

Cascade Natural Gas Corporation-CAG 2025 Q3

Meeting Minutes 07/16/2025

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

Microsoft Teams meeting

Audio only

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Phone Conference ID: 157 835 096#

Attendees:

<u>CNGC</u>	<u>CNGC – Continued</u>	<u>NEEA</u>	<u>Guests</u>
Desiree Bickmore	Stephanie Reed	Peter Christeleit	Kai Hiatt-PCU
Mike Parvinen	Mark Sellers-Vaughn		Sedge Lucas-ADM
Kody Thompson	Joseph Lennan	<u>WUTC</u>	Nishaant Sangaavi-Brillion
Caleb Reimer	Jacinda Ashby	Quinn Weber	Leonardo Zimmer-Brillion
Noemi Ortiz			Alex Corneglio-Brillion
Sonya Wald	<u>TRC</u>	<u>The Energy Project</u>	Aaron Savatti-Brillion
Jodie Albert	Brian Farnsworth	Shaylee Stokes	Amanda Rodriguez-ESD 105

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

The Agenda is embedded below:



Q3 2025 CNGC CAG
Meeting Agenda FINA

Safety Moment - led by Caleb Reimer –10 seconds

- Caleb opened with remote work safety tips, emphasizing mental and physical well-being, routines, breaks, and asking for help.

Roll Call & Review Q2 action items - led by Dez Bickmore – 00:01

Action Items: None

Decisions Made: None

Noted Discussion:

- No action items from Q2.
- Completed roll call. Attendees included representatives from Cascade Natural Gas, Brillion (formerly EnergyX), TRC Companies, ADM Associates, and various community and regulatory organizations.
- Kody Thompson was welcomed as the new Energy Efficiency Program Supervisor for CNGC.

Quarterly Portfolio update - led by Brian Farnsworth & Caleb Reimer

Commercial Highlights through Q2 2025– led by Brian Farnsworth - 00:09

Action Items: **Bob Cuti (TRC) to follow up with Quinn Weber with more detail on heat curtains.**

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Decisions Made: None

Noted Discussion:

- Brian provided an update on the progress of C/I customers.
- Bellingham SD and Megalodon LLC were a couple of large therm saving projects.
- Marketing activities include Clean Buildings webinar, LinkedIn ads, geo-fenced ads, contractor breakfasts, and billboard campaigns.
- Boilers and insulation are the two most prolific measures.
- Targeting large therm savings from greenhouse heat curtain projects and school retrofits.
- Sluggish economy in 2025 is causing some challenges in completing EE projects.
 - Economic slowdown, inflation, tariffs
 - Electrification trend (e.g., Skagit Valley College)
 - Politically motivated project cancellations (e.g., Whidbey Naval Air Station)
- Quinn asked if TRC is seeing more larger customers shift over to electrification projects; if that trend line is anticipated to continue; and, what the agricultural heat curtain is?
 - Brian stated that it looks that way that the electrification shift will continue, Zone 3 and Western WA are where we are seeing the biggest impact currently.
 - Brian stated it is hard to say if the trend line will continue. Caleb also responded by informing this was something that was considered in our 2025 CPA.
 - Brian stated that heat curtains have been used in both cut flower operations and marijuana growing facilities. They are essentially able to use less heat because they are able to trap heat from lighting and natural gas heating, these curtains are able to retain more of the heat. Will have Bob Cuti, our technical manager, follow up with Quinn to share more details.

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

Action Items: None

Decisions Made: None

Noted Discussion:

- 93% of annual therm savings goal achieved by mid-year.
- 119% of budget spent YTD, due to increased therm savings and incentives compared to plan. Possibility of exceeding 120% of the planned annual budget by year end.
- 35% increase in processed measures first half of 2025 compared to 2024.
- On track to exceed our portfolio biennial goal of 1.78 million terms, 91% currently achieved through 75% of the period.

Home Energy Reports Round 1 M&V – led by Sedge Lucas (ADM) - 00:32

Action Items: None

Decisions Made: None

Noted Discussion:

- Evaluated 2023–2024 Home Energy Report (HER) pilot implemented by Brillion.
- Approximately 10,000 treatment and 5,000 control customers were included in the Round 1 pilot.
- Used difference-in-difference regression models for statistical analysis, among other methods.
- The results were 6 of 128 models showed statistically significant savings at the .1 confidence level
- Some limitations were small sample size, lack of peer comparison, and broad customer targeting.
- Round 1 provided excellent learnings for the program. Recommendations for Round 2:
 - Increase sample size (30,000 treatment, 10,000 control)
 - Consider including some form of peer comparisons

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- Focus on high-usage customers
- Focus on data tracking and alignment for evaluation

Home Energy Reports Round 2 Proposal – led by Aaron Savatti & Alex Corneglio (Brillion) - 01:00

Action Items: None

Decisions Made: None

Noted Discussion:

- The ending treatment group expanding from 9,000 to 30,000 customers.
- The ending control group expanding from 4,000 to 10,000.
- Digital-only reports to reduce costs and improve tracking.
- Timeline: Launch in September 2025, results around December 2026.
- Focus on improved statistical power and collaboration with ADM.
- Questions raised by Quinn and Shaylee about language accessibility and the inclusion of low-income customers.
 - Caleb and team acknowledged the importance and committed to exploring options for future phases.

Low-Income Program Updates – led by Noemi Ortiz – 01:25

Action Items: None

Decisions Made: None

Noted Discussion:

- 39 projects completed, 156 measures installed.
- \$1.2M spent (of \$1.7M annual budget).
- Average cost per project increased to \$26,000 due to contractor costs and reduced federal funding.
- Pilot program launched with third-party contractors to address CARES backlog.
- Goal: 40 pilot projects by February 2026.
- Address CARES backlog and test alternative delivery models.

Regulatory Timeline, EM&V Updates – led by Jodie Albert – 01:40

Action Items: None

Decisions Made: None

Noted Discussion:

- 2024 Annual Report and Conservation Potential Assessment filed.
- Biennial Conservation Plan in development; draft to be shared with stakeholders for feedback.
- Upcoming EM&V report will include bundled measure analysis.
- Low-income program review planned to begin later in 2025.

Wrap-up - Meeting Schedule & Invitation - led by Caleb Reimer - 01:43

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 October 15, 2025