

Meeting held: 9:00 am – 11:00 am — Meeting Recording available to supplement notes

Attendees

Participants included representatives from Cascade Natural Gas, TRC, WUTC, partner organizations, and invited stakeholders who joined the discussion.

Safety Moment – led by Caleb Reimer – 00:00

Action Items: None

Decisions Made: None

Noted Discussion:

- Caleb welcomed attendees and outlined the meeting agenda.
- The safety topic focused on heart health and wellness.
- Discussion included maintaining a healthy diet, regular exercise, monitoring blood pressure and cholesterol, stress management, hydration, and adequate rest.
- Additional emphasis was placed on staying hydrated during periods of extreme heat.

Review of Previous Action Items – led by Caleb Reimer – 00:04

Action Items: None

Decisions Made: None

Noted Discussion:

- Two action items from the prior meeting were confirmed complete.
- Examples of commercial and industrial social media outreach were provided to WUTC staff.
- Follow-up discussions regarding the 2027 Conservation Potential Assessment (CPA) and continuation of work with ICF were completed.
- Members were invited to provide input to help shape the upcoming CPA effort.

Quarterly Portfolio Update – Commercial & Industrial Program – led by Brian Farnsworth – 00:10

Action Items:

- Continue monitoring previously delayed large customer projects and future project pipeline opportunities.
- Gather stakeholder feedback for upcoming EM&V review activities.

Decisions Made: None

Noted Discussion:

- Through Q2 2026, the program achieved approximately 250,000 therms, issued roughly \$645,000 in incentives, and completed 32 natural gas savings measures.
- Performance was substantially ahead of target, reaching approximately 97% of the annual therm goal by midyear.
- Forecasts indicate the program is likely to exceed the annual target and remain on track for biennial objectives.
- Custom projects contributed the majority of therm savings, particularly greenhouse heat curtain installations.
- Additional high-performing measures included water heaters, boilers, heat recovery applications, and laundry-related projects.
- Marketing efforts included billboard advertising, digital campaigns, contractor outreach events, webinars related to increased incentives, and customer education initiatives.
- Significant attention was given to increasing participation within the Kitsap Peninsula service area.
- Pipeline projects included YMCA upgrades, Longview School District retro-commissioning projects, grocery store refrigeration upgrades, and additional greenhouse heat curtain projects.
- Discussion included questions regarding previously delayed large commercial projects and future evaluation plans for emerging measures such as greenhouse heat curtains.
- Cascade indicated future EM&V activities will include review of commercial and industrial measures installed during the current evaluation cycle.

Residential Program Update – led by Jesse LeGault – 00:23

Action Items: None

Decisions Made: None

Noted Discussion:

- Residential program activity continued at record levels through the first half of 2026.
- Approximately 584,000 therms had been saved by June 30, exceeding annual planning expectations.
- More than 6,000 measures were completed, with incentive spending surpassing \$9 million.
- Therm savings increased approximately 25% compared to the same period in the prior year.
- Point-of-sale rebate delivery and contractor engagement were cited as key drivers of participation.
- Attic insulation remained the largest contributor to therm savings.
- Other notable measures included air sealing, furnaces, floor insulation, duct sealing, water heating measures, and smart thermostats.
- Confirmed filing deadlines associated with recent residential program reporting requirements had been met.

Low-Income Program Update – led by Srishti Singh – 00:33

Action Items: None

Decisions Made: None

Noted Discussion:

- Thirty-two projects and 126 individual measures were completed during the reporting period.
- Average project cost was approximately \$30,000 with average savings approaching 200 therms per home.
- Project costs ranged from less than \$2,000 to approximately \$97,000.
- Staff noted a trend toward larger, more comprehensive projects and higher overall project costs.
- Agency-level participation results were reviewed, showing variation between projected and actual completions.

- Pilot program results included two completed projects with four additional projects in the queue.
- Pilot projects included more measures per home than the standard program and achieved similar therm savings per project.
- Staff also briefly reviewed ongoing discussions related to community-scale weatherization initiatives.

Regulatory Updates and EM&V Activities – led by Jodie Albert – 00:42

Action Items:

- Cascade to distribute the draft Low-Income EM&V report for stakeholder review once complete.
- Begin discussions with Qualus regarding the next four-year EM&V contract cycle.

Decisions Made: None

Noted Discussion:

- Initial results from the Low-Income Evaluation, Measurement, and Verification study indicate effective targeting of eligible customers in both Washington and Oregon.
- A draft report is expected to be shared with advisory group members in August, followed by a formal review period.
- Participants discussed providing additional presentations of findings to weatherization service providers.
- Cascade outlined plans for the next four-year EM&V cycle:
 - Commercial and Industrial evaluation.
 - Residential equipment & process evaluation.
 - Residential envelope study.
 - Future Low-Income program evaluation.
- Discussion included the role of billing analysis, process evaluations, and customer experience assessments in EM&V efforts.

2027 Conservation Potential Assessment (CPA) – led by Jodie Albert & Ken Walter (ICF) – 00:50

Action Items:

- Proceed with CPA contracting activities and project kickoff.
- Continue engagement with the Equity Advisory Group regarding future CPA inputs.

Decisions Made: None

Noted Discussion:

- ICF provided an overview of the CPA process and objectives.
- The assessment will support conservation goal-setting, resource planning, and future program design.
- Measure development will include review of utility programs, regional technical resources, industry studies, and emerging technologies.
- The study will update customer and market characterizations using current consumption data and updated forecasting assumptions.
- Potential analyses will include:
 - Technical Potential.
 - Achievable Technical Potential.
 - Achievable Economic Potential.
- A sensitivity analysis based on state emissions goals will also be conducted.
- Discussion included evaluation priorities, source selection methodology, and treatment of emerging technologies.
- Members discussed opportunities to incorporate equity and energy burden considerations into future planning efforts.
- Participants highlighted the importance of evaluating schedules and risks associated with large commercial projects when establishing future goals.
- Preliminary scheduling anticipates project activities beginning in August, draft results during the spring of 2027, and final filing aligned with future IRP milestones in May 2027.

Wrap-Up and Next Meeting – led by Caleb Reimer – 01:15

Action Items: None

Decisions Made: None

Noted Discussion:

- Caleb thanked participants for their involvement and feedback.
- Meeting recordings and meeting minutes will be posted publicly following completion.
- Members were encouraged to share questions, recommendations, and future discussion topics with Cascade staff.
- The next Conservation Advisory Group meeting is scheduled for **October 14, 2026, at 9:00 AM.**