

Facilitator Synthesis and Proposals based on Homework B: Evolving CAEECC HW Before Meeting #2

Published: 7/27/23

Meeting #2 is August 3 from 9:30am PT - 1:30pm PT via Zoom.

About Homework B:

In Homework B, Work between Meeting #1 and Meeting #2, Evolving CAEECC Working Group (ECWG) Members were asked to participate by answering a few Meeting #1 Follow-up Questions and read a few documents and answer relevant reflection questions about them. The original responses from Homework B are available to view through the [Evolving CAEECC WG Website](#).

What this Document Is

As Facilitators, Common Spark Consulting attempts to summarize Homework Responses ahead of the next meeting. In this instance, the summary is organized in a couple ways: :

- A. By offering responses to questions asked within the homework
- B. By offering draft proposals to move forward towards actions (up for discussion with WG Members)

The document covers four key topics:

1. [Addressing Questions About Meeting #1](#)
2. [Addressing Further Requested Information](#)
3. [Feedback on Meetings](#)
4. [Facilitator Proposals](#)

In an effort to implement the suggestions from the homework on simplicity, the Facilitation Team makes every attempt in this document to respond plainly, clearly, and without technical jargon.

1. Addressing Questions About Meeting #1 from Homework B

Many clarifying questions posed by Members will be directly addressed at Meeting #2 including: the purpose and goals of ECWG and the work of the Composition, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (CDEI) Working Group (WG). In short the Facilitation Team provides a [Simplified Charge for the Evolving CAEECC Working Group](#).

All topical questions are answered below in the frequency of issues raised:

- **What is the Primary Objective of ECWG?** The primary objective of ECWG has been developed and proposed in a draft Prospectus and can be further refined by ECWG: The goal of ECWG is to better align CAEECC to be more inclusive by practicing and incorporating justice, diversity, equity principles, and to the ways the energy efficiency (EE) portfolio has changed since 2015. CAEECC is governed by a set of documents, in part from the CPUC, and in part as developed by CAEECC. ECWG can make recommendations for the CAEECC and CPUC on how to update those documents.
- **If ECWG's objective is to provide recommendations, what are the steps and pathways for CAEECC to incorporate and actualize the recommendations?** Today¹, CAEECC's process for reviewing, incorporating, and actualizing recommendations is as follows:
 - A working group submits a set of recommendations to the Full CAEECC
 - Full CAEECC discusses the recommendations and eventually seeks to approve as is, approve with modifications, or not approve the recommendations of a working group
 - Recommendations in the past have mostly focused on very technical outcomes, like submitting comments to the energy efficiency regulatory proceeding² advising the CPUC adopts a specific definition for a given process.
 - Some recommendations by the ECWG may *also* require decisionmaking from a higher authority, such as the CPUC. Those recommendations will need to be forwarded to the CPUC for final determination.
- **Will the work of ECWG eventually create a more affordable energy for Communities of Concern and disenfranchised BIPOC? Will ECWG be able to impact the kinds of programs CAEECC advises?** It is possible, though indirectly.. ECWG is rethinking the role of CAEECC as an advisory body to energy efficiency (EE) program designers and regulators (the regulators of energy efficiency programs is the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)). ECWG can re-shape the composition, goal, and process of CAEECC, a critical advisor of regulators who can direct how energy efficiency programs are implemented in communities, including Communities of Concern. Energy efficiency can help reduce energy costs of consumers by reducing the amount of energy needed to run a task (like run an A/C). However, energy efficiency programs do not interface with customer energy bill rate setting.
- **What is success for ECWG?** Great question! Some of success is outlined in the prospectus, but the fuller concept of what defines ECWG success has yet to be

¹ This working group has the ability to review and change this process, if so desired and prioritized.

² Energy Efficiency Regulatory Proceeding: this is the government process where issues around energy efficiency programming is heard, deliberated, and governed.

determined! Facilitators would like to work with ECWG to map this out. [See Facilitator Proposal for Defining Success Below.](#)

- **Can ECWG jointly determine what it would take to bring newcomers without EE program backgrounds to a level of understanding and access to information, to ensure that knowledge differences won't result in power differences?** Yes! Through the Homework B as well as future discussions, the Facilitation Team strives for this. [See Facilitator Proposal for Community Agreements Below.](#)
- **What DEI or Racial Equity training, environmental justice, energy equity related workshops, or self-learning/readings have CAEECC members, CPUC commissioners and staff participated in and what was learned that they want to try to put into practice?** The Facilitation Team can only speak to trainings that they have convened for these audiences. So far, CAEECC and relevant CPUC staff have participated in a DEI Kickoff to level-set why equity is important in energy efficiency and looked into some historical context of why inequities exist. CAEECC and relevant CPUC staff have also participated in a training held by Courageous Conversations about how to have conversations about race and why having said conversations are important, relevant, and applicable. CAEECC Membership is on a path to participate in more trainings, specifically on applying equity and racial justice learnings in the energy space. At this time, if you'd like to offer suggestions, you may to facilitator@caeccc.org. The ECWG Facilitation Team will ask the CAEECC Lead Facilitator about requesting CAEECC members to volunteer to fill out their self-learnings in a document to be shared with ECWG, however, unless a specific recommendation by ECWG approved by CAEECC, the Facilitation Team cannot require that CAEECC Members fill out this information.
- **What is the charge or duties of the ECWG Leadership Team, where does this power structure (4 people) arise from, and what was the process by which they were selected?** There are two "leadership teams" to speak of:
 - The **CAEECC leadership team** is selected based on the process outlined in CAEECC Groundrules. Co-chairs for CAEECC are nominated and approved annually and CPUC ex-officio who sit on leadership are selected from staff.
 - The **ECWG Leadership Team** was selected based on applications that indicated 'Yes, we'd like to be on leadership', since there were sufficient candidates that indicated 'Yes'. In addition, the Leadership Team was selected to include representations of all of the following: CAEECC vs non-CAEECC Members, folks with EE knowledge, folks with JEDI/inclusion knowledge, folks who have previous experience with CAEECC, and Compensation Pilot Grantees. The Leadership Team for ECWG established the objectives they wished to pursue, as a living, changeable set knowing that the needs of ECWG Members would likely change. These objectives are:
 - Being a liaison to the WG Members: setting up check ins with WG Members

- Ensuring the WG achieves its goals by holding the facilitators + WG accountable
 - Helping set the strategy and tone of the WG (mostly through being a liaison + material review)
 - Reviewing materials for red flags as appropriate
- **Ultimately, are there any topics/recommendations ECWG might want to make regarding the CAEECC that are legally not in our scope or off-limits, and why?** Currently, the Facilitation Team is unaware of any topics so far. As such topics arise, CPUC ex-officio may be able to guide ECWG and provide reasoning.
- **Will the recent energy efficiency Decision ([D.23-06-55](#)) impact group discussions/prospectus?** The recent Decision could minimally impact the ECWG discussions but the prospectus is not anticipated to change. The Decision acknowledges the importance of considering the ECWG's recommendations before the Commission makes significant changes regarding energy efficiency portfolio oversight. The Decision asks ECWG to think about CAEECC's portfolio oversight role. The Facilitators will introduce this as a topic later in the ECWG process.
 - **What is the future scope of the EE proceeding given the recent energy efficiency Decision since that is where the CAEECC engage?** The recent decision doesn't change the scope of the EE proceeding. The Commission will wait until the ECWG concludes before determining whether any additional, formal portfolio oversight group is necessary.
- **Will ECWG cover the CPUC Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan in more detail and does this document set a limit on the kinds of inclusionary principles CAEECC could align to?** The Facilitation Team does not plan to cover the ESJ Action Plan in more detail. ECWG and its efforts are not to be limited by the ESJ Action Plan.
- **What is the Energy Efficiency Application and Business Plan proceeding? And what is its timeline(s).** The Energy Efficiency Business Plan Application proceeding (A.22-02-005) is a regulatory docket/case where the program administrators, including IOUs and CCAs, request the Commission's approval for a 10-year portfolio of energy efficiency programs. Business Plans describe how the program administrators will meet energy efficiency goals and establish high level budgets. The Commission recently approved the Business Plans (with modifications) via Decision D.23-06-055. With approval of the Business Plans and related budgets, the main purpose of the proceeding was fulfilled and, therefore, the proceeding was closed. Outstanding issues related to oversight of the EE portfolio are expected to occur via Rulemaking R.13-11-005.
- **Will ECWG allow us to look at the Marijuana cultivators strain on the power grid and the subsequent costs being passed on to ALL consumers; as opposed to the costs being relegated to the most egregious power consumers?** This is outside of the scope of the ECWG and is likely also outside the scope of the EE proceeding (unless new EE rebates or programs are developed specifically for

this industry). The impact of a specific industry on the grid and cost recovery from that industry would likely need to be addressed in a new, distinct proceeding

2. Addressing Further Requested Information in Homework B

- **Past recommendations and how they've affected the populations ECWG is trying to target.**
- **An understanding of navigating the CAEECC website.** The Facilitation Team recognizes CAEECC Website is not current with design and accessibility standards (this update is planned to coincide with any recommendations ECWG gives to CAEECC). If you have difficulty navigating or finding information, please reach out to the facilitation team at facilitator@caeccc.org.
- **A deep dive on energy efficiency programs.** The Facilitation Team and ECWG Leadership Team will convene to figure out pathways for interested ECWG to learn more. Perhaps this could be a deep dive fireside chat with folks with energy efficiency program knowledge.
- **Where is Appendix 6 with the full CAEECC restructuring recommendations mentioned in the CDEI partial report?** The full [CDEI Final Report](#)
- **Salient points of the CPUC ESJ Action Plan.** Relevant goals of the CPUC ESJ Action Plan to CAEECC might include:
 - Consistently integrate equity and access considerations throughout CPUC proceedings and other efforts.
 - Increase investment in clean energy resources to benefit ESJ communities, especially to improve local air quality and public health.
 - Increase climate resiliency in ESJ communities.
 - Enhance outreach and public participation opportunities for ESJ communities to meaningfully participate in the CPUC's decision-making process and benefit from CPUC programs.
 - Promote economic and workforce development opportunities in ESJ communities.
- **Establish Community Agreements with ECWG.** The Facilitation Team will host a conversation about this at Meeting #2. [See Facilitator Proposal for Community Agreements Below](#).
- **A Power Map of the CA energy system.** The Facilitation Team is not envisioning having the time or capacity to do this as a group, but we invite folks to develop independently the tools and exercises they need to navigate ECWG issues.
- **Will ECWG define what Equity and Inclusion looks like and feels like from a Community perspective or will ECWG be handed down a script from above that dictates what Equity and Inclusion looks like from an agency/industry perspective?** We welcome ECWG to consider its own definitions in the process of its work. Definitions in the CPUC ESJ Action Plan may be a helpful starting point and are used across different proceedings and initiatives already.
- **Would Communities of Concern who may get included in CAEECC be only an "advisory body", or will their participation lead to significant and legally binding**

policy changes? This would depend on a) the recommendations that come out of ECWG and b) if those recommendations are adopted. As of today, CAEECC is an advisory-only body, so every CAEECC Member can only advise, however, sometimes that advice gets folded in to make significant legally binding policy changes.

- **Information on the Equity Segment of the energy efficiency market rate programs.** The Facilitation Team has released an Onboarding Video that may provide more information on this topic. The Equity Segment allows for energy efficiency programs where the primary purpose is to better reach underserved communities.
- **Concrete examples of how the CAEECC has previously weighed in on or influenced the EE proceeding would help me contextualize the existing CAEECC.**
- **Background on the creation process for the CPUC ESJ Action Plan, specifically who designed it and their intentions.** The CPUC ESJ Action Plan was first created in 2019 And modified in April 2022. The plan was developed by staff at the CPUC who conducted a community engagement process. More information can be found on the [CPUC's ESJ Action Plan Webpage](#).

3. Feedback Meetings

3.1 Feedback on Full CAEECC Meeting #38 (6/21)

ECWG Members who attended the Full CAEECC Meeting on 6/21 felt that the meeting carried a lot of information and provided some insight in the current practice of CAEECC. One member felt that the Full CAEECC Meeting was not representative of themselves.

3.2 Suggestions for productive ECWG Collaboration

Members provided a plethora of suggestions for collaboration within this group. Some of these include:

- Active listening
- Respect
- A Community Board
- A Resource or Reference Page
- Rotating small group discussions
- In-person meeting opportunities
- Visual aids and virtual tools

Many of these suggestions are proposed in the Facilitator Proposals below. The Facilitation Team also plans to integrate small group discussions at meetings, a resource/reference sheet and virtual tools to help garner creative conversation. Due to funding limitations for Compensation Pilot Grantees, ECWG will not meet in person.

4. Facilitator Proposals based on Homework B

4.1 Getting to know ECWG Members

The Facilitation Team thoroughly reviewed suggestions and comments made both through Homework B responses and those interpreted through additional conversations including Meeting #1, the Compensation Pilot Grantee Walkthrough, and Leadership Team calls. The Facilitation Team proposes the following:

1. Allow for one-on-one interaction with other working group members through “ice-breakout sessions” at each ECWG Meeting. ECWG Members will be randomly paired with an ECWG Member at each meeting. Prompts for these sessions will combine personal touches as well as work-related information, for example, ‘why does ECWG matter to you’, ‘what personal values do you bring to ecwg’?
2. Create a set of community agreements to foster a “safe space where people feel empowered to express their freedom of thought fearlessly, but respectfully.” [See Facilitator Proposal for Community Agreements Below.](#)
3. Create a Community Bulletin Board for sharing of information and opportunities that is simple and easy to access
4. Create a Information Hub for learning more about CAEECC topics
5. Define “success” at Meeting #2 and establish Values and Principles for the Working Group starting with the [Facilitator Proposals](#) below.
6. Post the COI Disclosures to the ECWG Webpage, including any volunteered disclosures beyond the COI Policy parameters
7. Offer check-in opportunities with ECWG Leadership Team, beginning with ECWG Leader office hours to ask questions and explore ideas.

4.1.1 Community Agreements

Based on insight from the ECWG, the Facilitators propose the following Community Agreements *in addition to the [Group Norms and Groundrules](#).*

Community Agreements for ECWG - Facilitator Proposal

- Every ECWG Member is equal, no one Member has more or less power than another, no type of information is valued more or less than another.
- Listen with the intention of listening wholeheartedly and respectfully. Listen with a purpose of sharing empathy to better understand where others bring their perspectives.
- Accept that there is no “one right way”, be open-minded.
- When countering, offer critique to a concept, not a person.

- View differences of opinion as helpful rather than harmful.
- Step into vulnerability, courage, and bravery.
- Value expertise wherever it shines, including the lived/living experiences of WG Members.
- Use language inclusively, without derogatory terms or technical jargon. Keep responses and recommendations in plain English.
- Be patient to allow for Member comprehension and recognize everyone is learning as we go.
- Share the mic. Share responsibility to ensure all participants have an opportunity to express their opinions.

4.1.2 Community Bulletin Board

The Facilitation Team has put together a [Community Bulletin Board](#) via Google Docs for the most accessible, simple collaboration tool that is already within the ECWG toolbox. The Facilitation Team asks ECWG Members to collaborate with respect and mutuality in the board as well as to respect the fine line between sharing information and marketing it.

4.1.3 Information Hub

The Facilitation Team has put together an [Information Hub](#) for resources that are directly related to the work ECWG is engaging in, whereas the Community Bulletin Board is more tangential and/or related to ECWG Members as individuals. The Facilitation Team asks ECWG Members to collaborate with respect and mutuality.

4.1.4 Working Group Values and Principles

The Facilitation Team recognized a common values and principles supported by Working Group members. They are summarized here:

Values and Principles for the Work ECWG Produces - Facilitator Proposal

- Seek to better the quality of life for Communities of Concern by mitigating undue harm and burden on Communities of Concern and their representatives.
- Seek equitable outcomes, not for the benefit of any individual representation, but for the collective and California as a whole.
- Strive to adhere to the [Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing](#).

- Question the distribution of benefits and harm (if applicable).

Many ECWG Members noted a desire to define “what would success look like” in terms of both deliverable but also process..The Facilitation Team sees success as:

1. Meeting the charge as outlined in the Final Prospectus
2. In the process of meeting the charge, working group members adhere to the Community Agreements.
3. That the recommendations from the working group reflect the Values and Principles outlined above.

4.2 Reaching Consensus

Many Members raised realistic concerns about how to reach consensus, yet also hope to do so. A few Members argued that reaching consensus will take trust building and that setting a form for consensus building now may be premature as the group needs to define their priorities first. Based on insight from the ECWG, the Facilitators propose the following Consensus Building Process.

Consensus Building Process for ECWG - Facilitator Proposal

- Members will listen with intention for sharing empathy with others to better understand where each Member is approaching with their perspectives (Community Agreement #1)
- Members who disagree with recommendations in part or in full, will present alternative recommendations as appropriate and in adherence to the Community Agreements.
- Consensus will be achieved if everyone indicates support for a proposal. Support could range from enthusiastic support to “I can live with that” level of tolerance.
- Members will be encouraged and asked to note their range of support/tolerance and any preferred alternatives. Members will be asked to present reasons for their level of support to facilitate a more holistic, inclusive, and productive conversation.
- Any proposal that fails to meet consensus will require the group to develop amendments or alternate proposals.
- In the event that consensus is not reached for a particular topic or recommendation (after every effort to reach support), it will be noted in the final recommendations along with alternatives that were offered but also did not achieve consensus.

4.3 Setting a Prospectus/Charge

In responses, Members provided feedback about the Working Group Draft Prospectus. Many Members raised concerns about the technical jargon and complexity of the document. Many Members also noted that the charge is daunting.

For simplification and clarification, the Facilitation Team proposes the following charge. In addition, at Meeting #2, the Facilitation Team will host a Composition, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (CDEI) Working Group Member to walk through the CDEI recommendations to establish greater clarity to the topic areas listed under Bullet #2 below.

Prospectus and Charge - Facilitator Proposal

- The Evolving CAEECC Working Group is tasked to reconsider the CAEECC Scope, Objectives, and Purpose in relation to inclusionary practices and the changes within the regulatory proceeding since the Coordinating Committee's inception.
- By reconsidering the CAEECC Scope, Objectives, and Purpose, ECWG will endeavor to expand inclusionary practices within the structure of CAEECC, including, but not limited to, the following topic areas:
 - Composition/representation within CAEECC and eligibility requirements to become a CAEECC or CAEECC Working Group Member
 - Compensation for prospective CAEECC Members, Working Group Members to engage with CAEECC, or beyond
 - The technical nature of CAEECC and potential need for building competency to engage with CAEECC on a level in comparison to other members
 - Recruitment and retention of CAEECC Members, Working Group Members, and other interested contributors
 - Facilitation of CAEECC or CAEECC activities (including Working Groups and Workshops)
 - Building accountability into the restructuring of CAEECC by measuring its effectiveness
- The Evolving CAEECC Working Group will prioritize topics for discussion during Meeting #2 for the group's process. *As the Working Group continues, Evolving CAEECC Working Group Members may revisit the prioritized topics identified in Meeting #2 and reprioritize them as deemed fit through consensus.*
- The Evolving CAEECC Working Group will recommend actions for CAEECC to take—in terms of its restructuring as envisioned by the Evolving CAEECC

Working Group—through a formal Final Report. Recommendations will be consensus-based as defined by the Working Group.