

A Utility's Clean Energy Equity Plan

Jennifer Finnigan, Seattle City Light

Ronda Strauch, Seattle City Light

ABSTRACT

As the world struggles to tackle the climate crisis, innovative government leaders are developing policies and regulations to accelerate actions that lead to real change. Transforming our energy future is requisite to provide a livable future for all. However, care needs to be taken during this transformation to avoid further harm to those already disadvantaged and to create current and future benefits for all. Policies and regulations often lack the details on how to achieve such outcomes. Thus, local implementors need to fill the gaps in detail and reach the desired intent. In implementing the Washington state Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA), the details needed for how to equitably transition to a clean energy future compelled Seattle City Light, a municipal electric utility located in Washington state, to create a Clean Energy Equity Plan (CEEP).

This paper is an adaptation of Seattle City Light's CEEP, an internal guide to integrate equity into the utility's clean energy planning, programs, and projects. This paper describes the framework developed by CEEP. There are eight sections: 1) background, 2) just transition principles, 3) highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations, 4) equity outcomes, 5) equity indicators, 6) portfolio of actions, 7) community outreach, and 8) implementation. Seattle City Light's process for developing the CEEP is also explained and integrated into the section descriptions. Ultimately, the development of Seattle City Light's CEEP provides a roadmap for other utilities to follow and adapt to advance an equitable clean energy future.

Background

Introduction to Seattle City Light

Seattle City Light is a community-owned municipal electric utility, and a department within the City of Seattle. It serves about 410,000 residential and 50,000 commercial customers and has a service area size of 131 square miles covering several Washington cities, including Seattle, Shoreline, Lake Forest Park, Burien, Renton, Tukwila, SeaTac, and Normandy Park.

Seattle City Light sources its power from a mix of resources that are predominantly clean. In 2020, approximately 86% of the utility's power came from hydroelectric dams, 5% came from wind, 5% from nuclear, 3% from unspecified sources (i.e., the source is unknown from power purchases), and 1% from biogas. Carbon offsets are procured for any greenhouse gas emissions associated with this mix. The utility first achieved net zero greenhouse gas emissions in 2005 and has maintained this status ever since. The utility's 20-year Integrated Resource Plan relies on only renewables and energy efficiency to meet new load growth.

Washington's Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA)

Governor Jay Inslee signed the Washington Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) in 2019. The law seeks to accelerate the transition to clean energy and commits Washington to a clean, fossil fuel-free electricity supply by 2045. The rationale behind the law is that a clean

electricity supply will create jobs, improve community health, and achieve long-term state climate goals. Policymakers and advocates anticipate that clean electricity will allow Washington residents and businesses to power homes, buildings, vehicles, and appliances with renewable resources like wind and solar energy.

While several other states have created similar climate legislation, what is noteworthy about CETA is that it requires utilities to ensure that their customers and communities are benefitting equitably from the transition to renewable energy. The law mandates:

"An electric utility must... **ensure that all customers are benefiting from the transition to clean energy:** Through the equitable distribution of energy and nonenergy benefits and reduction of burdens to Vulnerable Populations and Highly Impacted Communities; long-term and short-term public health and environmental benefits and reduction of costs and risks; and energy security and resiliency." (CETA 2019)

CETA defines **highly impacted communities** as geographic areas that experience the cumulative effects of fossil fuel pollution as well as social and health vulnerabilities. **Vulnerable populations** are communities that experience a disproportionate risk from environmental burden due to adverse socioeconomic factors like unemployment, high housing, and transportation costs relative to income, and access to food and health care.

CETA requires Washington electric utilities to complete a Clean Energy Implementation Plan (CEIP) every four years. CEIPs are the detailed roadmaps that describe how each utility will meet the following milestones:

- By 2025 – eliminate coal-fired generation serving Washington state customers.
- By 2030 – be greenhouse gas neutral (up to 20% alternative compliance options allowed).
- By 2045 – generate 100% of power from renewable, non-emitting sources. (Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission 2020)

CEIPs also require utilities to set four-year targets for energy efficiency, demand response, and renewable energy. Additionally, utilities must identify highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations as well as draft indicators to measure the distribution of energy and non-energy costs and benefits. CEIPs also require utilities to describe how they will reduce risks to highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations, and to summarize public input processes.

Clean Energy Equity Plan

CETA's passage, and more specifically, its call for an equitable clean energy transition, excited leaders throughout Seattle City Light for four reasons. First, leaders realized that as a utility with net zero greenhouse gas emissions, Seattle City Light should easily meet the 2025, 2030, and 2045 CETA clean energy milestones. Moreover, the law is requiring other Washington utilities to shutter fossil-fuel powered generation, therefore increasing the long-term value of Seattle City Light's hydroelectric power in the energy markets.

Second, leaders recognized that Seattle City Light could leverage existing efforts to build toward CETA's equitable clean energy transition, and not build new equity-focused approaches from scratch. The City of Seattle has a Race and Social Justice (RSJ) initiative that aims to eliminate racial disparities and achieve racial equity in Seattle. The initiative leads with race

because the City believes that dismantling racism will create a more equitable world for everyone. When the RSJ initiative began ten years ago, no U.S. city had previously undertaken an effort focused explicitly on institutional racism. Since that time, the City of Seattle – and Seattle City Light – have implemented several actions to address racism including:

- Developed and implemented a mandatory employee training curriculum;
- Created a Racial Equity Toolkit which lays out a process, and a set of questions to align policies, initiatives, programs and budget issues to address impacts on racial equity;
- Launched and supported Change Teams within each city department; and
- Tracked progress over time via longitudinal surveys. (City of Seattle Race & Social Justice Initiative)

Third, an equitable energy transition complements a Seattle City Light core value for Equitable Community Connections. This value states: *“We are proud to be a local, community-owned utility. We are visible and actively involved in the communities we serve. We are rooted in our commitment to racial diversity, social justice and the equitable provision of services to all.”*

Fourth, and most meaningfully, Seattle City Light leaders saw CETA’s passage as a catalyst that could amplify internal attention to equity and spur long-term change in a more substantial, consistent way throughout the organization. Seattle City Light leaders sought a deeper focus on equity because in doing so, all customers would be treated with deeper consideration, and better programs and services that truly meet customer needs, constraints, and values would result.

In 2020 leaders called for the creation of an internal plan, a Clean Energy Equity Plan (CEEP), that would build upon the foundation set by the RSJ initiative to eliminate racial disparities, more actively and consistently integrate equity into day-to-day utility work and decision-making, and would prepare the utility to achieve an equitable clean energy transition while meeting CEIP reporting requirements. (These requirements were still under development by the Washington Department of Commerce at the time work began on creating the CEEP.) Seattle City Light leaders saw the CEEP as an opportunity to “go beyond a [CETA] compliance obligation,” and they encouraged the CEEP development team to be aspirational, with an eye toward long term change within the organization.

The development team, formed by internal staff from multiple business units, began work in early 2021, and by summer 2021 the CEEP was finalized. The final CEEP included:

- **Just transition principles** that guided and grounded the entire CEEP report. These principles were created to guide choices, decisions, and influences that the utility can take to make to equitably transition all customers and communities to a cleaner energy future. The principles focused on highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations to align with CETA.
- A list of **highly impacted communities** and **vulnerable populations** that the plan focuses on.
- **Equity outcomes**, informed by the principles, which were the desired results of utility actions where it is assumed that all communities do not start with equal opportunities to participate in or benefit from programs and investments.

- Preliminary **equity indicators**, which measure progress toward the outcomes, to track progress toward elevating equity, particularly racial equity, to achieve an equitable energy transition.
- A **portfolio of actions** was generated to represent a collection of existing programs and projects that had the greatest opportunity to achieve an equitable transition. This portfolio included emerging programs and projects that **could** provide opportunities for equitably distributed energy and nonenergy benefits, reduced burdens, improved public health and environmental risk, and advanced energy security and resiliency, as called for by CETA. The portfolio of actions had five themes: affordability, reliability, energy efficiency, supply of renewable energy, and transportation electrification (see Figure 1 below). These actions, and the indicators they addressed, were designed to be dynamic and adaptable over time.
- A **community outreach** approach designed to be inclusive of customers and plan for long-term outreach throughout the implementation of the CEIP.
- An **implementation** plan to guide operationalizing the CEEP plan and to establish a process for ongoing improvements.

Figure 1. Conceptual diagram of Seattle City Light's Clean Energy Equity Plan

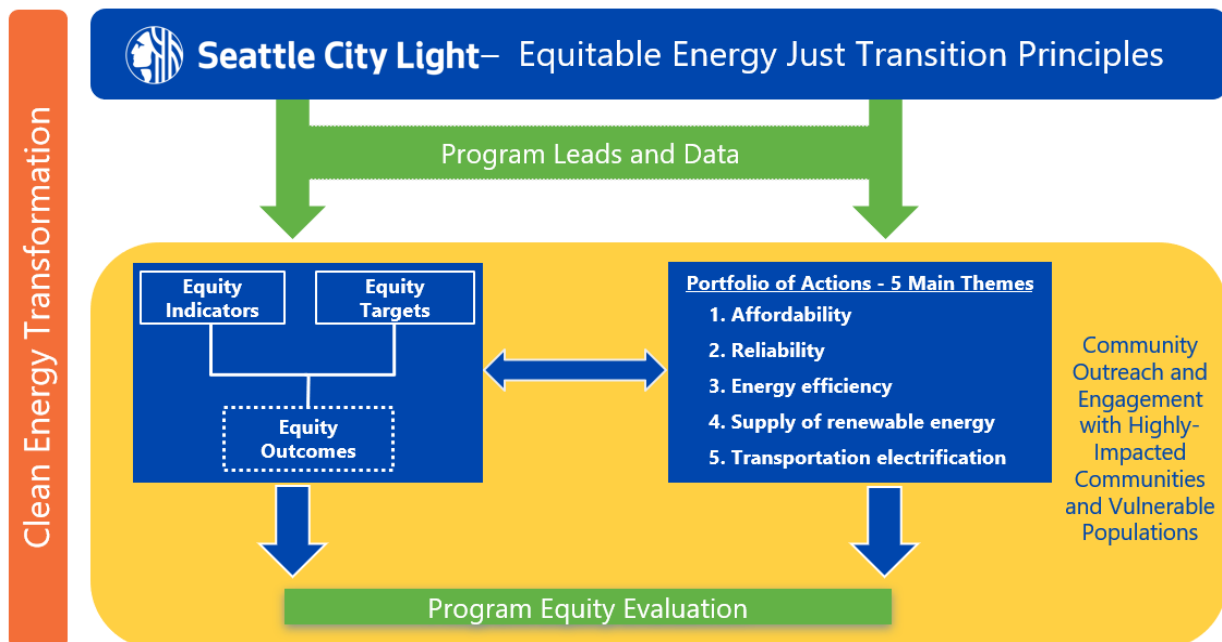


Figure 1. Conceptual diagram representing the primary elements and connectivity of Seattle City Light's Clean Energy Equity Plan.

Just Transition Principles

To set a strong foundation in the CEEP, Seattle City Light identified five principles to guide choices, decisions, and influences that the utility can make to equitably transition all customers and communities to a cleaner energy future.

These just transition principles included:

1. Seattle City Light is committed to racial diversity, social justice, and the equitable provision of services to all.
2. Seattle City Light recognizes past and current energy injustices and understands that taking a restorative approach should guide us to advance energy justice by conferring benefits first to communities most burdened by these injustices.
3. Seattle City Light's approach is rooted in community-centered collaboration and engagement to design equitable, inclusive solutions.
4. Seattle City Light is dedicated to reducing pollutants that impact public health where communities live, work, learn, play, and worship.
5. Seattle City Light will make decisions that are transparent to all communities and customers.

The just transition principles were informed by the utility's Mission, Vision and Values; the utility's Transportation Electrification Strategic Investment Plan; rulemaking comments from Front and Centered; and SSE's Just Transition Strategy.

Highly Impacted Communities and Vulnerable Populations

One of the main objectives of CETA is to ensure that all utility customers benefit from the transition to clean energy. The goal of designating highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations is to highlight groups that are currently experiencing a disproportionate share of risk factors exacerbated by climate change.

To identify **highly impacted communities**, Seattle City Light relied on a tool created by the Washington Department of Health that ranked Environmental Health Disparities by census tract on a scale of 1 (least impacted) to 10 (most impacted). Communities with scores of 9 or 10 were considered highly impacted communities, meaning that they had the highest risk of adverse health outcomes due to environmental factors.

Seattle City Light used three sources to identify **vulnerable populations**: 1) a Racial and Social Equity Composite Index developed by the City of Seattle Office of Planning and Community Development, 2) a Displacement Index created by the Puget Sound Regional Council, and 3) a demographic-based group identified in the city's Equity and Environment Agenda (EEA). The Composite Index combined information by census tract on race, ethnicity, and related demographics with data on socioeconomic and health disadvantages to identify where disadvantaged populations make up relatively large proportions of neighborhood residents. The Displacement Index identified neighborhoods with higher risks of rapid change because residents and businesses are 'priced out' and are forced to move due to economic growth and housing market pressures. This index was based on socio-demographics, transportation qualities, neighborhood characteristics, housing and civic engagement. The EEA identified vulnerable demographics to include black, Indigenous, and people-of-color (BIPOC), low income, limited English proficiency, immigrants and refugees, and youth.

Though there can be risks of outdated information associated with certain information by census tract, census data was the best available source. The utility identified 35 census tracts with highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations. The communities and vulnerable populations are located primarily in the downtown and south end of the utility's service territory. Seattle City Light will use these highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations to design, target, track, and evaluate utility programs.

Equity Outcomes

Equity outcomes result from utility actions where it is assumed that all communities and populations do not start with equal opportunities to participate in or benefit from utility programs and investments. To ensure that benefits of Seattle City Light's transition to clean energy are distributed equitably, the CEEP development team used the just transition principles and public input to create six desired equity outcomes.

1. *Community Collaboration* – Highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations see their wants and needs reflected in utility programs.
2. *Healthy Planet, Healthy Lives* – Highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations experience better air quality and improved public health where they live, learn, work and play.
3. *Equitable Access* – Highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations learn about energy programs, can readily understand and access materials and resources, see themselves reflected in communications, and participate in and benefit from utility programs.
4. *Community Assets* – Seattle City Light invests in infrastructure so that highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations can enjoy the benefits and avoid negative impacts.
5. *Economic Opportunities and Youth Pathways* – Seattle City Light enables highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations to participate in and benefit from the local energy economy through vocational program participation.
6. *Affordable and Reliable Electricity* – Electrification investments increase revenue to put downward pressure on electricity prices.

Equity Indicators

CETA requires utilities to develop indicators to measure and track progress toward an equitable distribution of energy and non-energy benefits across a range of energy equity areas. An **indicator** is defined as an:

“Attribute, either quantitative or qualitative, of a condition, resource, program or related distribution investment that is tracked for the purpose of evaluating change over time....; indicators associated with: energy benefits, nonenergy benefits, reduction of burdens, public health, environment, reduction in cost, energy security, or resiliency; develop through public process.” (CETA)

Seattle City Light collected 33 potential equity indicators from a literature review of local reports (City of Seattle 2018, Just Health Action and Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition 2013, Got Green and Puget Sound Sage 2016, and Washington State Department of Health). The utility then narrowed down this set to ten equity indicators after considering whether the indicators aligned with the just transition principles, whether the metrics could measure and track change over time for a desired outcome, whether data were available, and how the metrics affect highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations.

Descriptions of the ten (10) **equity indicators**, pending additional public input, are below:

1. *Expenditures of existing and planned community energy projects* – Total dollars expended on existing and planned community energy projects.
2. *Locations of existing and planned community energy projects* – Geographic extent of projects in targeted highly impacted communities.
3. *Public outreach* – Percent change in the annual amount of public outreach focused on engaging customers and communities in building a clean energy future.
4. *Public energy education* – Percent of change in education programming targeted to highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations on energy planning, projects, personal choices, and safety.
5. *Career development* – Percent change in vulnerable population participation in City apprenticeships and jobs.
6. *Burden (cost) to program participation* – Percent change in program participant costs and rates of participation from highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations.
7. *Accessibility to non-single-family homeowners* – Percent change of utility program dollars allocated to non-single-family homeowners for pilot projects, grants, rebates, or other incentives to provide alternative energy sources.
8. *Outdoor air quality* -- Percent change of air quality indices such as diesel particulate matter or greenhouse gas emissions, especially along heavily trafficked corridors that impact communities; would be measured and tracked by non- Seattle City Light entities.
9. *Feeder outages* (causes, number, locations, average duration, average response time) by census tract – Percent change in SAIDI (System Average Interruption Duration Index) and SAIFI (System Average Interruption Frequency Index) values in highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations.
10. *Response time to outages* – Percent change of average response and restoration times in highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations.

The utility aligned the equity indicators to desired equity outcomes (Table 1).

Table 1. List of equity indicators and associated equity outcomes

	Equity outcome	Equity indicator
1	Community assets	• Expenditure of existing and planned community energy projects
2	Community collaboration	• Locations of existing and planned community energy projects
3	Economic opportunities and youth pathways	• Career development
4	Equitable access	• Public outreach • Public energy education • Accessibility to non-single-family homeowners
5	Healthy planet, healthy Lives	• Outdoor air pollution
6	Affordable and reliable electricity	• Burden to program participation • Feeder outages by census tract

	Equity outcome	Equity indicator
		• Response time to outages

Portfolio of Actions

After scanning all the primary functions at Seattle City Light – from generation, transmission, distribution, delivery, customer programs, value added services, to operations and maintenance – the CEEP development team saw that, since the utility emits net zero greenhouse gas emissions, not every utility function directly affected a transition to clean energy. The development team zeroed in on the utility functions – customer programs – that have the ability to equitably distribute benefits and reduce burdens, improve public health and environmental risks, and advance energy security and resilience. These customer programs became the **portfolio of actions** later listed in Seattle City Light’s 2021 CEIP, and to which the equity outcomes and indicators will be measured in future CEIPs.

The portfolio of actions included more than 20 existing customer programs and projects. Each offering had eligibility requirements (e.g., low income, commercial sector, etc.) and qualification processes, which meant they all had the ability to demonstrate and support equity outcomes. The portfolio had five themes: affordability, reliability, energy efficiency, supply of renewable energy, and transportation electrification.

For each theme the development team overlayed some metrics to develop a baseline understanding. These metrics included the number of participants, percentage of participation by highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations, accessibility to non-single-family owners, average funds received by participants, awareness of and access to programs, and burden to program participation. A snapshot of metrics from the affordability theme is below.

Table 2 – Overlaying Potential Indicator Metrics to Affordability Programs*

*Listed indicators are a starting point and are not comprehensive of all metrics that could be tracked.

Program	Number of 2020 participants	Percent of HIC and VC/total participants	Accessibility to non-single-family homeowners [low-high]	Average \$ received by a participant in 2020	Awareness of and access to programs	Burden to program participation
Utility Discount Program	36,000	100%	High	\$600	<i>Need to define</i>	<i>Need to define</i>
Emergency Low Income Assistance	400	100%	High	\$250	<i>Need to define</i>	<i>Need to define</i>
Project Share	800	100%	High	\$250	<i>Need to define</i>	<i>Need to define</i>
Budget Billing	6,000	TBD	High	N/A	<i>Need to define</i>	<i>Need to define</i>
Energy Equity Rate Pilot	70	100%	High	Difficult to calculate. Customer rates were reduced by 70%.	<i>Need to define</i>	<i>Need to define</i>

When overlaying metrics to support equity indicators for programs, the development team noted several gaps, which will be filled with research, standardization, and data collection. The gaps are as follow:

- **Inconsistent data.** Some programs collected relevant data, and some did not. For example, for the “accessibility to non-single-family homeowners” metric, the development team asked program managers “to what extent have renters and multifamily customers participated in the programs?” Program managers provided subjective answers of “high, medium, or low” because program databases had not consistently recorded participants’ owner/renter status. Over time Seattle City Light plans to collect this information.
- **Lack of standards.** For several indicators the development team did not have a clear approach for how to categorize each program/pilot in the portfolio of actions. This was true of the “awareness of and access to programs” and “burden to program participation” indicators (see Table 2). To address this gap, Seattle City Light plans to develop categorization methods.
- **Some metrics do not easily apply.** Budget Billing, a monthly option that enables customers to spread energy costs evenly throughout the year, provides certainty to each bill and helps customers avoid high bills during peak demand. The development team saw that the “average amount received by a participant” metric made the program look like a poor contributor toward achieving an equitable clean energy transition because no subsidies were provided and overlooked how bill predictability is of high value to vulnerable populations. The development team observed that not every metric easily applies to each program, and that the full impact of a program’s contribution toward an equitable energy transition should not rest on one indicator alone.
- **Inconsistency in how to count vulnerable populations and highly impacted communities.** One of the first steps in preparing the CEEP was identifying highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations; and in sum, Seattle City Light catalogued 35 census tracts. However, when it came to assessing the indicator “percent of highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations / total participants,” the natural inclination of program managers was to say that all participants in income-qualified programs like the Utility Discount Program and Emergency Low Income Assistance programs met highly impacted community and/or vulnerable population status, regardless of census tract. To best assess progress toward an equitable energy transition, utilities like Seattle Light will need more granular – and expensive—demographic data – better than what is offered by the census.

Community Outreach

Seattle City Light included a community outreach plan in the CEEP that included objectives, targeted audiences, tactics, and metrics to promote and advance an equitable

transition. The CEEP community outreach plan was built on previous engagements with customers and stakeholders.

In August 2021 Seattle City Light invited all residential customers with email addresses to participate in a Clean Energy Future survey. More than 4,500 customers responded, of which 633 self-identified as black, indigenous, or persons of color; 175 as Hispanic/Latino; 1,328 as renters; and 417 as having an annual household income of less than \$50,000.

From these responses the utility learned that a surprising percentage of customers are concerned about climate change (94%) and that customers were more concerned about climate change impacts than about job loss or health impacts. When asked “what top three things concern you the most about achieving 100% clean energy by 2045,” respondents said bill increases, negative impacts of clean energy technology and reliability of service. Renters, low-income customers, and Hispanic/Latino respondents were also concerned about construction impacts. Surprisingly, the survey showed that few customers were aware that Seattle City Light’s power supply came from renewable energy sources.

The residential survey reinforced the importance of the intent behind CETA; however, the completion of the CEEP by the development team predated the analysis and synthesis of the residential survey. Seattle City Light will continue to refine indicators and adjust customer programs based on the survey and additional customer outreach during the four-year implementation phase of the CEIP.

Implementation

Dwight D. Eisenhower once said: “Good planning without good working is nothing.” In other words, though it is laudable to write detailed plans like the CEEP (Seattle City Light’s internal guide for operationalizing equity) and the CEIP (a public compliance roadmap for achieving a clean energy future), planning alone will not achieve anything meaningful. So, Seattle City Light baked implementation steps -- ensuring clear processes, accountability, and adequate staffing and internal funding -- into the CEEP.

These implementation steps centered around the City of Seattle’s Racial Equity Toolkit, which lays out a process and a set of questions to identify and address racial equity impacts of policies, processes, programs, and projects. The toolkit has six steps:

- Step 1: Set outcomes: leadership communicates key community outcomes for racial equity to guide analysis.
- Step 2: Involve stakeholders and analyze data. Gather information from community and staff on how the issue benefits or burdens the community in terms of racial equity.
- Step 3: Determine benefit and/or burden. Analyze issue for impacts and alignment with racial equity outcomes.
- Step 4: Advance opportunity or minimize harm. Develop strategies to create greater racial equity or minimize unintended consequences.
- Step 5: Evaluate. Raise racial awareness. Be accountable. Track impacts on communities of color over time. Continue to communicate with and involve stakeholders. Document unresolved issues.
- Step 6: Report back. Share information learned from analysis and unresolved issues with leadership and Change Team. (City of Seattle Race & Social Justice Initiative 2012)

Setting program equity targets. For each program and pilot in the portfolio of actions, in the CEEP Seattle City Light committed to completing a Racial Equity Toolkit. The Racial Equity Toolkits will identify the important equity links that can then be tied to equity outcomes and indicators. Seattle City Light plans to set annual program targets. If progress is off target, adjustments will be made to program design and execution.

Tracking data for programs and equity indicators. As programs are carried out, Seattle City Light plans to gather data to track performance against equity targets and indicators. These data will be mapped or connected to affected highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations. To effectively track impacts, Seattle City Light plans to track programs and equity data in a way that can tie back to these groups. This entails:

- Establishing a mapping process so that the geographic location of highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations is readily available and well maintained.
- Organizing mapping data so that it can be easily applied to programs.
- Developing a data collection framework to track participant demographic information.

Though it will take years to develop systems to support this, Seattle City Light plans to collect annual program data that will indicate what portion of the program will serve highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations. This data could include:

- Geographic location of program participation and their mapping (i.e., connection) to highly impacted communities or vulnerable populations
- Program expenditures and their mapping to highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations
- Program implementation timing
- Benefits and costs for program participants in highly impacted communities or vulnerable populations. This should be program specific and could include factors like realized reduction in energy burden, improvement in living conditions, positive environmental attributes, or increased reliability of service. The measurable effects of certain programs or projects could also have a negative effect and, if this is the case, these also should be reported. These impacts should be identified initially as part of the Racial Equity Toolkit process.

For equity indicators that are only indirectly impacted by Seattle City Light programs or informed by third party data, such as indicators related to air quality or greenhouse gas emissions, the utility plans to:

- Establish an internal process to clearly identify the primary external data source for equity indicator tracking.
- Establish a process to compile and archive any external data and ensure correct mapping with highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations.
- Collect any relevant data that might indirectly contribute to these indicators.

Reporting. The utility plans to meet CETA reporting requirements through:

- Setting equity targets for programs and projects.
- Tracking relevant equity data through program and project equity targets and equity indicators processes.

- Performing holistic equity evaluations where advancement in the utility’s equity outcomes is measured using equity indicators and achievement of program equity targets.

Performing evaluations for equity outcomes and program equity targets. Seattle City Light’s equity outcomes represent the end goal of the CEEP. To this end, the utility plans to build in processes to regularly evaluate if these outcomes are being achieved and use equity indicators to determine if positive progress is being made. If progress is not being made on certain equity outcomes, the utility will re-evaluate program targets, adjust existing actions, or recommend development of new actions. Evaluation of program equity targets should occur in tandem with equity outcome evaluation.

Conclusion

As the world struggles to tackle the climate crisis, innovative government leaders are developing policies and regulations to accelerate actions that lead to real change. Transforming our energy future is requisite to provide a livable future for all. However, care needs to be taken during this transformation to avoid further harm to those already disadvantaged and to create current and future benefits for all. Policies and regulations often lack the details on how to achieve such outcomes. Thus, local implementors need to fill the gaps in detail and reach the desired intent. In implementing the Washington CETA, the details needed for how to equitably transition to a clean energy future compelled Seattle City Light to create a CEEP.

The CEEP provides the roadmap for how to meet the equity intent of the CETA. The plan was created by a diverse internal team, guided by utility leadership, and informed by community and stakeholder input. Just transition principles guided its overall purpose and equity outcomes were identified to specifically target highly impact communities and vulnerable populations as measured by equity indicators. A portfolio of actions was identified to initially implement the strategies to enhance equity within Seattle City Light’s programs and projects. While the plan is just beginning its implementation, established protocols in the plan will be used to set program equity targets, evaluate progress, and iteratively improve Seattle City Light’s equitable energy transition.

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