

**Meeting Notes**  
**Q1 2025 Natural Gas Advisory Committee**  
**February 4, 2025**  
**9:30am – 12:00pm Pacific**  
**Online Only**



**Attendees:**

Kevin Duell – NW Natural

Carlos Limon – Avista

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, Melissa Mejia

**Resources**

- **Agenda packet on NEEA.org:** [Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance \(NEEA\) | Q1 2025 NGAC Agenda...](#)
- **Master slide deck on NEEA.org:** [Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance \(NEEA\) | Q1 2025 NGAC Meeting...](#)

**Welcome and Introductions**

**Quarterly Portfolio Update ([Slides 9-14](#) | [Packet pg. 3](#))**

NEEA staff, primarily Emily Moore ([emoore@neea.org](mailto:emoore@neea.org)) and Peter Christeleit ([pchristeleit@neea.org](mailto:pchristeleit@neea.org)), briefed the Advisory Committee on recent activities and the 2024 progress made for the current Natural Gas Portfolio. Highlights included the reconfigured portfolio, finalizing the gas portfolio principles, ramping up dual-fuel work, and moving forward with integrated management of the gas and electric portfolios. Two programs (High-Performance Windows and Efficient Gas Water Heating) were moved back to the “scanning” phase of the initiative lifecycle. For 2025, program-wise, focus will be on the Efficient Rooftop Units program and the Advanced Commercial Water Heating program. NEEA expects to advance at least one new dual-fuel or fuel-neutral opportunity into the portfolio. The Dual-fuel Residential HVAC program is projected for a Concept Advancement vote Q3 2025. A gas High-Efficiency DOAS program is projected to advance into the gas portfolio as an add-on to the existing electric High-Efficiency DOAS program. NEEA will continue to leverage collaboration and investments with North American partners.

**Round Robin**

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

- A. Joshua Dennis (UTC)
  - Taking on new staff to help through the 1589 situation with Puget Sound Energy and Washington Initiative 2066 that just passed. The Section Manager will be helping get the UTC through that.
- B. Jodie Albert (CNG)
  - Doing evaluation, measurement, and verification for residential envelope measures. Also doing the evaluation, measurement, and verification for a behavioral pilot program on home energy reports. Working on conservation potential assessment and annual report.
- C. Laney Ralph (NW Natural)
  - Kicking off an evaluation for behavioral pilot. Connect with Jodie on program design to see what worked and did not. Have plans to build out Washington industrial transport program this year, would

want to connect with Carlos on that. Conservation potential assessment is kicking off. Went with a different vendor than used previously, maybe different results or approach, will be good to see how that pans out, should be available in June. Believe Energy Trust is exploring whole home offerings for residential and that is exciting. Have been working on low-income program impact evaluation, will be available in the next month or so.

D. Kevin Duell (NW Natural)

- Some code works will be beginning Friday for Washington commercial energy code. Part of challenge is how to integrate Washington Initiative 2066. Had meeting with NEEA about commercial heat pump pilot. NEEA is looking at multifamily properties with high hot water. May be able to fund partially using low-income energy efficiency funds either directly or to round out a broader application. Could identify some additional work at the pilot site to have a comprehensive approach for a given property. An example may be weatherization. Working on thermal energy network pilot.

E. Michelle Wildie (PSE)

- Starting integrated system plan process which replaces IRP. Figuring out Initiative 2066. For Carlos, PSE is interested in working with gas transport customers. Got rate case back. Doing annual filing now for report. No new initiatives except thermal energy network pilot.

F. Carlos Limon (Avista)

- We are launching a new Carbon Reduction program for Washington Natural Gas Transport customers this month! This program was designed to provide a mechanism to help Avista meet goals for the Washington Climate Commitment Act (CCA). Since these customers do not pay into the energy efficiency tariffs, they have not been eligible for incentives and rebates for energy reduction projects. This program looks and feels just like a current site-specific project. The difference is the transport projects will be capped at 100% of the incremental cost and the calculations for the projects will be using a custom dual fuel incentive calculator tailored with transport avoided costs. The therm savings will reduce Avista's overall emissions compliance obligation under the CCA (but not counted towards our EE Goals). This program will offer analysis on any natural gas project and pay \$3.50 per therm savings. Projects will be looked at for cost effectiveness and be capped at 100% of the incremental project cost. Incentives are available for energy efficiency projects that result in verifiable therm savings. For projects with a measure life of ten years or greater. To be eligible for the incentives, you need to contact Avista prior to purchasing any equipment or services. Incentives will not be paid on projects that are already under construction or that are being developed without Avista's involvement.

## Housekeeping and Looking Ahead ([Slides 19-30](#) | [Packet pg. 4](#))

A. 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 refrigeration regulations and compliance requirements as well as the fan energy index (FEI) rated fans versus Fan Efficiency Grade (FEG) and flue gas thermos-cooling.

B. Notes check and action items from previous meetings

- a. October 22 Meeting: eRTU KBOO memo went out
- b. No additional notes, edits or questions on last meeting notes.

C. Looking ahead

- a. Members were asked to fill in the NEEA Reports Audit survey by February 14:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2025-Reports-Value-Assessment>
- b. Upcoming meetings in 2025
  - i. Q2 Meeting April 16

- ii. Interim Webinar June 5
- iii. No Q3 Meeting
- iv. Interim Webinar September 10
- v. Q4 Meeting October 28
- vi. Interim Webinar December 10
- vii. Dual Fuel Product Workgroup March 18
- viii. Early bird registration is open for Efficiency Exchange: <https://neea.org/get-involved/efx>

## Discussion

**Joshua Dennis (UTC):** Noe, about Product Council, are any refrigerants ahead of the pack in terms of efficiency?

**Noe Contreras (NEEA):** We will follow up with you on that. There are two main refrigerants we are looking at, though.

**ACTION ITEM:** Noe to follow up with Josh Dennis (WUTC) with details about refrigerants, as discussed during the Product Council update.

**Post-meeting Response, Noe Contreras (NEEA):** R-454B and R-32 refrigerants are the two main refrigerants used by the big players in residential systems to comply with current standards. I and others at NEEA will be tracking the changes.

## Quarterly Portfolio Update ([Slides 32-34](#) | [Packet pg. 5-12](#))

NEEA staff brief the Advisory Committee on recent activities and annual progress for the current Natural Gas Portfolio. Noe Contreras and Deborah Sunada discussed the latest scanning opportunities. Mark Rehley talked about current Codes and Standards updates, as well as New Construction, with an emphasis on Oregon and Washington, and the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). Neil Grigsby walked through the updates with the North American Gas Heat Pump Collaborative. Noe Contreras then discussed NEEA's recent work with the Gas Technical Institute. Melissa Mejía updated the group on the Advanced Commercial Gas Water Heating program and Jason Jones did likewise for the Efficient Rooftop Units program.

## Feedback, Wrap-Up, & Adjourn

### A. Action Items and Feedback

#### 1) Action Items

- a. Noe to follow up with Josh Dennis (WUTC) with details about refrigerants, as discussed during the Product Council update.
  - 1. Post-meeting response from Noe: R-454B and R-32 refrigerants are the two main refrigerants used by the big players in residential systems to comply with current standards. I and others at NEEA will be tracking the changes.

#### 2) Feedback

- a. None