

**Meeting Notes**  
**Q4 2024 Natural Gas Advisory Committee**  
**October 22, 2024**  
**10:00am – 3:00pm Pacific**  
**Hybrid: Cedarbrook Lodge, SeaTac, WA**



**Attendees:**

Kevin Duell – NW Natural

Carlos Limon – Avista

Jackie Goss – Energy Trust

Michelle Wildie – Puget Sound Energy

Laney Ralph – NW Natural

Jodie Albert – Cascade Natural Gas

Joshua Dennis – Washington UTC

**NEEA Staff:** Alisyn Maggiora, Peter Christeleit, Brandon Lindquist, Aaron Winer, Becky Walker, Jason Jones, Mark Rehley, Noe Contreras, Deborah Sunada, Emily Moore, Stephanie Quinn, Debbie Driscoll, Nick Leritz, Gloriana York

**Resources**

- **Agenda packet on NEEA.org:** [Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance \(NEEA\) | Q4 2024 NGAC Agenda...](#)
- **Master slide deck on NEEA.org:** [Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance \(NEEA\) | Q4 2024 NGAC Meeting...](#)
- **Meeting Recording: Part 1 -** <https://vimeo.com/1024853816> **Part 2 -** <https://vimeo.com/1024867123>

A. Welcome and Introductions

**Housekeeping and Looking Ahead ([Slides 8-18](#))**

A. Staffing update

- a. Aaron Winer is now the Project Development Manager in the Corporate Strategy Department. Aaron will be focusing on special project development, including dual-fuel grid value and load flexibility.
- b. Deborah Sunada has been hired as a Senior Program Manager. She will be taking over the Dual Fuel Residential HVAC program.

B. Product Council update

- a. Noe Contreras provided an overview of the Product Council website, highlighting its features such as upcoming events, recordings of previous sessions, and the ability to ask questions and subscribe to updates. Noe discussed a recent presentation on central heat pump water heater trainings for multifamily by D+R International.

C. Notes check and action items from previous meetings

- a. April 24: No items
- b. September 19 Webinar: No items

D. Looking ahead

- a. NEEA 2025 Operations Plan
  - i. October 10: The full draft plan was sent to the Board, RPAC, and NGAC
  - ii. October 10 through 28: Feedback period for Board and committee members
  - iii. December 5: Board vote on final Operations Plan
- b. Call for topics: Efficiency Exchange 2025
  - i. [www.neea.org/efx](http://www.neea.org/efx)
- c. Upcoming meetings in 2025

- i. Q1 NGAC Meeting February 4
- ii. Q2 NGAC Meeting April 16
- iii. No Q3 Meeting
- iv. Q4 Meeting December 10

## Instituting a Third Milestone Vote at Long-Term Monitoring and Tracking (LTMT) (Slides 20-29 | Packet p. 3-10)

Alisyn Maggiora ([amaggiora@neea.org](mailto:amaggiora@neea.org)), Sr. Stakeholder Relations Manager, walked through reasoning and context behind adding a third milestone vote to the Initiative Lifecycle (ILC). Alisyn then went through the next steps for changing the charter to incorporate the new milestone. It should also be noted that the stage “Long-Term Monitoring & Tracking” that follows this third milestone / stage gate will also be renamed to “Market Diffusion” to more accurately depict what’s happening in that stage of NEEA’s ILC.

### Discussion

**Carlos Limon (Avista):** Is there any opportunity to make sure that decisions do not skew or bias towards one part of the region over another?

**Alisyn Maggiora (NEEA):** Yes, there is a challenge flag process that is already articulated in the charter and can be leveraged at any time, regardless of a milestone vote.

**Emily Moore (NEEA):** The formality of the challenge flag process and the new milestone itself should actually be a barrier to bias, especially when paired with a Market Progress Evaluation Report.

In response to a clarification from PSE, Alisyn also confirmed that if an individual funder has reservations and wants to throw a challenge flag, that member will need to provide a documented request and rationale for the change they seek and a resolution process then ensues. If this happens during a vote process, the vote is suspended until those funder(s) and NEEA staff reach agreement, then a final proposal is brought back to the committee for a vote.

**Carlos Limon (Avista):** Will there be enough region-wide available data for funders to make an informed decision?

**Peter Christeleit (NEEA):** This is adding more transparency to the entire process and if you feel you don’t have all the information you need, we should be able to address that. If there isn’t a large enough dataset for a subregion, we should fix that.

**Alisyn Maggiora (NEEA):** The Market Progress Evaluation Reports are also all third-party evaluated. A proposal to move a program to the LTMT/Market Diffusion stage is grounded in this evaluation, which provides unbiased assessment of whether the program has accomplished what it set out to do.

## Round Robin

Utility members and NEEA program staff shared updates since the last quarterly meeting.

### A. Laney Ralph (NW Natural)

- In middle of 2025 planning and budgeting. Working on behavioral home energy report program, getting an evaluation started end of the month. Looking at starting a transportation energy efficiency program. Have a pilot going with Energy Trust right now on that, want to expand in 2025.

### B. Kevin Duell (NW Natural)

- We’re looking at how gas resiliency packages for low-income housing or general customers. How would you survive during an outage? Want to help answer that question with things like equipment that can run in multiple different circumstances. Have done recent tours of our pyrolysis methane pilot. It is plugged into our grid so some actual hydrogen molecules are making their way out there. Would like an industrial customer in particular to be able to convert equipment for hydrogen use at will. There is upcoming code work with the Washington Commercial Code Technical Advisory Group.

- C. Michelle Wildie (PSE)
  - Just finished hybrid heating dual fuel pilot. Just hired another person who will focus on thermal energy networks.
- D. Carlos Limon (Avista)
  - Submitted draft Washington Conservation Plan. Ongoing work on dual fuel pilot. Metering teams are trying to get those sites setup. Last week, team held Energy Advisory Group meeting. Waiting to hire an Executive Manager.
- E. Jackie Goss (ETO)
  - Finalizing 2025 budget plan. The draft budget is available on the website and soliciting comments. Working on dual fuel pilots. In process of selecting contractor for phase one of evaluation. Have a handful of high-level openings.
- F. Joshua Dennis (UTC)
  - Working on Washington House Bill 1589. Rulemaking happening right now. Workshop on Friday.
- G. Jodie Albert (CNG)
  - Recently filed two valuation measurement and verification studies. Had a kickoff meeting for conservation potential assessment study. Finished contracting and will probably be getting the results of our home energy report pilot program within a month.

## Discussion

### Quarterly Portfolio Update ([Slides 34-36](#) | [Packet pg. 11-21](#))

NEEA staff brief the Advisory Committee on recent activities and annual progress for the current Natural Gas Portfolio. Noe Contreras discussed the latest scanning opportunities. Mark Rehley talked about current Codes and Standards updates, as well as New Construction, for Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Washington. Aaron Winer walked through the updates with the North American Gas Heat Pump Collaborative in addition to highlights from a recently attended conference. Stephanie Quinn updated the group on the Advanced Commercial Gas Water Heating program in lieu of Melissa Mejía who was unable to attend. Jason Jones did likewise for the Efficient Rooftop Units program. Emily Moore presented on the High-Performance Windows update; Tamara Anderson was the Program Manager for the program but has been hired for a new role at NEEA. Importantly for High-Performance Windows, Emily noted a recommendation to move the program to the scanning phase rather than continue progressing through the Initiative Lifecycle (ILC). More can be found in the corresponding packet memo. Aaron Winer wrapped up the section by discussing the Efficient Gas Water Heating program. The largest takeaway is that NEEA has chosen to transition this program to scanning as well. However, it still has had significant regional benefits and there have been long-lasting achievements along the way.

### 2025-26 Potential Program Advancements ([Slides 39-45](#) | [Packet pg. 22](#))

Emily Moore and Debbie Driscoll presented on potential program advancements in the upcoming year. Debbie shared three potential program advancements and provided background context, next steps: Expand currently electric-only High Performance HVAC Program to include Gas High Efficiency DOAS (anticipated Program Advancement milestone in Q3 or Q4 of 2025), Expand Efficient RTUs to include electric funding for electric and dual fuel RTUs (anticipated Program Advancement milestone in early 2026), and a new program for Dual Fuel Residential HVAC (anticipated Concept Advancement milestone in Q3 of 2025). Emily, Peter, and more NEEA staff then discussed NEEA housing the Natural Gas and Electric programs in the same department and the reasons why it makes sense.

### Feedback, Wrap-Up, & Adjourn

- A. Action Items

- d. NEEA will distribute the KBOO Efficient RTUs pilot memo when it is ready in November.
- 1) Michelle Wildie will check with Jessie Durst to confirm if the dual fuel pilot report can be shared with the group and determine the method of sharing