

Cascade Natural Gas Corporation-CAG 2023 Q3 Meeting Minutes 7/12/2023

Meeting held: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm--Meeting Recording available to supplement notes

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Phone Conference ID: 965 180 043#

Attendees:

<u>CNGC</u>	<u>CNGC – Continued</u>	<u>WA Dept of Comm</u>	<u>Guests</u>
Kary Burin	Brian Robertson	Liz Reichert	Gil Peach
Mike Parvinen	Sonya Wald		Kyle Billeci-AEG
Joseph Lennan	Devin McGreal	<u>NEEA</u>	Kenneth Walter-AEG
Desiree Bickmore	Caleb Reimer	Peter Christeleit	
Jocelyne Moore	Ted McCammant		<u>Public Council</u>
Lori Blattner	Noemi Ortiz	<u>WUTC</u>	Cory Dahl
Jon Storvick	Mark Sellers-Vaughn	Jade Jarvis	
Taylor Mead	Ty Jennings		<u>TRC</u>
Stephanie Reed	Kathy Wold		Brian Farnsworth
Carmen Goicoechea			

The meeting was recorded to capture all discussions and is distributed to CNGC/CAG members via the Company's website at: [Cascade Natural Gas Conservation Advisory Group Meetings - Cascade Natural Gas Corporation \(cngc.com\)](https://cngc.com)

*** Time stamp for each agenda item is located beside the topic header below in this format HH:MM:SS*

The Agenda and the Charts and Graphs are embedded below:



Q3 CNGC CAG Meeting Agenda.pdf Q3 2023 CAG Charts, Graphs, and Misc.pdf

Lori Blattner updated CAG group on changes within the Energy Efficiency Department - 0:00:30

- Kathy Wold accepted Mgr., Energy Efficiency Strategies for ID, WA, and OR
- Caleb Reimer accepted Mgr., Energy Efficiency Program for WA

Safety Moment - led by Caleb Reimer - 0:02:09

- Distracted Driving

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Roll Call & Review Q2 action items - led by Desiree Bickmore - 0:06:20

Action Items: None

Decisions Made: None

Noted Discussion:

- Completed roll call.
- Provided updates on action items, see below:
 - o Jon to provide estimated percentage of the total budget for pilots and follow-up with Jade Jarvis
 - **Update:** Pilots represent roughly 1% of the 2023 budget ☐ Since less than 10% of the budget, follow-up with Jade is/was not required
 - o Jade will get with his internal team for clarification on portfolio conditions and follow-up with us
 - **Update:** Jade followed up and confirmed what was shared in the meeting
 - o Noemi to follow-up with Conservation Advisory Group on what the timeline looks like for DOE draft priority list/tariff changes
 - **Update:** DOE priority list already in our current tariff and the TREAT is still being used by agencies.
 - ☐ No action required at this time.
 - o Caleb to provide update once date/time determined for virtual LoadMap demonstration being offered to interested CAG members in Early June
 - **Update:** Meeting invite was emailed to CAG members and was held on 6/7/2023.

CNGC IT Best Practices - led by Sonya Wald - 00:13:10

Action Items: None

Decisions Made: None

Noted Discussion:

- Best practices implemented per data requests and what data is going out.
- This was done more for a security perspective.
- Internal personnel are involved in the data pulls.
- Looking to build integrations in our JIRA software.
- Also working with our Legal Department to add another automation that will send a JIRA ticket to our legal to review and see if any changes needed.

Quarterly Portfolio update - led by Brian Farnsworth & Jocelyne Moore - 00:18:40

Commercial Highlights – led by Brian Farnsworth - 00:18:55 (See Charts, Graphs, and Misc., pgs 1-3)

Action Items: None

Decisions Made: None

Noted Discussion:

- Provided information of the C/I Progress to Goal – better positioned this year compared to last year.
- Big part of C/I Outreach has been in-person visits.
- Updated on the C/I Biennium progress.
- Jade asked if the delay of building code changes has had any impact on the C/I savings at all or more on residential side.
 - o Brian stated that they haven't seen an upswing or changes as of yet

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[Residential Program Highlights and Activity through Q2 2023](#) - *led by Jocelyne Moore - 00:24:51 (See Charts, Graphs, and Misc., pgs 4-6)*

Action Items: None

Decisions Made: None

Noted Discussion:

- In Q2, received around 1,250 applications.
- At 53% to goal through the first half of 2023.
- On track to meet 100% of goal if all stays consistent.
- Covered process improvements implemented to the processing pipeline.
- Point of Sale program is providing a great benefit to our department.

[Pilot Update](#) - *led by Jon Storvick & Brian Farnsworth - 00:28:25*

[Aero-Barrier Pilot](#) – *led by Jon Storvick*

Action Items: None

Decisions Made: None

Noted Discussion:

- Currently have two pilots in place.
 - o Aero-Barrier has one active participant (BPC)
 - o Two installations completed with more expected dur Q3Y23
 - o CNGC in communication with potential participant that would give pilot coverage in Zone Two
- Jade Jarvis asked if planning on continuing next year or not.
 - o Jon stated it has been discussed continuing into another season – are some concerns if worthwhile incentive to pursue

[Commercial Pilot Updates](#) – *led by Brian Farnsworth - 00:32:53*

Action Items: None

Decisions Made: None

Noted Discussion:

- C/I Customer Walkthroughs – no cost to customers, helps customer be more efficient, and advocates for tuning up and using existing equipment and provides information if new equipment is the best choice.

[Low-Income Weatherization](#) - *led by Noemi Ortiz - 00:33:28 (See Charts, Graphs, and Misc., pgs 7-8)*

Action Items: None

Decisions Made: None

Noted Discussion:

- Projected numbers for Q2 exceed total projected annual project numbers.
- ECOS in place as of July 1st, 2023:
 - o ECOS is available for agencies to begin entering projects into but is not completely ready to replace the old system. The transition will take a few months to complete
- TREAT for Single Family Units: This will be discontinued once the ECOS program's energy modeling features become available for agencies to use. The current database does not include the modeling feature, until that feature is added TREAT is allowed.
 - o TREAT for Multi-family Units: Will continued ECOS software does not support Multi-family Units at this time

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- Over the next few months, we will see Agencies start to use two separate priority list in place of TREAT report. These are:
 - o Department of Energy (DOE) Priority List: Preapproved measures by DOE deemed energy efficiency/cost-effective
 - o Deemed Measure Priority List: Preapproved measures by Department of Commerce (DOC) deemed energy efficient/cost-effective
- Update on Community Action Agencies.
- Still seeing delays affecting program performance.
 - o Agencies share contractors - Contractor capacity 3-8 project start timelines.
 - o High Turnover: Some agencies working with one Quality Control Inspector doing both Inspections and Energy Audits.
 - Some have hired, but the process can take up to 18 months to complete all certifications and in-field training.
- NCAC 2023 has additional projects in queue aside from the 52 turned in last quarter.
- Gil asked variation on cost per home approval – what is the difference between the prices.
 - o Noemi stated lots of incidental costs involved and budget limits are a factor per community action agencies, is a comprehensive approach

Imminent Code Impacts to EE Programs – led by Caleb Reimer & Ty Jennings - 00:43:35

Action Items: None

Decisions Made: None

Noted Discussion:

- A discussion on code impacts to the program and the overall code environment in the service territory was led by Cascade.
- Cascade is continuing to monitor and adapt to code changes which directly or indirectly impact the energy efficiency program, offerings, and delivery mechanisms.
- Implementation of the 2021 Washington State Energy Code (WSEC) has currently been delayed to 10/29/2023.

CPA – led by Caleb Reimer & Ken Walter from AEG - 00:50:16 (See Charts, Graphs, and Misc., pgs 9-16)

Action Items: None

Decisions Made: None

Noted Discussion:

- Applied Energy Group (AEG) has completed Cascade's 2023 Conservation Potential Assessment (CPA). This CPA and related documents have been filed with the commission.
- AEG provided an extended overview of the CPA process, LoadMAP modeling tool, and final savings results through the forecasting window.
- Cascade is in process of modeling alternative CPA scenarios. Cascade plans to continue engaging the CAG and NEEA (Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance) staff to discuss scenario modeling opportunities.

Annual Report Update - led by Jon Storvick - 01:16:42

Action Items: None

Decisions Made: None

Noted Discussion:

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- Report submitted to WUTC on 6/15/23.
- Open meeting scheduled for late July.
- Per Jade, no decision on open meeting date yet, contemplating not having an open meeting this year – would likely be August if holding this year.

EM&V – led by Caleb Reimer - 01:19:42 (See Charts, Graphs, and Misc., pg 17)

Action Items: None

Decisions Made: None

Noted Discussion:

- ADM Associates, Inc (ADM) has been selected to complete annual independent, third-party EM&V as outlined in section 9c of the conditions document of Docket UG-210838.
 - o The commercial program was selected for review in 2023
 - o A final report for this activity will be sent to the CAG for review in July 2023
 - o The final report will be subsequently filed with Docket UG-210838
- ADM is in development of a Statement of Work to review residential equipment measures in 2024. ADM is also in development of a Statement of Work for biennial program process review as outlined in section 9d of the conditions document of Docket UG-210838.
- A table showing the anticipated similarities and differences between EM&V activities for the upcoming biennium was provided.

Biennial Conservation Planning Update - led by Caleb Reimer - 01:22:42 (See Charts, Graphs, and Misc., pgs 18-19)

Action Items: None

Decisions Made: None

Noted Discussion:

- Cascade began the planning process for the 2024/2025 Biennial Conservation Plan (BCP) as outlined in section 5a of the proposed conditions document of Docket UG-210838. Results from the 2023 CPA will be utilized to inform the BCP.
- Consultation on this process with the Conservation Advisory Group (CAG) began via email on 6/15/23 in accordance with section 6f of the conditions document of Docket UG-210838.
- Cascade welcomes and encourages input from the CAG to inform this BCP process. A Mid-BCP CAG Meeting is scheduled on 8/9/2023 to facilitate this engagement.

Wrap-up and 2023 Quarterly Meeting Schedule - led by Caleb Reimer - 01:32:03

Action Items: None

Decisions Made: None

Noted Discussion:

- 2023 Meeting Dates remain unchanged:
 - o 8/9/23 Base Touch Mid-BCP planning – 10-11:30 via TEAMS
 - o 10/18/23 CAG Q4 – 9-12 – In person and via TEAMS