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

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Phone Conference ID: 295 962 075#

#### 

#### Attendees:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CNGC** | **CNGC – Continued** | **NEEA** | **The Energy Project** |
| Desiree Bickmore | Stephanie Reed | Peter Christeleit | Shaylee Stokes |
| Mike Parvinen | Sheila McElhinney |  |  |
| Kary Burin | Bailey Steeves | **WA Dept of Comm** | **Guests** |
| Caleb Reimer | Joseph Lennan | Lauren Savage Wittig | Kai Hiatt-PCU |
| Noemi Ortiz |  |  | Melissa Kosla-ADM |
| Brian Robertson |  | **WUTC** | Kenneth Walter-ICF |
| Jacinda Ashby | **TRC** | Byron Harmon | Caleb Lee-ICF |
| Jodie Albert | Brian Farnsworth | Quinn Weber |  |

*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://www.cngc.com/energy-efficiency/cascade-natural-gas-conservation-advisory-group-meetings/)

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

***The Agenda is embedded below:***



### Safety Moment - *led by Caleb Reimer –27 seconds*

* Distracted Driving

### Roll Call & Review Q1 action items - *led by Dez Bickmore – 00:01*

**Action Items:**

**Decisions Made:**

**Noted Discussion:**

* No action items from Q1.
* Completed roll call.

### Quarterly Portfolio update - *led by Brian Farnsworth & Caleb Reimer*

### Commercial Highlights through Q1 2025*– led by Brian Farnsworth - 00:07*

**Action Items:**  **None**

**Decisions Made: None**

**Noted Discussion:**

* + Brian provided an update on the progress of C/I customers.
  + Brian noted a sluggish start to the year and some adaptive management strategies to overcome these challenges.
  + Outreach/Marketing Efforts:

January-Launched a Google performance max campaign that will run for two months

February-Google campaign continued-The ads received 6.84k impressions and 378 website clicks leading to the commercial rebates’ webpage

February-target contacts pulled from the Dodge database who recently filed permits for construction or renovation projects, sent to just under 2000 contacts

Trade Ally (TA) packets sent to identified TA’s in Zone 3

March-Print and display ads developed for the Tri-Cities Journal of Business that will run in April

* + Quinn asked if the therms saved incentives are kind of matching up with what was expected for Q1?
    1. Brian responded the therm savings are not up to our standards for the beginning of the year, and are having a sluggish start
  + Went over the C/I Unofficial 2025 totals through Q1.
* At 3% to goal, lower than would like to be, mostly a deficit in Jan/Feb
* Will work to get back on track and target the Biennial therms forecast of 424,756.
* Establishing an adaptive management strategy to address the slow start to the year.
  + Sluggish economy in 2025
  + Inflationary pressures
  + Tariffs-Uncertainty for investments, cost increases, cancelled-Laundry Heat Recovery Project
  + Push to electrification-Skagit Valley College
* Peter asked if TRC is hearing other things from customers and if just the uncertainty is causing the decision-making around delaying or cancelling projects?
  + Brian stated he believes this is occurring and will continue to occur, but thinks it may be too early for analysis to be done at this time
* C&I Marketing team has developed an adaptive management strategy to combat extenuating circumstances which nearly doubles the typical number of outreach activities and dollars spent.
* Pipeline for the remainder of the year is strong, with many standard and custom projects identified.

### Residential Program Highlights and Activity through Q4 2024 - *led by Caleb Reimer* *– 00:28*

**Action Items:**  **None**

**Decisions Made: None**

**Noted Discussion:**

* + Caleb provided the residential progress to goal through Q1 2025.
  + Ahead of annual and biennial therm saving goal pace.
  + Also ahead of pace for the Biennial goal, currently at 70%.
  + Residential budget is anticipated to exceed 120% of the outline in the 24/25 BCP, this is expected due to increased therm savings from plan.

### Residential Envelope EM&V Update – *led* **by Jodie Albert & Melissa Kosla** *- 00:32*

**Action Items:**  **None**

**Decisions Made: None**

**Noted Discussion:**

* + Melissa (ADM Assoc) presented results of the impact evaluation with Cascade.
  + ADM collaborated with CNGC to evaluate EE programs from 2022-2025.
  + 2024 Residential envelope impact evaluation goals include Windows, Doors, Insulation, Duct Sealing, and Air Sealing. Single measure results indicate near 100% realization rates for the 2018-2024 time period.
  + Plan to conduct a second round of EM&V focusing on bundled residential envelope measures.

### 2025 Conservation Potential Assessment (CPA) – *led* **by Jodie Albert & Ken Walter** *- 00:49*

**Action Items:**  **None**

**Decisions Made: None**

**Noted Discussion:**

* + Ken (AEG/ICF) provided a CPA Progress update.
  + The 2025 CPA will provide new projections using updated data.
  + Quinn asked how are you pricing in the sensitivities?
    - * + Ken responded that the sensitivities aren’t defined yet and the reference base for the CPA is under conditions as they were as of Jan. 2025. This will likely change as administrative changes become more known and the CPA is finalized. Ken agreed that should look at the price shock scenario sensitivity on measure costs, but those have not been defined yet and will work with Cascade on those.
  + Gas growth is constrained in Cascade’s territory.
  + Strict WA State Energy Code requirements continue to drive down use per customer.
  + State energy code and pressure from external parties aims toward electrification and use of heat pumps.
  + Byron asked what the experience has been like on the building codes and interaction with 2066, it passed and then courts said it’s not, how are you working with them? Maybe Caleb can respond to what that frustration is like for new construction or people working on the ground.
    - Ken answered as far as the CPA’s is concerned, our inputs are just designed to be consistent with the IRP’s projection, which is currently no new construction in those two sectors. Would refer that question to Cascade on how IRP is resolving
    - Caleb responded that actual data we are seeing that new homes are almost irrelevant in the program. Nearly 1,000 new homes participated in 2020, in 2024 there was close to zero
  + Brian stated the IRP is keeping an eye on the impact that all the changes are having.
  + Average avoided cost per therm has gone up from the previous CPA.
  + Byron asked if we have seen any change in which measures are still cost effective or a change in how to prioritize measures, does that change how you work with Trade Ally’s to infiltrate different measures?

Caleb answered attic insulation and air sealing are our most popular measure by far for residential retrofits. It was proposed in our last BCP that those measures are somewhere between a 5 and 7.0 UCT cost effective ratio, so does not appear to be impacting how we go after measures

* + - * + Finalize potential from CAG and CNGC by April 25th.
  + A draft report will be submitted to the CAG by 5/1/2025.
  + The final report will be filed by 5/30/2025.

### CNGC Avoided Costs *– led by Bailey Steeves**– 01:16*

**Action Items: None**

**Decisions Made: None**

**Noted Discussion:**

* Provided Avoided Cost Overview/methodology as it relates to the Conservation Potential Assessment.
* Cascade produces a 27-year price forecast and 45 years of avoided costs.
* Fixed costs or reservation costs are not avoidable for existing contracts.
* Variable costs are avoidable costs.
* Byron asked about the intuition for verification of his understanding.
  + - Brian and Baylee were able to clarify more on his understanding

### Low-Income Program Updates *– led by* **Sheila McElhinney & Noemi Ortiz** *– 01:35*

**Action Items: None**

**Decisions Made: None**

**Noted Discussion:**

* + Sheila went over the program participation through Q1 2025.
  + Noemi provided an update on the Weatherization Incentive Program Pilot.
    - WUTC approved on 2/28/2025
    - Contractor selection
  + Shaylee asked if there has been a good response on bid sheets gotten back so far or a deadline on bid window open? Do the contractors range to cover the full spectrum of the state/territory?
    - Noemi answered we haven’t received any bid yet, about 5 contractors showed interest and bid sheets were sent out to them. Currently no deadline, but will look at giving a deadline if a quick turnaround not received
    - The contractors do cover the CNGC territory that have shown interest

### Home Energy Report Update – *led by Caleb Reimer – 01:46*

**Action Items:**

**Decisions Made: None**

**Noted Discussion:**

* + Caleb provided an update on the Home Energy Report.
    - The pilot has concluded and a draft report has been distributed with the group
    - ADM Associates is currently completing third-party EM&V to verify savings estimates
    - A proposal for future program integration will be drafted and shared subsequently

### Wrap-up - Meeting Schedule & Invitation *-* **led by Caleb Reimer** *- 01:50*

**Action Items:**  **None**

**Decisions Made: None**

**Noted Discussion:**

* 2025 Meeting Cadence:
* The 2025 meeting invitations have been dispersed. The next meeting will be held on July 16, 2025