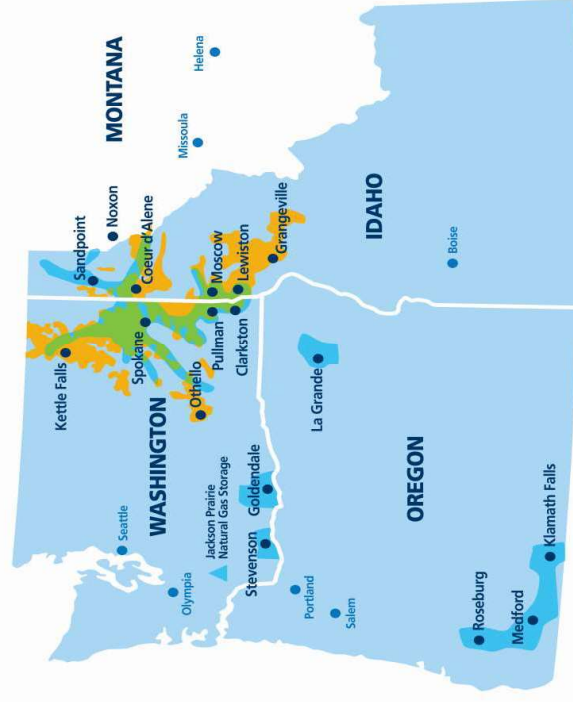
Paul Kimmell, Regional Business Manager

Moscow Sustainable Environment Commission, March 18, 2025

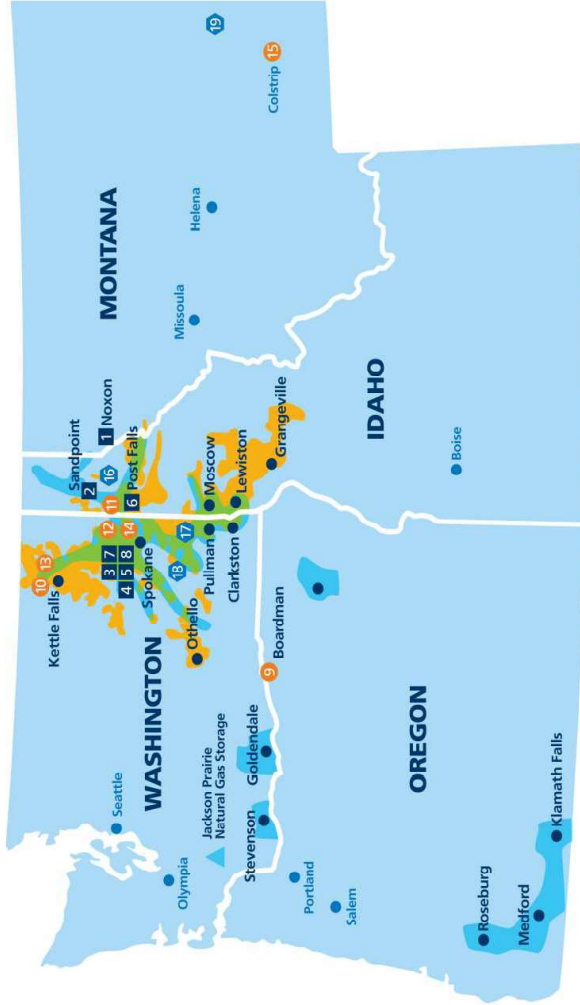
Avista at a glance

- Incorporated in the territory of Washington in 1889 – 135 Years Old!
- Primarily a regulated electric and natural gas utility
- Operating Revenue - \$1.4 billion
- Shareholder Equity - \$2.2 billion
- At the end of 2023, employed 1,800 people at Avista Utilities and 65 in our subsidiary businesses (including Alaska Electric Light & Power)
- Generation portfolio is 60% renewable

Avista Electric and Natural Gas Service Areas



Avista Generation Company- Owned Resources and Service Territory



Washington

CUSTOMERS	
Electric	270,831
Natural Gas	177,373

Idaho

CUSTOMERS	
Electric	145,849
Natural Gas	95,298

Oregon

CUSTOMERS	
Natural Gas	104,029

Hydroelectric

	GENERATION CAPABILITY (MW)
1 Noxon Rapids (Noxon, MT)	562.4
2 Cabinet Gorge (Clark Fork, ID)	273.0
3 Long Lake (Spokane, WA)	88.0
4 Little Falls (Spokane, WA)	48.0
5 Nine Mile (Spokane, WA)	40.6
6 Post Falls (Post Falls, ID)	11.9
7 Monroe Street (Spokane, WA)	15.0
8 Upper Falls (Spokane, WA)	10.2
Total Hydroelectric Capability	1,049.1

Non Utility-Owned or Operated

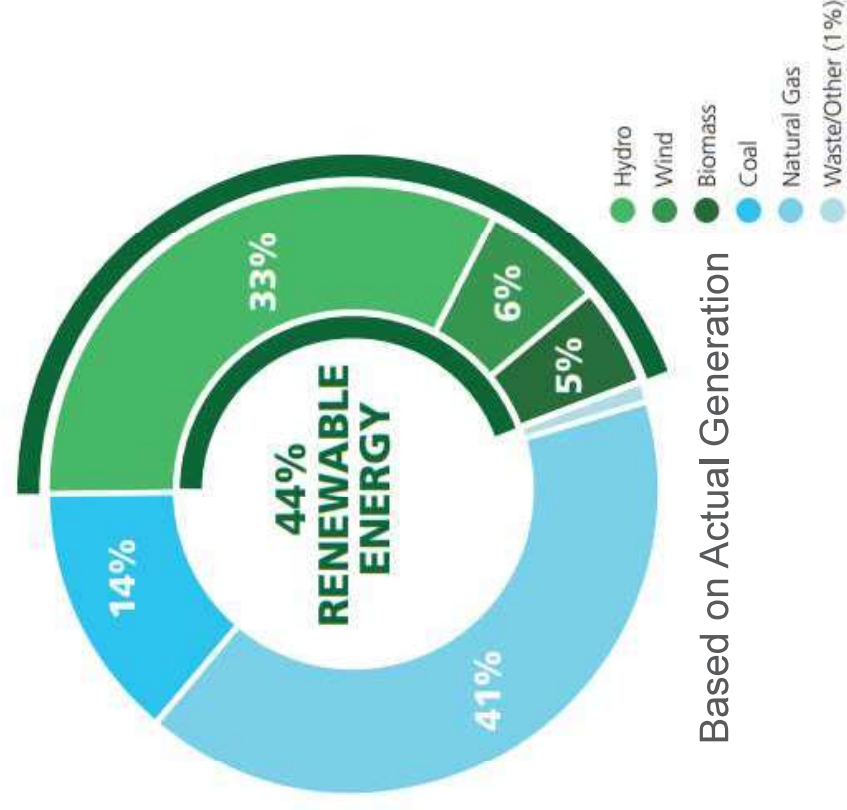
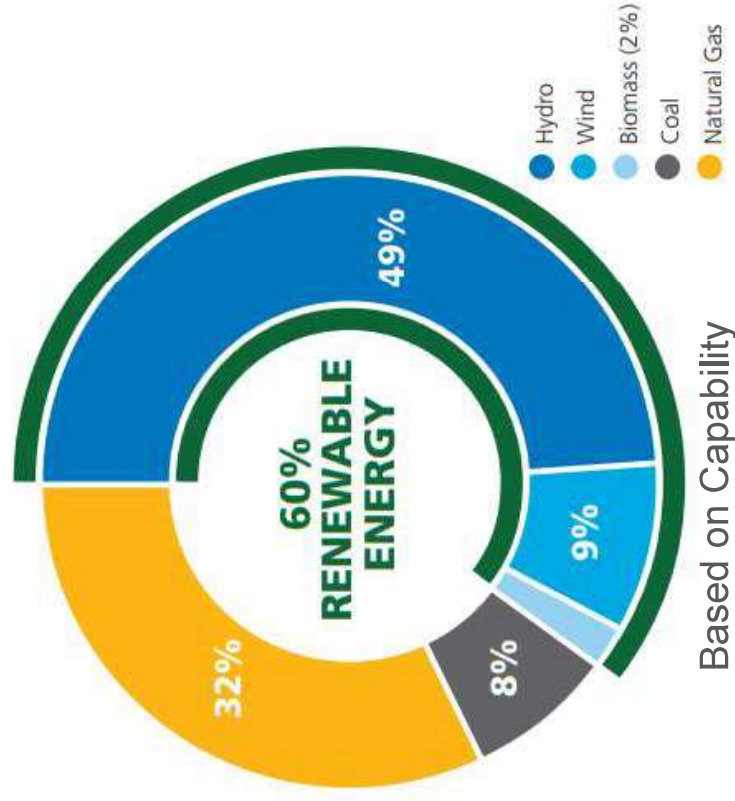
	GENERATION CAPABILITY (MW)
16 Lancaster N.G. (fired) (Rathdrum, ID)	270.0
17 Palouse Wind (Oakesdale, WA)	105.0
18 Rattlesnake Flat Wind (Adams County, WA)	144.0
19 Cleanwater Wind (Miles City, MT)	97.5
PURPA Facilities	134.1
Mid-Columbia Hydro	273.7
Columbia Basin Hydro	8.3

Thermal

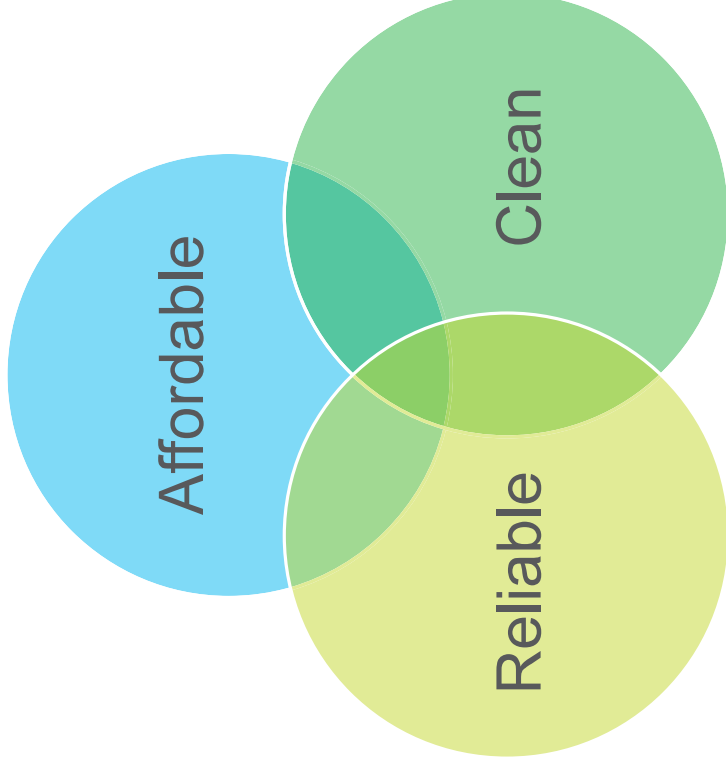
	GENERATION CAPABILITY (MW)
9 Coyote Springs 2 (Boardman, OR)	322.0
10 Kettle Falls Combustion Turbine (Kettle Falls, WA)	6.9
11 Rathdrum Combustion Turbines (Rathdrum, ID)	166.5
12 Northeast Combustion Turbines (Spokane, WA)	64.8
13 Kettle Falls Biomass Plant (Kettle Falls, WA)	53.5
14 Boulder Park (Spokane, WA)	24.6
15 Colstrip (Units 3&4) (Colstrip, MT)	222.0
Total Thermal Capability	860.3

Total Owned Generating Capability (as of 12/31/2023)	1,909.4
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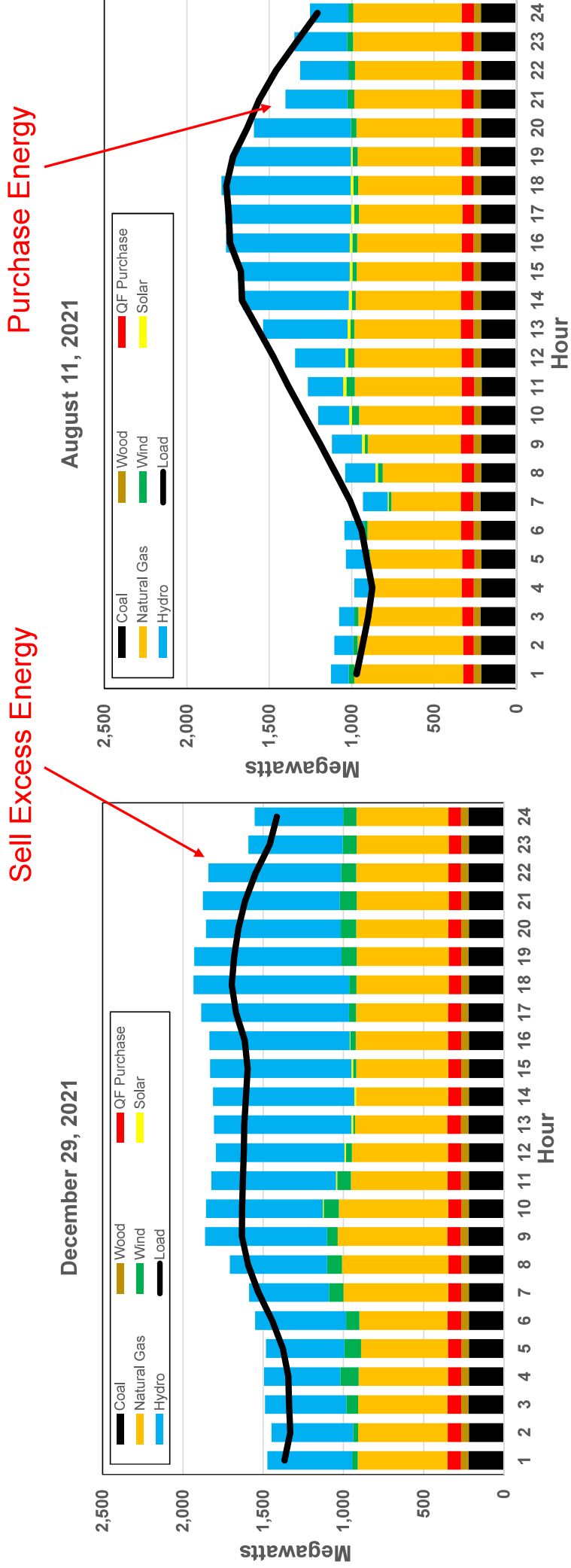
Avista's 2023 Supply Mix



Resource Planning - The Utility Balancing Act



Balancing the Day

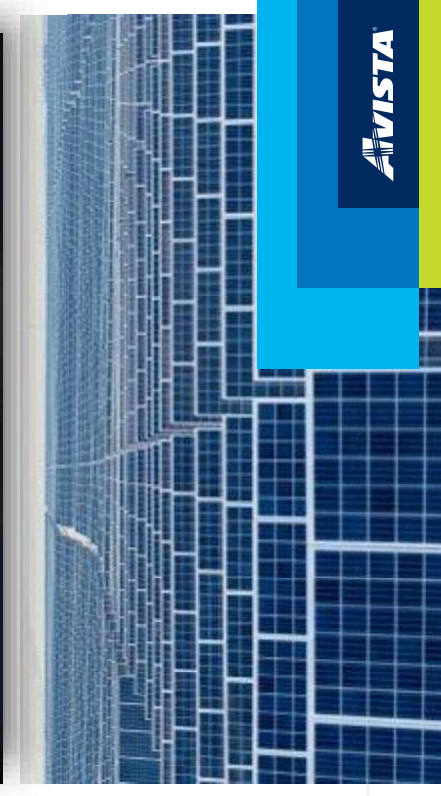
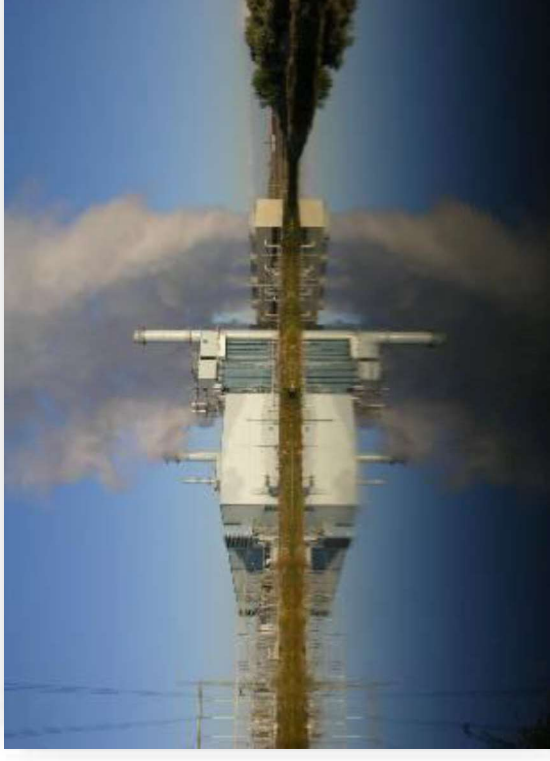


6 Note: QF generation are purchases under the PURPA Act requiring purchases of less than 80 MW renewable resources



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



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

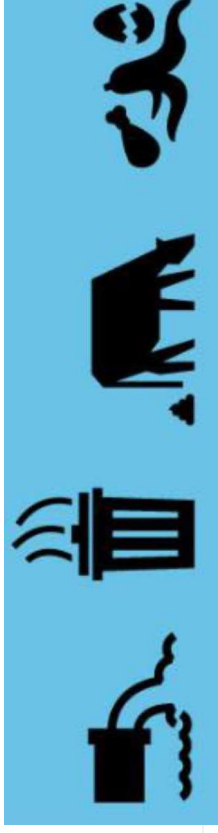
- Additional renewable upgrades
- Additional demand response
- New storage
- Retire some NG

2041-2045

- Significant new storage needed
- Other?

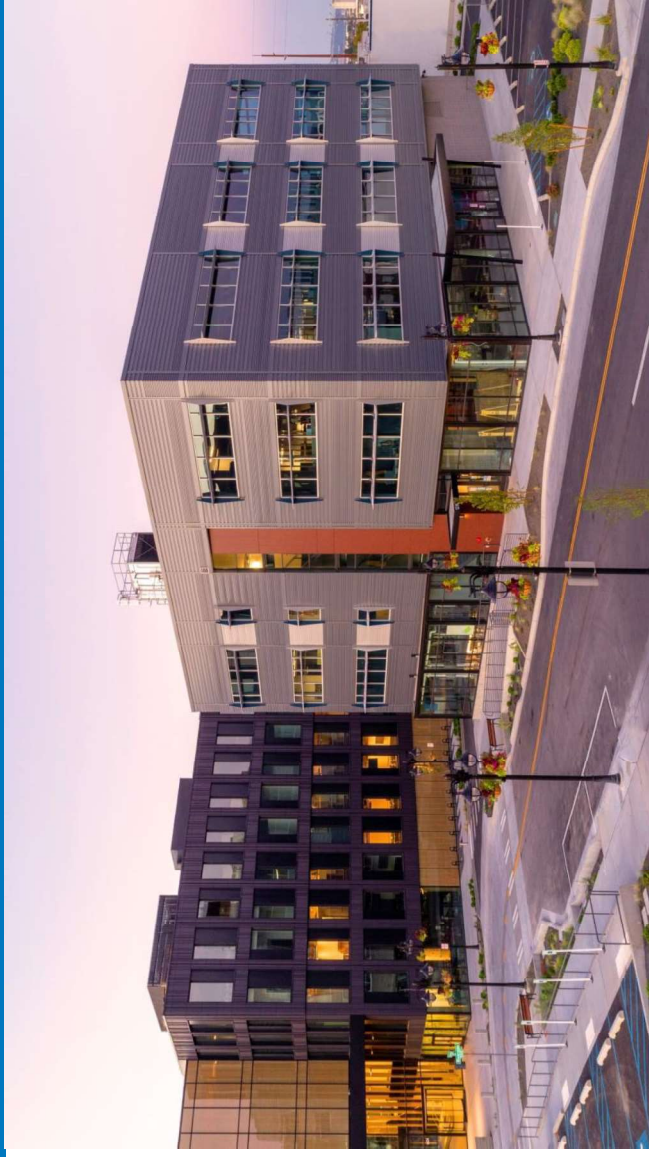
Providing Cleaner Natural Gas

- 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



Serving our Customers into the Future

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

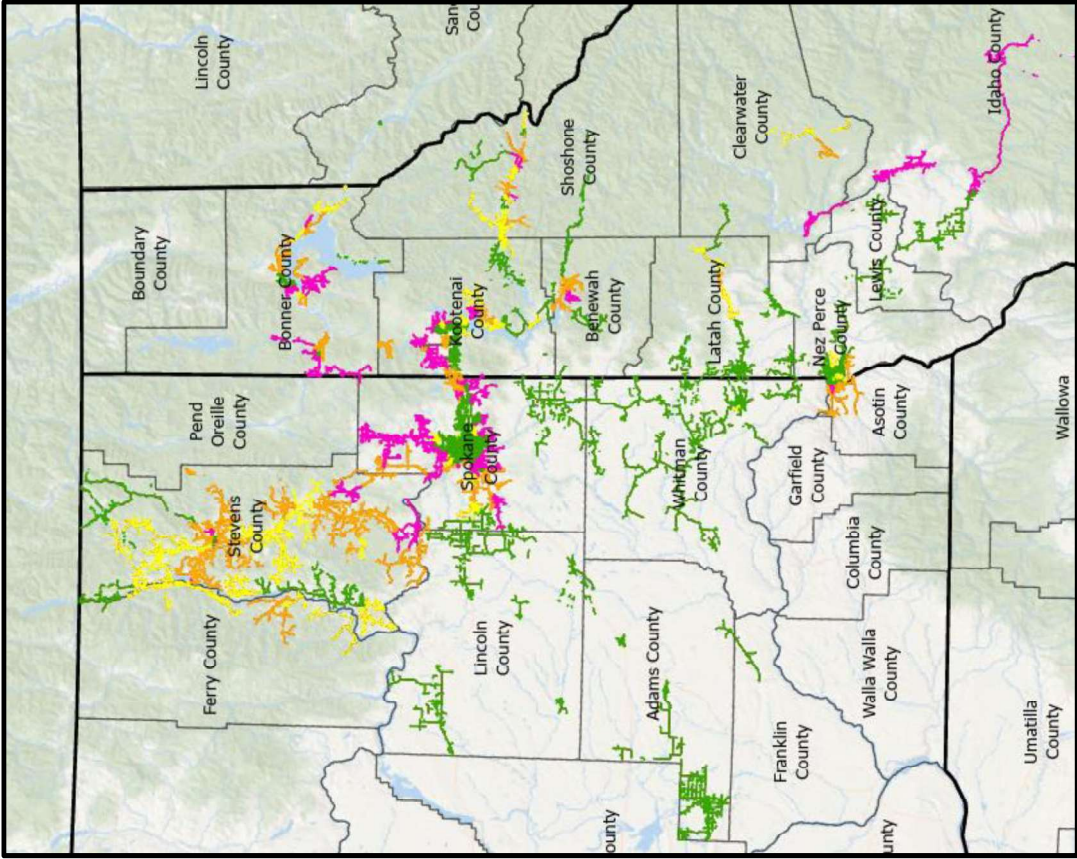




Guarding against growing risks

Avista continues our commitment to keeping people and property safe. In 2020, we began implementing our 10-year Wildfire Resiliency Plan for preventing, mitigating and reducing the impact of wildfires.

We believe this is a wise investment geared toward safety and preparedness for the communities we serve.

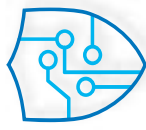


System Overview

ID Electric Customers	WA Electric Customers	Total
133,243	205,433	338,676
ID Service Area Pop.	WA Service Area Pop.	Total
351,586	903,982	1,255,568

Wildfire Risk	ID (miles)	WA (miles)	Total
Tier 0	1,180.8	2,669.5	3,852.7
Tier 1	349.3	779.5	1,128.9
Tier 2	418.2	1,056.3	1,474.5
Tier 3	619.4	651.9	1,271.3
Totals	2,567.7	5,157.1	7,727.3

Our Four-Part Plan Includes:



1. Grid Hardening

- Gradual Shift to Strategic Undergrounding
- Wood to Steel Pole Change-out
- Pole Mesh
- Conductor Enhancement



2. Enhanced Vegetation Management

- 100% inspection of Risk Trees annually



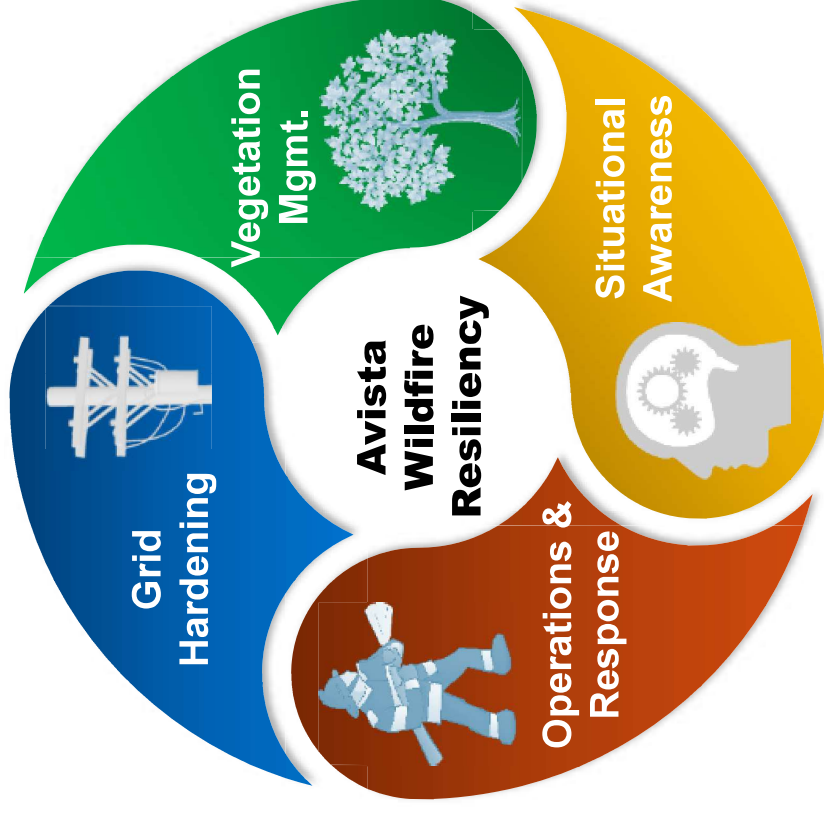
3. Situational Awareness

- AI Fire Detection Cameras
- Weather Station Installations for Real-Time Data

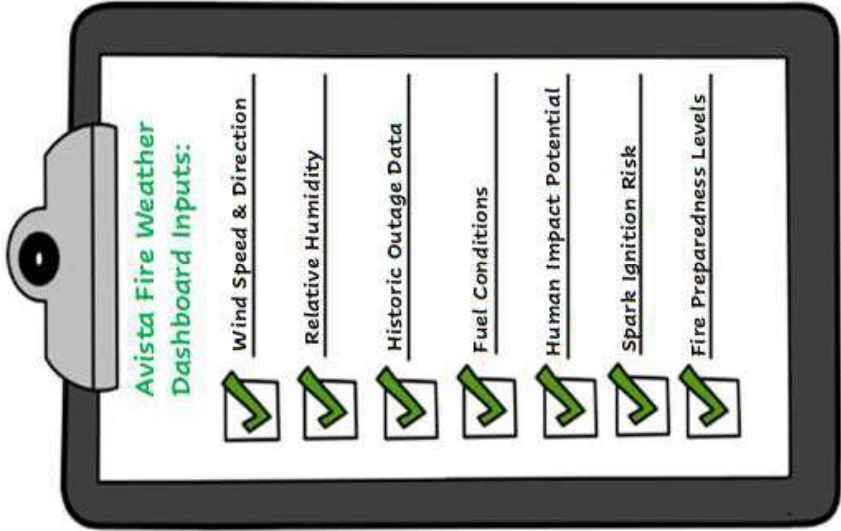


4. Operations and Emergency Response

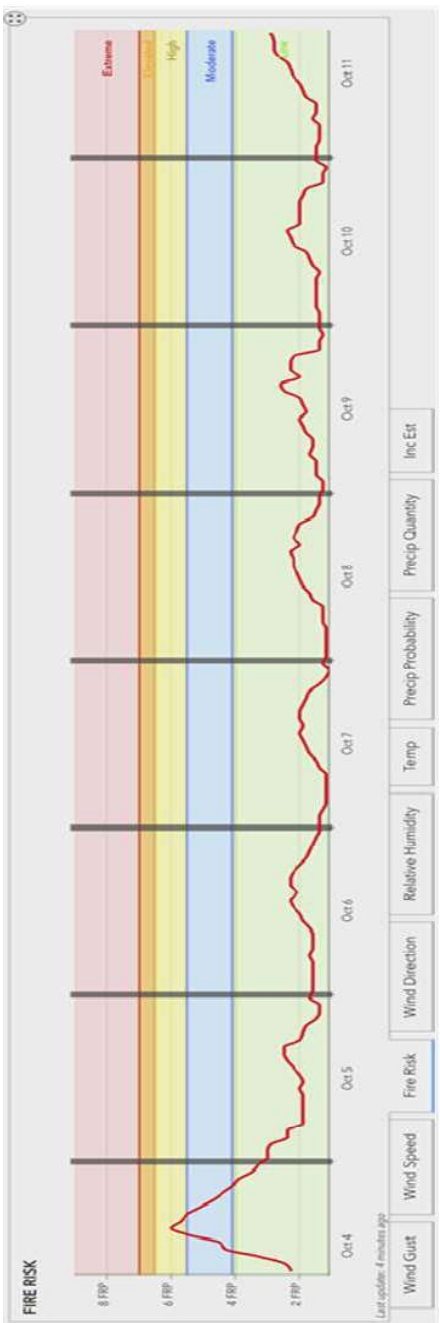
- Expanded fire protection settings
- Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS)



Fire Safety Mode & Protection Settings



Max Value	Area Office	FireCode	08/26	08/27	08/28	08/29	08/30	08/31	09/01	09/02	Feeder
5.9	Spokane	BAE	2.9	5.9	3.6	2.2	2.6	2.5	3.1	3.1	INT292
5.9	Levi-Clark	BAE	5.1	5.9	2.9	1.8	2.5	2.1	2.8	2.7	DRT1209
5.9	Spokane	BAE	2.7	5.9	3.3	2.3	2.5	2.9	3.3	3.0	WAK1254
2.6	Levi-Clark	BAE	3.1	5.6	2.9	2.6	2.6	3.1	3.1	2.7	CFD1211
5.4	Spokane	BAE	2.3	5.4	2.9	1.8	2.5	2.6	2.8	2.5	SUN1295
5.4	Spokane	BAE	2.5	5.4	3.5	2.4	2.7	3.2	3.6	2.6	SE1254
5.3	Davenport	BAE	2.3	5.3	2.9	1.4	2.3	2.1	2.6	2.4	FOR1251
5.3	Spokane	BAE	3.3	5.3	2.8	1.1	2.1	2.0	2.2	2.2	SUN1254

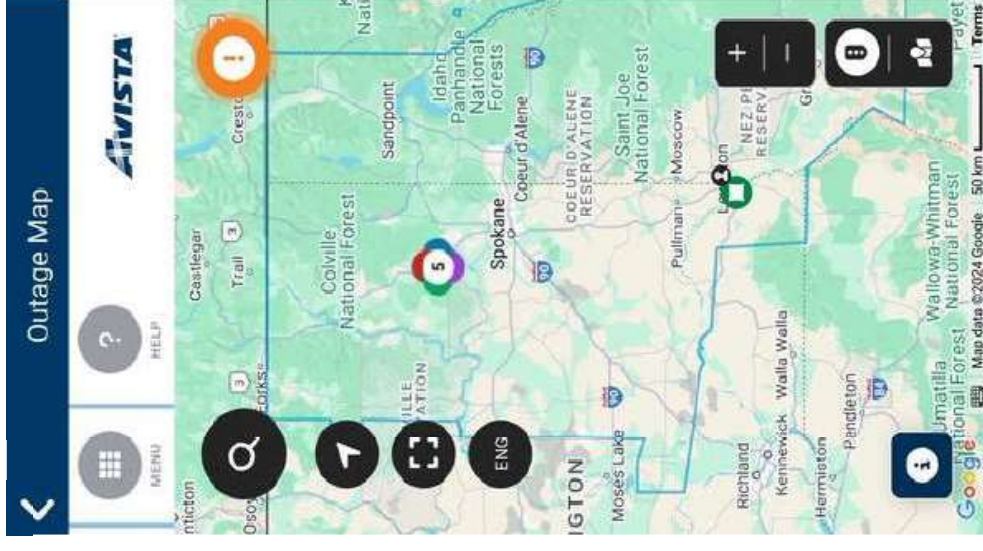


Full Range of Protection Settings



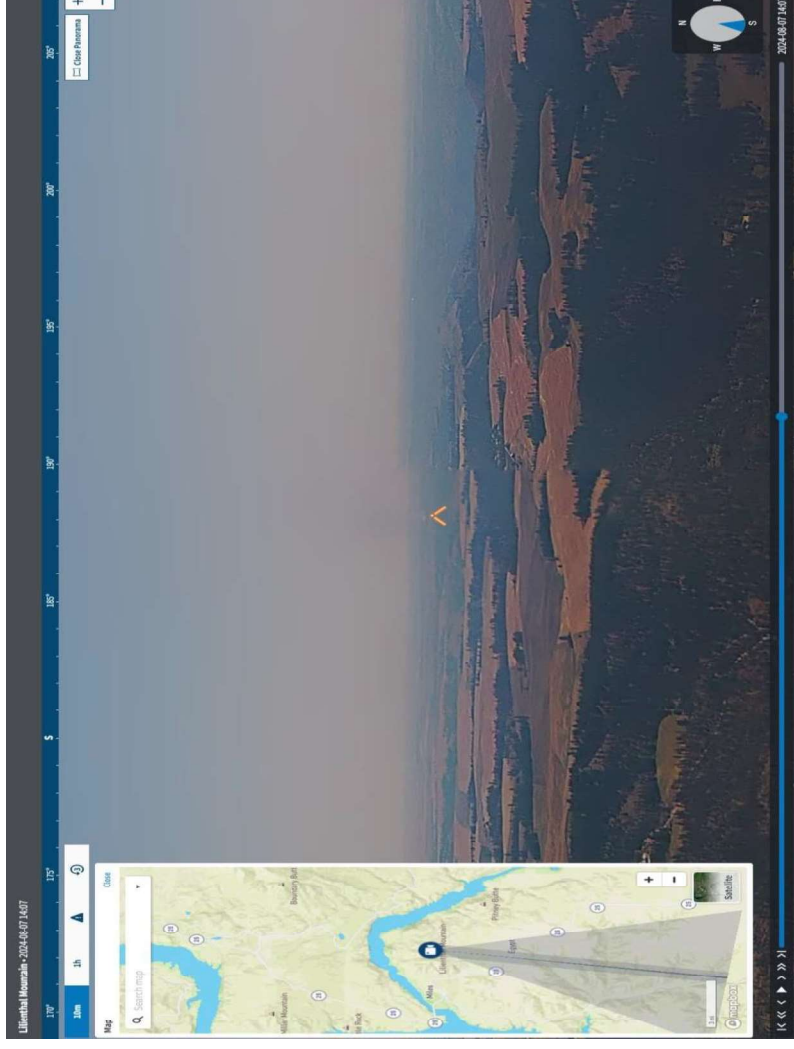
What We're Working on for Our Partners

- Partner alert system to notify you of a potential PSPS via email and/or text
- GIS Online mapping tool to include:
 - ☐ Life support customers
 - ☐ Critical Facilities
 - ☐ Maps of impacted areas
 - ☐ All with-in the polygons of PSPS areas
- Customized Push Notifications
- Track shutoff progress from watch/warning ➡ de-energization ➡ patrolling ➡ damage and/or ➡ re-energization
- Document Reporting Downloads
- Future enhancements to provide widgets to weather stations, mountain top cameras and all other weather outage hazards including gas, points of interest (Activated CRC's)
- Training Manuals
- Important Links



Situational Awareness

- **Weather Stations – These installations will occur across the Avista service territory**
 - Brings real-time/site specific data to multiple operational areas improving safety and decision making
 - Increases the accuracy and timeliness of forecasts with improved coverage and increased data
- **Mountain Top Cameras – Avista has installed 10 fire detection cameras across our service area; five more will be installed in 2025 in Washington**
 - These cameras give Avista personnel and First Responders improved detection capability through AI detection
 - Provide real time situational awareness of fire conditions, allowing fire managers to make better and more timely decisions
 - Allow Avista operational personnel to determine threat to Avista assets remotely

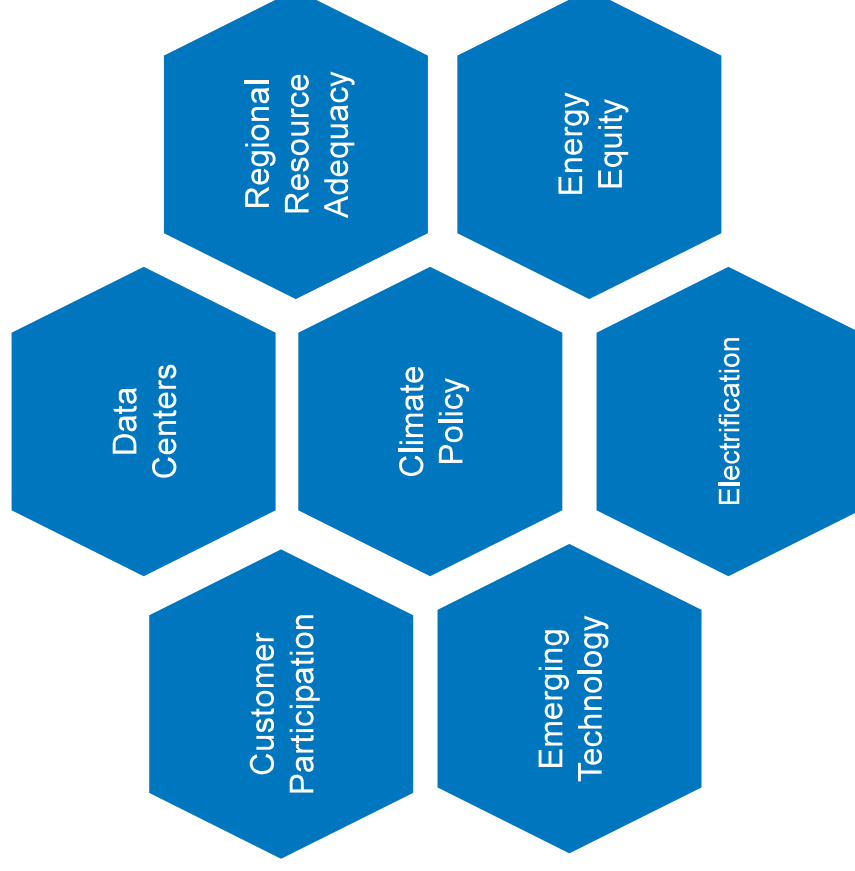


Fuels Reduction Assistance Program

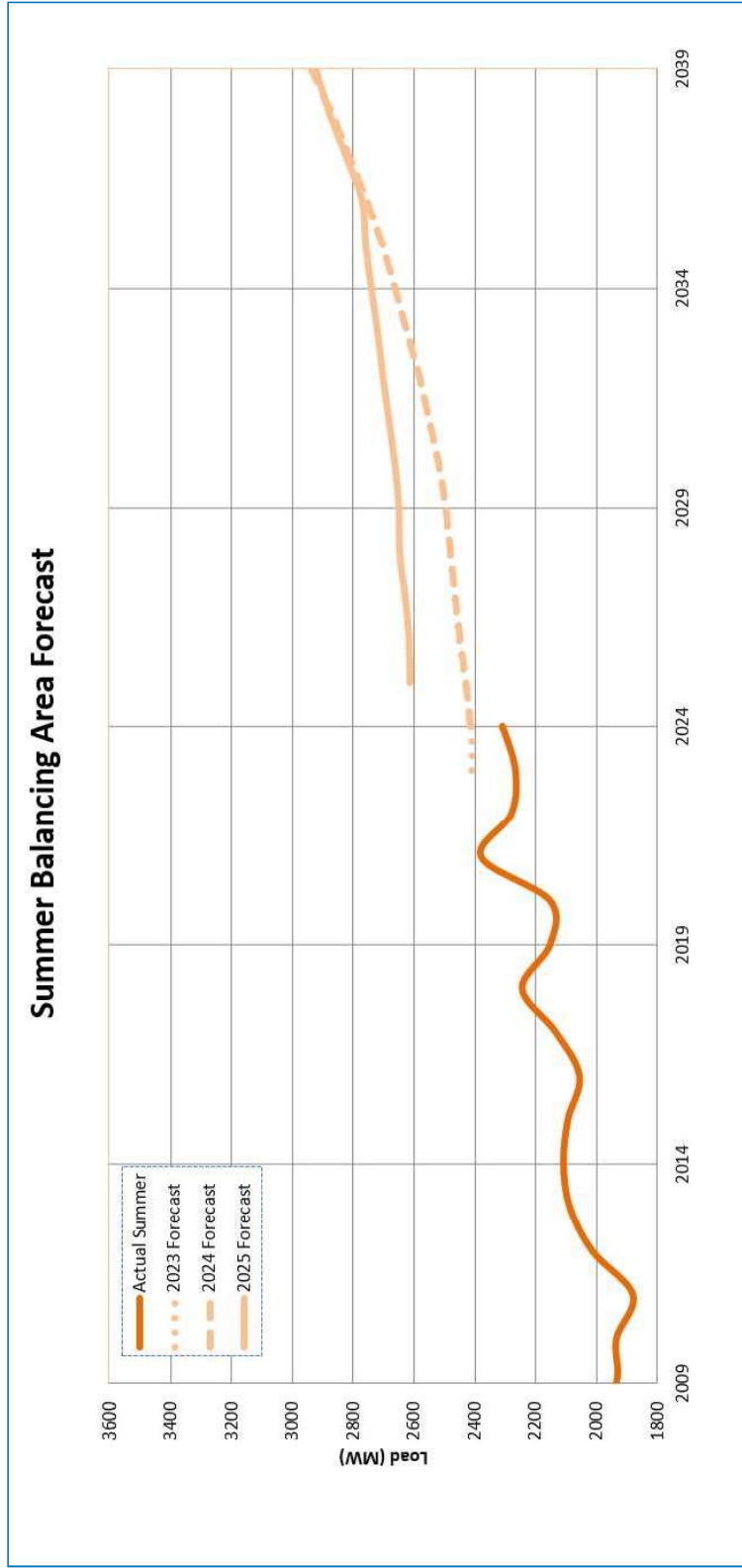
- Avista has partnered with Local and State agencies to improve forest and landscape health.
 - Projects reduce risk of extreme fire behavior by removing wildland fuels (brush, understorey trees, limbs) or modifying the continuity of the fuels to cause fire behavior to be less extreme.
 - Include mastication work with machinery, hand crews with chainsaws and chippers, pruning and limbing of trees, and even grazing with goats to remove brush and fine fuels.
 - Avista reimburses agencies once work is complete that improves conditions for Avista customers and reduces fire risk.



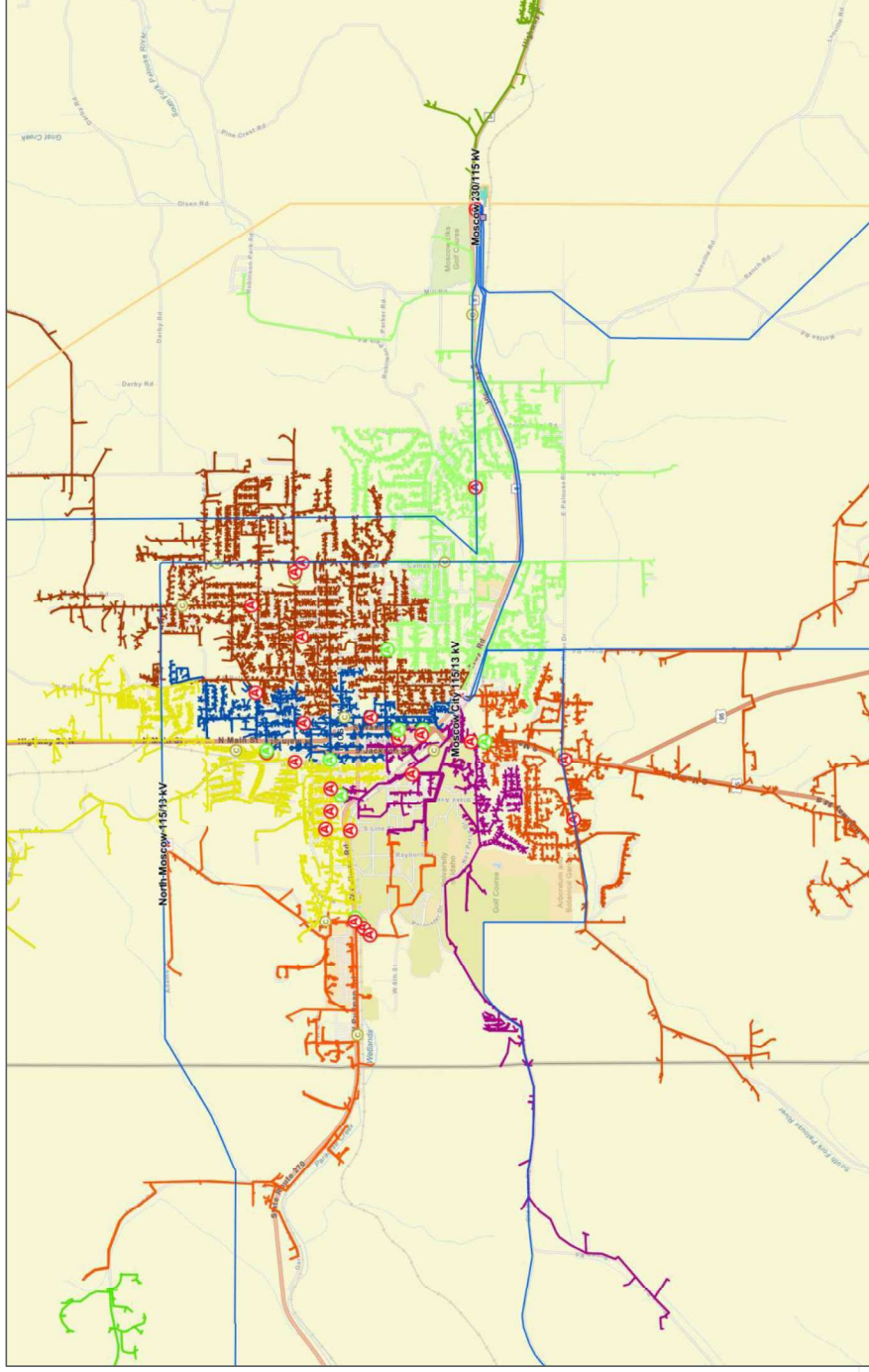
Emerging Issues and Trends



Electric Load Growth



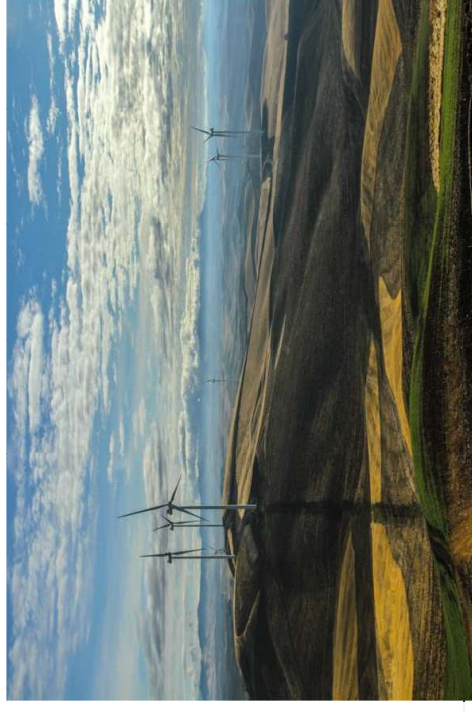
Grid Capacity



Avista's 2025 All-Source RFP

Avista's [Integrated Resource Plan](#), filed on December 31, 2024, identified an energy resource shortfall within four years, which triggers this All-Source Request for Proposal process. Avista intends to secure energy resources through one or more resource types to meet this shortfall. Bidders are welcome to propose resource opportunities that meet any of Avista's needs.

As part of the selection process, [Avista will measure](#) the strength of each project's proposal based on, but not limited to, [its overall impact on future cost to customers, the ability to offset market purchases, provide dispatch flexibility, contribute to future resource adequacy requirements, and help Avista equitably achieve its clean energy goals](#). Avista welcomes proposals for projects that contribute to a portion or all of Avista's future resource needs.

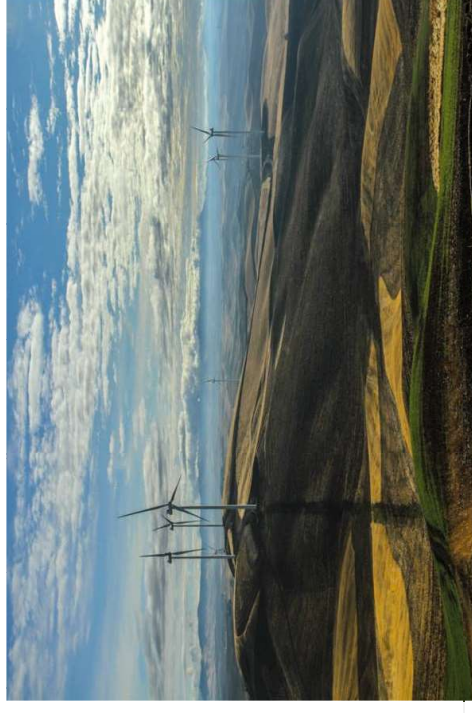


Avista's 2025 All-Source RFP

As identified in Avista's 2025 All Source RFP, Avista is seeking resources to meet its Winter and Summer capacity needs along with pursuing Demand Response programs. A summary of Avista's resource request is below:

- Between 75 and 375 MW of winter capacity by 2029 or earlier;
- Between 50 and 350 MW of summer capacity by 2029 or earlier;
- Up to 200 aMW of renewable or non-emitting resources; and,
- Demand response starting as early as 2026.

The 2025 All-Source RFP is currently awaiting Commission approval and Avista has set a tentative date of May 30, 2025 to release the RFP for solicitation. Depending on the outcome of Avista's filing with the Washington UTC, these dates may change.



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.



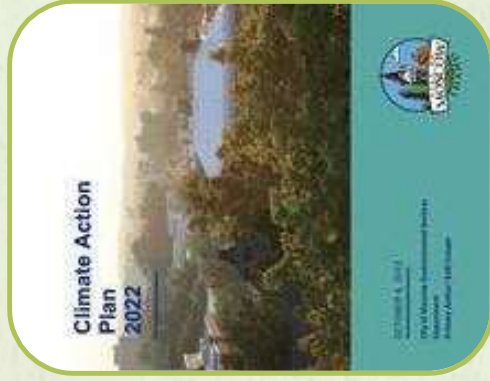


Equitable, Democratic *Community Solar* for Moscow

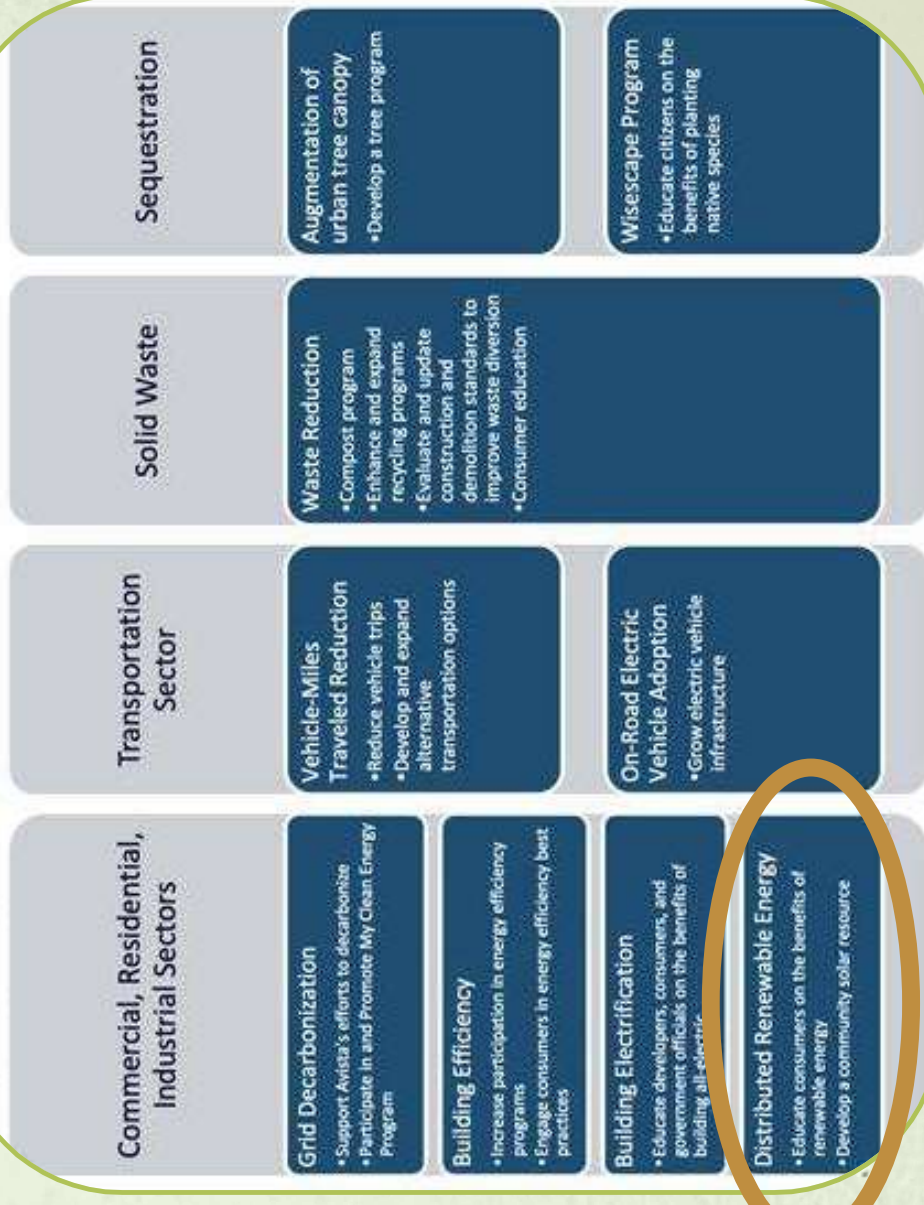
Al Poplawsky, (Lisa Young) Idaho Sierra Club
Presentation to the City of Moscow
Sustainable Environmental Commission
March 18, 2025

Background

One of the key action steps in Moscow's Climate Action Plan is: "Develop a community solar resource"



Summary of Community Actions



Why This Presentation? Why Now?



The City of Moscow is in the process of developing a community solar project on the City's soon-to-be-renovated maintenance shed!

This would be the first community solar project with a large-scale utility in Idaho!

- Idaho Sierra Club has recently been researching how to expand community solar in Idaho, with a focus on **models that are most equitable and democratic.**
- This presentation provides an overview of **those community solar models**, and how we can help make Moscow's upcoming project align with the Climate Action Plan's equity values.



What Is “Community Solar?”



Community solar is a way to let **EVERYONE** benefit from local solar power. Solar panels are put *on a community building* and the power is shared *by subscribers across the neighborhood!*



Solar canopies in the parking lot of Congregation Beth Elohim (CBE) Synagogue in MA



One of several community solar installations on top of NYC Housing Authority buildings

Both of which send power to low- to moderate-income households in their local communities!

What Is Community Solar?

This is different from **traditional rooftop solar**, which is an on-site array that powers a specific home, building, or facility.

Community solar is typically a nearby off-site array that other homes and businesses can “subscribe” to & receive credits on their power bill.



Why Community Solar?

Currently, millions of Americans lack **access to solar energy** because...

- Upfront costs are unaffordable
- They are renters
- Their house does not have a suitable rooftop.

Community solar programs—when designed democratically and equitably—have the potential to **bring solar energy (and lower energy bills!) to communities** that would otherwise not have access.



Artwork by **Melissa Eyer**, Idaho Climate Justice League student activist

Who Owns the Solar Array?

Corporate / utility ownership

- Designed to maximize profit, not community benefits
- Often inaccessible for low-income
- Profits go to shareholders, not community



(Photo credit: Associated Press)

Public / community ownership

- More democratic
- Builds community wealth
- Allows for a more values-based approach (i.e. centering low-income customers)



*This cooperatively-owned community solar project with battery storage **provides backup power during emergencies***

Where is the Solar Array Located?

Large solar farms

- Outside of the community
- Impact on land & ecosystem
- Siting issues, public pushback



Avista's 200-acre "Solar Select" solar farm for large business subscriptions, located in Lind, WA, owned by Strata Solar

Large local rooftops

- In community/Local jobs
- Improved local grid resiliency
- Educational value



The Community Power Project in NYC hired 12 public housing residents to install community solar panels over 9 months (**then 5 were hired full-time by local solar installers!**)

Why Include Low-Income Families?

*"Moscow's climate actions will seek to improve human health and well-being, **advance equity**, and build resiliency within the community"*

– Moscow Climate Action Plan

Equitable community solar programs must be thoughtfully designed so that:

- **Community ownership** is allowed & economic benefit stays in the community
- **Low income communities** are prioritized, get no/low fees, and get guaranteed bill reductions

We have the political power to help develop a community solar project that aligns with the guiding principle to "advance equity."



*Illinois Solar for All (panels pictured above) is run by a local nonprofit. Income-eligible subscribers pay **no** upfront subscription fees and **are guaranteed** to receive at least 50% savings*

How to Fund Equitable Projects?

Federal Investment Tax Credits are now available to municipalities through “elective pay” rebates (IRA)

- 30% clean energy base credit
- +20% “low-income adder”
- = up to 50% of project costs!

EPA Solar for *All* funds are specifically for low-income solar projects (IRA)

- Idaho received \$56.5m (grants available next year)
- Idaho’s program aims to direct funds toward:
 - 50% single-family homes
 - 20% multi-family homes
 - **30% community solar**



Examples

Cooperative-Owned:

Oregon Shakespeare Fest Community Solar

- Location: Talent, OR
- Siting: OSF's 71,544 sq Production Building
- Program Goal: Twofold
 - ◆ **OSR 100 kW array + battery storage** provides power if an outage occurs & **acts as a resilience hub** during emergencies
 - ◆ **Community-owned 141 kW array** directly **offsets power costs** of nearby residents, including low-income families
- Low-Income Focus: **10% of project subscribers**
- Business Model: Community-financed, **participant-owned, Co-Op-managed**



Oregon Shakespeare Festival

241 kW system w/ battery storage! The project was completed in 2022 and has been powering the OSF building and up to 19 households locally!

Tribal & School-Owned: Heart Butte Community Solar

→ Location: Heart Butte, MT, Blackfeet Reservation

→ Siting: Heart Butte K-12 School

→ Program Goal: **Generate electricity bill savings for low-income Blackfeet households at no cost** to residents & act as a **hands-on learning** and **workforce development opportunity** for high school and college students

→ Low-Income Focus: **100% of project subscribers**

◆ ~40% of Blackfeet Nation residents live in poverty—2x the statewide average

→ Business Model: Nonprofit developed (BEFI), **owned by Heart Butte School**



Heart Butte School

53 kW of rooftop solar and 160 kW of ground-mounted solar, all on site! 25% of electricity generated powers the school, while the rest reduces power bills for 20 local residents!

Local Government-Owned: City of Denver Community Solar

- Location: Denver, CO
- Siting: Northeast Early College High School
- Program Goal: Part of City program to install 16 community solar gardens to: Power buildings with 100% renewable energy; Provide shade and cooling during the summer months;
Donate electricity to families who need relief on their utility bills.
- Low-Income Focus: **45% of energy donated to low-income families**
- Business Model: **City-owned**, municipal clean energy fund, grants, & subscribers



Northeast Early College High School
651 kW project will serve nearly 200 low income residents over the next 15 years!

Further Resources: <https://www.mckinstry.com/all-features/city-and-county-of-denver-and-denver-public-schools-energize-309-kw-community-solar-garden-at-northeast-early-college/>

IN CONTRAST—Utility-owned: Avista Community Solar

- Location: Spokane, WA
- Siting: Next to Avista Boulder Park gas plant
- Program Goal: Offer customer option to help offset CO₂
- Low-Income Focus: **No reduced price low-income option.**
- Business Model: Utility-owned. **Customers buy in with a \$1,400 subscription**, hopefully net \$400 over 5 years with energy savings.
- Current Status: When the tax incentive expired in 2020, ownership reverted to Avista, so **no one can access program benefits anymore.**

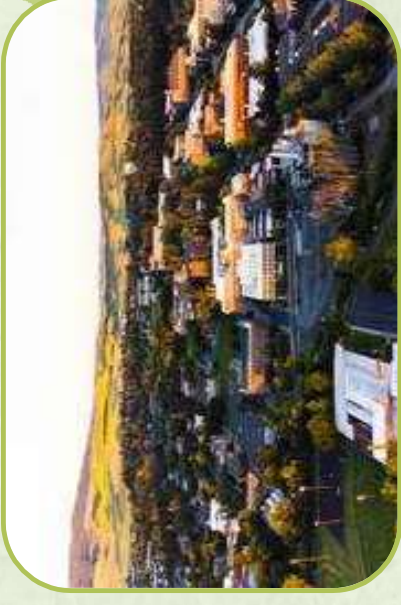


Avista Boulder Park Array

423 kW system that provided high-priced community solar from 2015–2020 near Spokane. It's now just a regular power generation asset for Avista.

Recap

- The City of Moscow is developing a community solar project on the renovated maintenance shed – **we have an opportunity to maximize its community benefits!**
- Equitable community solar programs have been implemented successfully **all around the country & Mountain West**, and funding support has expanded.
- If designed right, Moscow's community solar project can be community-owned and **expand solar power benefits to families who otherwise would not have access.**



(Photo credit: Shunyu Fan)



(Photo credit: *Institute for Local Self Reliance*)

Request

1. Work with Moscow City staff and the Climate Action Working Group to develop a proposal to City Council requiring the City's new community solar project to be **community-owned and support low-income households**.
2. Support the City to develop an **equitable community solar project in Moscow** (*the first in Idaho!*).

Join the
movement
for energy
democracy!

Idaho Needs
Community Owned
Solar



The background is a light beige, textured surface resembling recycled paper. It features several large, soft-edged organic shapes in muted green and olive tones. Thin, delicate lines in green and brown meander across the page, adding to the organic feel.

Thank You!