CAEECC EMSWG Meeting #6 Summary

Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2024
Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm PT

On January 31, 2024, the Equity & Market Support Working Group (EMSWG) met for its sixth Meeting via Zoom. There were over 30 attendees, including representatives from 15 EMSWG Member organizations and 3 representatives from Ex-Officio agencies, as well as 16 Members of the Public (see Appendix A for a full list of meeting attendees). This meeting was facilitated by Katie Wu (Wu) of Common Spark Consulting and supported by Suhaila Sikand (Sikand) of Common Spark Consulting and Susan Rivo (Rivo) of Raab Associates.

Supporting meeting materials are available at: https://www.caeecc.org/equity-market-support-wg-mtg-6. Relevant materials include:

- Agenda (*01-31-2024 EMSWG Meeting #6 - Agenda (posted 01-24-24)*)
- Slide Deck (*01-31-2024 EMSWG Meeting #6 - Slide Deck (posted 01-24-24)*)
- Definitions (*Initial Definitions for Market Support Indicators (posted 01-24-24)*)
- Emerging Recommendations (*Emerging Recommendations Survey for Equity Indicators Results (posted 01-24-24)*)

Overview

Key Meeting Takeaways:
- For Equity Indicator #2, there was no additional opposition to using ex-ante first-year gross savings values multiplied by a PA-specific electric or gas rate.
- Although imperfect, CEDARS is currently the best available existing platform for quarterly reporting of Indicators, and annual reporting can be done through Annual Reports and/or PA Workshops.
- Members discussed the importance and challenges of collecting and reporting on nonclaimable savings. Currently, a majority of PAs are not reporting nonclaimable savings — except for one REN — due to the lack of a shared definition and measurement methods.
- More discussion is needed on how to count multifamily (MF) and public sector participants because who/what is meant to be captured and how it is reported still needs to be determined.
- There was general support that partnership should be inclusive of both contracted and non-contracted working relationships, and collaborations should continue to be defined within the reporting of Market Support Indicator #13 as required through contextual descriptions.

This meeting summary is intended to capture this meeting's discussion of ideas, concerns, alternative options for proposals and consensus; it is a high-level summary and not a transcript.

Key acronyms that may be used in this document include California Energy Efficiency Coordinating Committee (CAEECC), California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), Energy Division (ED), energy efficiency (EE), working group (WG), disadvantaged communities (DAC) and hard-to-reach (HTR) communities, CPUC's Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan (ESJ Action Plan), Program Administrator (PA), Investor-owned utilities (IOU), Regional Energy Network (REN), community-based organization (CBO), Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DACAG), and Total System Benefits (TSB).

Welcome & Introductions

Slides 1 - 4

Wu welcomed and introduced participants to the sixth meeting of the EMSWG. Wu presented the meeting objectives, which included:

1. Review results of Equity Indicators Survey
2. Finalize recommendations on Equity Indicators
3. Test for consensus on Market Support Indicator Definitions

To achieve meeting objectives, the Facilitation Team developed the following agenda:

- Welcome
- Topic 1: Overview of Equity Indicators Survey Results
- Topic 2: Equity Indicators Related to Savings
- Topic 3: Method to Account for Nonclaimable Savings
- Topic 4: Counting Multi-family Participants and Clarifying "by sector"
- Topic 5: Discussion on Collaboration
- Topic 6: Testing for Consensus on Market Support Indicator Definitions
- Wrap Up and Next Steps

Topic 1: Overview of Equity Indicators Survey Results

Slides 5 - 7

Wu summarized survey results from the previous Homework. Of note, she highlighted both near-consensus and non-consensus items. These included the following:

Near-Consensus:

- Uses for Indicator data
- Definition of "equity target participant"

- More guidance (or at least more agreement) on how to report on the Indicators is needed
- Avoid redundant reporting practices
- Do not use an average rate across PAs to calculate bill savings / use PA-specific rates to calculate bill savings
- Use total number of sector participants as the denominator for Equity Indicators #11 and 12

Non-Consensus:

- Whether more guidance is needed from the Commission on equity definitions (i.e., hard-to-reach, disadvantaged community, and underserved) - generally it seems there is enough guidance on what to collect, but there may be benefit in further discussing feasibility and cost to collect data. WG members identified privacy concerns and lack of trust as barriers to collecting data.
- How to report on statewide programs (this issue is not unique to Indicators)
- Which savings values to report and how to report (i.e., CEDARS, EM&V Annual Report), including whether and how to capture nonclaimable savings
- How to count multi-family participants

Members had no questions or comments regarding Topic #1.

Topic 2: Equity Indicators Related to Savings

Slides 8 - 10

Wu presented the survey results pertaining to Equity Indicator #2 and the impacts of applying these results to Equity Indicators #5-9 for consistency. She noted there was near agreement to calculate bill savings using ex-ante first-year gross energy savings values and a PA-specific electric or gas rate.

Wu then guided the group through discussion to identify reactions to specific statements (*italicized below*) while she live-edited notes onto the slide (screenshot included below).

Summary of Discussion on Topic #2

Equity Indicator #2 (Sum of equity target participants expected first-year bill savings in equity segment, by sector; Q, S) should be calculated with ex ante, first-year gross savings values and a PA-specific electric or gas rate

- A Member from ED asked for discussion on the Equity Indicator #2 assumption that bill increases wouldn't be captured on an ex-ante basis through CEDARS and the implications of it. They asked for clarification on what is or isn't reflected in the data.

- Members shared their understanding that CEDARS data for fuel substitution measure captures negative savings (i.e., increases in electricity use) which would allow one to capture bill increases. A PA Member elaborated that in 2024, PAs no longer need to convert data points for fuel substitution measures to therms or kWh due to total system benefit (TSB) reporting, which means that data in CEDARS is able to estimate a bill increase (shown through a negative value).
  - A Member raised concern that using TSB completely masks the critical measurement of therms and kWh for disaggregated increases and decreases among gas versus electric savings. Raised concern that the social cost of carbon is not included. Elevated that the details of Indicator quantification need to be transparently and simply reported.
- A Member raised that CEDARS can't capture increases in energy usage for a) new appliances in buildings that historically did not have that appliance nor b) appliances that have been fixed. Raised curiosity about how one could capture these scenarios.
  - A PA Member raised that baselines will play a factor in CEDARS reporting. Provided an example that if the baseline assumption is that a customer would install the new appliance regardless, then if a more efficient unit is used through a program, this can be claimed. However, if the customer wasn't planning to install a new appliance and the new appliance is installed for health, comfort, or safety through the Equity program, then no energy saving can be claimed.
- A PA Member clarified terminology that "ex-ante gross first-year" refers to savings values for an intervention that has occurred but before an impact evaluation. Requested to not use the term "forecasted" in relation to "ex-ante" as "forecasted" means before an intervention is rolled out.
- A Member noted the importance of specifying the characteristics of a metric, to whom they are attributed, who may benefit or be harmed by a measure, and which customers are being measured to assess impacts.
- Wu posed whether CEDARS is the right source to report these details and whether the values in CEDARS are a good enough proxy to understand impact.
  - A Member from ED noted that ex-ante values in CEDARS may not accurately capture baselines and conditions for Equity Segment participants and thus suggested to explore whether any element of the Home Energy Reports (HERs) could provide insights on savings. Members discussed that HERs are based on a large sample population, making it great to tease out small percentages of savings, however, the data from a large sample size might not apply well for a small subpopulation. Members raised concern that HERs wouldn't be useful, some noting it uses consumption data and that HERs may not actually have access to customer bill data. A PA Member agreed that HERs is successful but savings calculation approaches might not extend to the interventions in the Equity Segment (the meter-based quasi-experimental design approach

used to calculate savings for HERs may not apply to the Equity segment indicators). Similarly a Population NMEC approach may not apply. Members discussed with ED which elements of HERs could apply and whether an Energy Score could be leveraged, knowing it's not a perfect system. A Member from ED clarified they are looking for non-CEDARs alternatives. A PA Member asked for clarification: are you asking to utilize existing HERs or add the process to new programs, or all programs?
    - A Member shared preference to disaggregate savings and increases attributed to each energy type and for emissions. Requested specification if a saving is due to self-generation. Raised concern that TSB would mask granularity of data. Another Member argued that TSB wouldn't mask anything.
    - A PA Member noted that the Equity segment and Equity programs are imperfect. Questioned if the eTRM is good enough to support savings claims, then why isn't it good enough for this Indicator. Suggested if the data is not good enough for this Indicator, wouldn't it be better to improve the estimates in the way they are captured versus making adjustments to apply it.
    - A Member noted that CEDARS isn't perfect, but it is the most granular reporting platform available. Elaborated that the challenge of this WG is determining the best way to report the benefits, but that this challenge isn't necessarily tied only to CEDARS, that even another database would present these challenges due to the nature of these programs and their deviance from traditional reporting methodologies. Members discussed that this meant that as EMSWG interprets the adopted Indicators, the WG should think about how to define them in the way that is most useful for stakeholders. Another Member noted that a future CPUC effort could reevaluate any shortcomings and gaps in the Indicators and tracking as the CPUC commits to the ESJ Action Plan.
    - A Member asked if utilities can use the Participant Test (noting that the test includes customer equipment costs and isn't only bill-focused). A PA Member responded that the Participant Cost Test is valuable, but not applicable to the Equity Indicators.

For consistency with Equity Indicator #2, Equity Indicators #5-9 (covering GHG reductions, energy savings, and Total System Benefit) should be reported as ex-ante, first-year gross values

- A Member asked for clarification on the definitions. Wu noted that "Gross" is ex-ante energy savings values before any adjustment for program influence and "bill savings" are energy savings multiplied by a PA-specific electric or gas rate (bill savings is presented as one aggregated number by sector and by PA). The Member raised concern that the savings data would be bundled by PA and by energy type, and suggested to separate out energy savings by kWh and therms (energy type). A PA Member clarified that Equity Indicator #2 is first-year bill savings in a dollar value and the Facilitator questions are about how to calculate this savings. The Member requested that the calculation and inputs should be completely transparent.

- A Member of the Public noted that setting parameters around these Indicators doesn't prevent PAs from reporting other or related achievements. Requested not to see these parameters as a limitation. Members supported this suggestion.
    - A Member commented that Equity segment achievements should not just be captured or limited to the Equity segment but measured across all Market Support and Resource Acquisition activities.
- A Member of the Public asked if there are other avenues that haven't been explored that are not an annual report to report non-traditional, non-CEDARs values. *Wu assumed that the lack of a response meant there's no other established venue.*
    - A Member of the Public noted that a new requirement from D.23-06-055 is to do a presentation at CAEECC and a mid-year progress update. Suggested this would be a good venue for reporting these benefits.

It is acceptable not to capture energy use increases, bill increases, or nonclaimable savings in Equity Indicators #2 and 5-9.

- A Member from ED asked if EMSWG would like to distinguish between electric and gas bill savings. Members supported one value, one noted that the utility bill is one cost for a customer, and it should be one value, but that it should be clear that electric savings come from specific electric savings and rates, and same for gas. PA Members agreed that one value is beneficial, but noted that in order to calculate a single number, PAs need to calculate them separately anyway so its minimal effort to provide two numbers as opposed to one. A PA Member in support of one value raised concern that by disaggregating the values, context may be lost for fuel substitution purposes or other unique situations and suggested that perhaps there's reference values provided for individuals to parse it out on their own. A Member disagreed and raised concern about letting folks calculate on their own.
- Members discussed that certain territories have two bills, not one (i.e. SCE and SoCalGas).
- A Member also noted that RENs do not have access to either a gas or electric rate other than what is put out by the IOUs. Noted there remains work to determine how to estimate a PA-specific rate to use for kWh and therms (and including kW for business participants). Members discussed gas and electric rates, and a PA Member noted this information is public and thus enough to make an estimate. A Member noted that the flat rate for estimates might mask time-of-use rates and other rate structures and associated costs.
- A PA Member also raised that fuel-substitution measures are likely implemented in conjunction with a customer after having conversations about bill impacts, and thus knowing the energy rate would be important.

- A Member questioned how to calculate HVAC with AC, noting caution to ensure PAs don't double count or subjectively determine how to measure.

Wu summarized the conversation that CEDARs is the best available existing platform, although it may be imperfect. Noted there was no additional opposition to using ex-ante first-year gross savings values multiplied by PA-specific electric or gas rate. Noted these values are able to capture bill increases and fuel substitution projects but not for new or fixed appliances. Noted for the time being, quarterly reporting should occur through CEDARs and annual reporting through Annual Reports and/or PA Workshops.

What are your reactions to the following statements:

1. Equity Indicator #2 (*Sum of equity target participants expected first-year bill savings in equity segment, by sector; Q, S*) should be calculated with ex ante, first-year gross savings values and a PA-specific electric or gas rate
2. For consistency with Equity Indicator #2, Equity Indicators #5-9 (covering GHG reductions, energy savings, and Total System Benefit) should be reported as ex ante, first-year gross values
3. It is acceptable not to capture energy use increases, bill increases, or nonclaimable savings in Equity Indicators #2 and 5-9

Live-edit Notes:

- Ex ante values in CEDARS may not accurately capture baselines and conditions for equity segment participants; could Home Energy Reports or Home Energy Score provide insight on equity segment savings?
- HER savings depend on a very large sample population; not clear that it could be applied to a smaller subpopulation; not sure if bill data can be captured
- Meter-based, quasi-experimental design may not apply to the equity segment; population NMEC approach might not apply well either
- Acknowledge that all ex ante values are imperfect so if the data are good enough for other reporting requirements, why wouldn't it apply for the equity segment?
- For savings claims, CEDARS is the best that we have
- By the nature of equity and market support programs, many may not result in energy savings for TSB → challenge is addressing what is the best way to report the benefits of equity and market support programs
- May want to distinguish electric and gas bill savings - but folks get one bill so may want to keep a single number (but recognize that both electric and gas savings are needed to calculate the total); keep things simple for reporting
- Calculation methods and inputs must be transparent
- Additional context around equity segment achievements can be captured outside of CEDARS
- For fuel substitution projects, might mask savings values; don't want individual values to be taken out of context

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Topic 3: Method to Account for Nonclaimable Savings

Slides 11 - 12

Wu guided the group through discussion questions (*italicized below*) while she live-edited notes onto the slide (screenshot included below).

Summary of Discussion on Topic #3

What is the purpose of capturing nonclaimable savings in the Equity Indicators? Put another way, why is it important to capture and make available data about nonclaimable savings? What methods are PAs already using to calculate and report nonclaimable savings? Should/could these be used by other PAs?

- A PA Member noted that a REN has 3 buckets of savings reported: claim savings (CEDARs); channel savings (MS programs directing participants to Resource

Acquisition programs); nonclaimable savings (developed and implemented but not claimed through CEDARs due to policy issues or lack of paper trail). Noted that the REN's nonclaimable savings are reported through the Annual EM&V Report and calculated using the same methods as savings claims reported in CEDARS and channeled savings.

- PA Members noted that the majority of PAs do not currently report on nonclaimable savings.
    - Several PA Members discussed that nonclaimable savings are difficult to define and, therefore, measure. A Member asked for a definition of nonclaimable savings with examples, perhaps as a PDF. No shared definition currently exists.
    - PA Members noted some examples of nonclaimable savings include those without a paper trail, those outside the year for implementation, those that an implementer might think will happen, etc.
    - A PA Member noted that a PA is able to report Incentive-Only measures that are linked to the eTRM NoSavings Measure.
    - Another PA Member noted that the methods and definitions for nonclaimable savings are not regulated and therefore there would be significant inconsistency across PAs.
    - Sikand clarified if PA Members were implying that nonclaimable savings are subjective rather than objective. A Member disagreed, elevating that the definition of what is being called nonclaimable is part of what is at the heart of equity and justice and should be given ample resources and time, and include invitations for others to join.
- A Member asked if there are other PA programs that are providing an intervention that can't be directly tied to a measure outcome. Suggested to frame these benefits as "capacity building." Asked if Members are on the same page about "nonclaimable savings." A PA Member responded that a nonclaimable saving is some measure that expects energy savings but doesn't have readily available energy savings associated with it due to issues like lack of a preponderance of evidence of program influence. Noted that baseline is important and capturing the benefits of, for example, a language access program. Raised concern that the difficulty of claiming indirect savings (sometimes also referred to as "channeled savings")is in the same realm as nonclaimable savings (e.g., PG&E runs WE&T programs that increase the supply of EE, but this program savings isn't claimable because of the "squishiness" of the data).
- Another PA noted that nonclaimable savings could result from an old workpaper or a retired eTRM measure, which may be adopted later by Equity Segment participants than participants in Resource Acquisition programs. Noted these measures can't be uploaded to CEDARS because of the built-in checks and balances. Noted, however, a PA can set up a no-savings measure in eTRM to report any incentives, bonuses, or fees that CEDARS will accept (i.e., reporting costs for expired measures have a home in CEDARS). Reminded the group that if savings aren't reported, then other benefits (e.g., GHG reductions) aren't as well.

- A Member of the Public suggested a template be developed for additional program achievements as a separate tab in PA reporting on CEDARS. A PA Member responded that trying to segregate this data would be complicated.
- A Member from ED requested information on what Indicators might be more "estimated" than others and that a story behind the Indicator should be conveyed across groups of Indicators. Noted that the only savings benefits are not the only ones that can be claimed; there are non-energy benefits (NEBs). Noted that ideally, one can compare a PA to itself over time rather than PA to PA (where the latter isn't possible currently). Questioned if in the Equity segment data is estimated numbers versus concrete, then these should not be a component of a PA's equity goal, and rather to lean on other concrete measures. Raised that this information is still important even though not a full story.
    - A PA Member noted that the purpose of these indicators is to create accountability for programs and the PAs offering programs. Questioned if more accountability is created by reporting nonclaimable savings (which are unreliable to compare), or less accountability because these data points can't be reconciled across PAs. Questioned if there is simplicity in not reporting them and acknowledging the reason why they aren't reported (i.e., the difficulty of measuring them). Pushed back on the idea that more data is better for this case.
    - A Member noted the Equity segment is to serve Equity customers, identify the best way to serve them, and provide access to services. Agreed there's a lot of value to track nonclaimable savings and tell the story so in the future one can better understand how to better serve these populations.
    - A PA Member raised that talking about the nuances of ambiguous nonclaimable savings doesn't seem helpful right now and suggested to instead study the types of savings we want to be captured in the future and resist the temptation to say if it is or isn't claimable (i.e, has perfect alignment in CEDARS claims). Suggested if there isn't perfect alignment with CEDARS, then identify how to develop a methodology to claim it in CEDARS in the future. Another PA Member agreed, but noted that PAs need these answers soon to develop system configuration. Compared nonclaimable reporting to ESA with broad associations to various values.
    - A Member of the Public noted that imperfect may be better than nothing. Provided an example, if an objective of the Equity segment is to reduce GHGs, and an equity program helps drive energy savings to achieve those savings, and asked if the Commission wants to understand some estimates of how that objective is being met. A Member questioned why this GHG reduction is only an objective of the Equity segment as a whole versus all activities in the EE Portfolio and highlighted that all segments need to center equity.
- A Member noted their disagreement with not tracking nonclaimable savings, noting that they are, in a way benefits, to Communities of Concerns. Cautioned that if they aren't tracked then this does not move towards equity or justice.

Questioned how the group values customers of the Equity segment and life and livability.

- A Member responded that whether a PA reports or does not report nonclaimable savings is also a function of program design. Summarized that some program designs may not generate nonclaimable savings as a measured value. Noted they do generate other equity benefits although they may or may not be officially claimed.

Wu summarized that the group has shared a variety of comments on why nonclaimable savings should be captured, although no definition exist. Highlighted some suggestions for types of nonclaimable savings including indirect savings that may result from participants being referred through Market Support programs or Equity programs into Resource Acquisition programs, expired measures, or values not approved by the Commission. For purposes of Equity indicators, a majority of PAs aren't reporting nonclaimable savings —except for one REN— due to the lack of a definition and methodologies to measure them.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the purpose of capturing nonclaimable savings in the Equity Indicators? Put another way, why is it important to capture and make available data about nonclaimable savings?
2. What methods are PAs already using to calculate and report nonclaimable savings? Should/could these be used by other PAs?

Live-edit Notes:

- SoCalREN reports claimed savings (via CEDARS), channeled savings (from MS programs to other RA programs), nonclaimable savings (developed and implemented but not claimed possibly due to policy or an expired workpaper) - mostly being done through Annual Reports
- Nonclaimable savings use same methods as claimed and channeled savings (e.g., old workpapers or models)
- Not all PAs report nonclaimable savings in Annual Report currently
- Would nonclaimable savings relate to program interventions that support savings to happen elsewhere? Indirect savings would be difficult to quantify
- For nonclaimable savings, consider it an intervention that directly results in savings but for some reason, those savings are not claimed (e.g., policy, lack of supporting data, retired measure) (PG&E and SDG&E) - uploading to CEDARS is not a viable option because of checks on reporting that data
- Could report incentives for nonclaimable savings via CEDARS; if not reporting savings, cannot report other benefits (in CEDARS)
- Other venues for reporting: presentation(s) at CAEECC, include another tab in a workbook uploaded to CEDARS that report program achievements not captured in CEDARS (this would be complicated)
- Lack of a shared definition of "nonclaimable savings" would make any reporting challenging - majority of PAs do not report now
- Some Indicators might be more "estimated" than others - want to tell a story across the Indicators, rather than consider them individually only; recognize that not all benefits are claimed
- When considering what to report, come back to the purpose of Indicators being to hold programs and PAs accountability → are rough estimates able to create accountability?
- Understanding the nonclaimable savings in the Equity segment helps to highlight a need to better serve the Equity segment (in the case that a lot of nonclaimable savings are happening)
- In a future conversation, talk about what types of savings that should be captured for the equity segment and how to get that data

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Topic 4: Counting Multi-family Participants and Clarifying "by sector"

Slides 14 - 17

Wu presented the survey results pertaining to counting Multi-family Participants and the definition of "by sector." She noted that survey responses showed that a majority of respondents think that only individual units should be counted as multi-family participants; some respondents noted that whole buildings should also be counted, albeit separately from individual units

Wu then provided background on each sector to clarify the definition of “by sector” in the indicators’ context. The current sectors as defined by the CPUC and in CEDARs include:

- Residential - inclusive of single- and multi-family
- Commercial - inclusive of small, medium, and large commercial
- Public
- Agricultural
- Industrial
- Cross-cutting (Finance, WE&T, IDSM, C&S)

Wu then guided the group through discussion questions (*italicized below*) while she live-edited notes onto the slide (screenshot included below).

Summary of Discussion on Topic #4

How are multi-family participants already counted and reported in the portfolio? Can that be applied to the Equity Indicators?

- A PA Member clarified that currently multi-family projects are counted as individual units, whole buildings are not counted and that if there are multiple participants within one building, that those projects are reported as individual participants.
- A Member of the Public raised that there are many issues with this, because counting any one iteration doesn’t tell the entire story of work being done in the program. Questioned how interventions are counted in common areas, for example.
    - PA Members noted the ways they track common areas and individuals: a PA wants to track individual and common areas separately; and a REN currently tracks and provides counts and savings for individual units and for common areas.
    - A PA Member suggested that each Indicator might specify how to count this.
    - A Member asked for clarification how PAs track individual units for a multi-family dwelling: via master-meters, with the count of all units in a dwelling, with everything ascribed to the common area, etc. Another Member added that however this is being measured should be transparent, and with the most clear data.
- A Member from ED asked what needs to change in CEDARS to make this all work and suggested the WG make recommendations to the Reporting Program Coordination Group to be able to track these in the platform.

- Wu asked if CEDARS has a flag for multi-family. A PA Member noted that every claim has to have a building type and there are 5 primary ones: Residential (generic), Single Family, Multi-family, Multi-family Common Area, and Mobile Home. Recalled in a previous meeting, someone proposed having a new flag, "any." Disagreed, noting that "I don't know" isn't sufficient as a response.
- Wu asked if multi-family should be a separate sector in CEDARS or if the claims should be distinguished by building type instead.
    - A Member of the Public asked for clarification on the connection of achievements in this sector to claimed savings in CEDARS. Recalled a previous conversation that participation could include technical assistance but it wouldn't show up as a CEDARS claim. Asked what is being considered. Wu clarified that for Equity Indicators #1-4, 10, and 13, whether the sectors, as they're currently defined in CEDARS— assuming that that's the platform where that would be reported—is capturing what is meant to be captured by the Indicators that called out multi-family. A PA Member agreed there's a lot of complexity here.
    - A Member suggested leaving the sectors as is, but allowing for multi-family, multi-family common area, and mobile home to be "subsectors" through existing data tags.
    - A PA Member suggested to align to CEDARS where possible and also note where CEDARS needs updating. Caveated that CEDARS wasn't designed to capture everything these Indicators are asking (like participants without energy savings), similar to how Common Metrics are not entirely captured in CEDARS.
    - A Member noted that originally these indicator counts were supposed to track people touched by a program but not necessarily the completion or installation of a product/service. Suggested that because many of the customers are DAC/underserved populations and in multi-family buildings so it's important to track and potentially tag as Residential. Raised that transparency of what the "count of" (audience) is in a given equity program is important. Highlighted that CEDARS won't be relevant for participant counts unless something is added in CEDARS (because the participant count may include folks who didn't receive a direct energy saving through the program). A PA Member agreed that defining who a participant is is very important (e.g., bill payer, household count) and this number affects the total realized bill savings (e.g., if participant includes 8 household members, the bill savings of $80 is actually only $10 per person). Another Member suggested if you're just trying to capture participation for a program that may not produce claimable or nonclaimable savings, you can still track it in CEDARS, but without a claimed savings attached.
        - Wu asked if CEDARS is currently able to report participants only. A Member of the Public noted yes, but not for claiming participation. A Member from ED recalled there is a checkbox for "unclaimed"

measures. A PA Member noted that, in theory, one could add a blank line with placeholder code to capture participants data but that it adds a lot of lines to claims data. The PA Member suggested a "zero" savings over a checkbox.
    - A PA Member clarified that because there's Building Type in CEDARS, no new flag is needed for "multi-family".
    - A PA in the Public suggested this group needs to determine where to track equity indicators (as CEDARS isn't appropriate necessarily) so PAs can configure their systems. Recommended a CEDARS team representative join the call if this WG will be making recommendations on CEDARs.
- A Member suggested an accessible short document be made for the public to identify what data is captured by CEDARS, how to access it and any reporting requirements. A Member pointed to the existing User Guide. A Member of ED suggested a subject matter expert join a future meeting and a Member responded that a simple FAQ posted immediately would suffice.

Wu summarized that more discussion is needed on how to count multi-family and public sector participants because further clarification is needed on who/what is meant to be captured and how it is reported. Noted that any conversations about adjusting CEDARS should have members of the Reporting team involved.

Should Public Sector participants be counted as projects, facilities, AND local government jurisdictions, and reported together under Equity Indicator 1?

- A Member of the Public noted it's pretty similar to multi-family and that selecting one variant doesn't tell the full story of how equity communities are benefitting from program interventions, and suggested reporting on all kinds of variants (e.g., units, building, projects, jurisdiction, facilities, and projects). Caveated that this suggestion may complicate updating CEDARS, so uploading a spreadsheet to CEDARS instead may make it easier to add the details and more accessible to non-CEDARS users.
    - A Member from ED asked where all the non-CEDARS data will go into and how it may be accessible, e.g. a new system similar to CEDARS but for non-energy savings.
- A PA Member commented that counting at the project level for the public sector may not be the way to start, and asked if PAs should start off collecting data on a high-level and then determine later where granularity is needed.
    - Wu asked if the approach to reporting on Common Metrics started off at a higher level and then became more granular.
- A Member noted that CEDARS might be able to be adjusted as there are 2 variables already in CEDARS' - normalizing unit and number of units. As of now, it is used for savings (e.g., from technology installation), but more options may be added to CEDARS to do multi-family counts.
- A PA Member clarified that the phrase "in CEDARS" refers to the CEDARS database for claims. Noted others chatted about whether tracking could be done

in CEDARS. Requested EMSWG talk about the practicality of suggestions and identify how, without getting too granular on the CEDARS platform. Identified a document area on CEDARS where PAs post Annual Reports with Excel files and a workbook with the Common Metrics data. Put forth a suggestion to follow the same paradigm as Annual Reporting to submit the information via the document-upload area on CEDARS, but noted the challenge is that this is done annually versus quarterly.

  - A Member noted they were posing a general question about CEDARS as a reflection so that folks could recognize the intentionally impenetrable jargon and design of the system that perpetuates inaccessibility, elitism, inequity, and more.

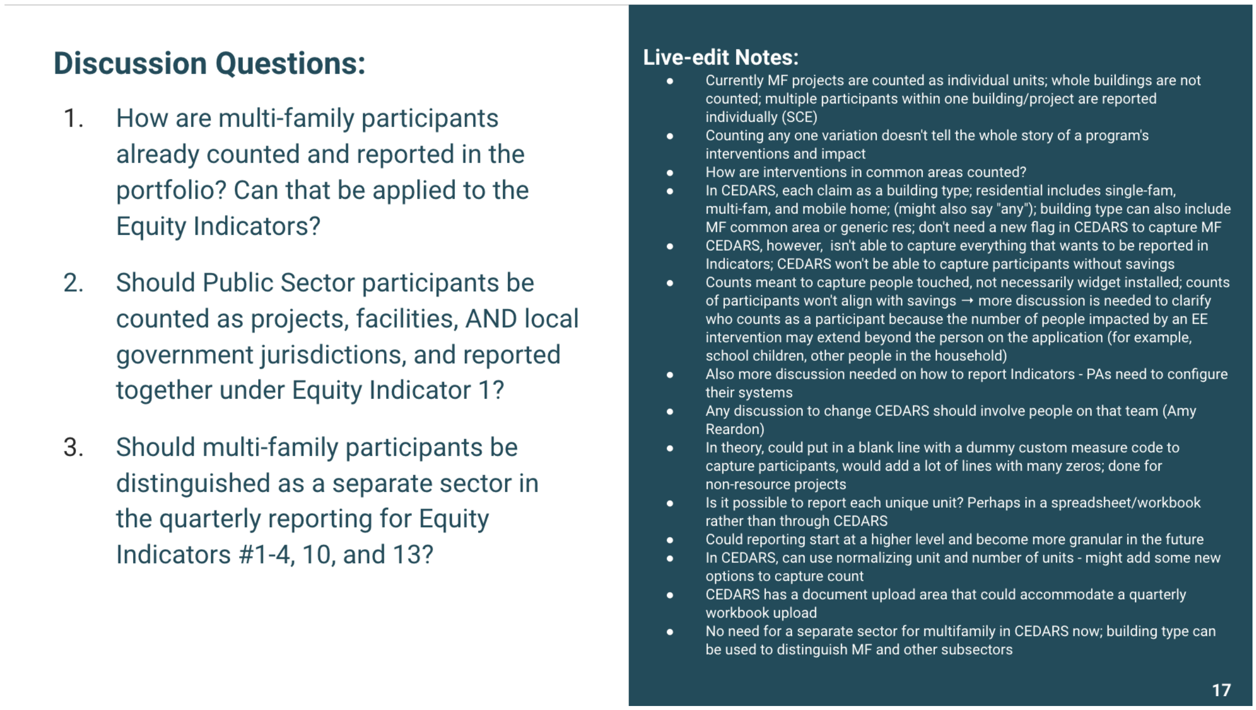
- A Member suggested that identifying the participant as the building owner or a renter/tenant might be simple and is relevant.
- A Member raised concern that transparency and consistency on data needs further clarification and evaluation.
- A Member of the Public noted there are currently 5 report types within CEDARS document section, therefore a separate workbook wouldn't be adding too much clutter.

Wu summarized that more discussion is needed on "how to count participants" as it's not as simple as individual units versus whole buildings because more folks are impacted.

Should multi-family participants be distinguished as a separate sector in the quarterly reporting for Equity Indicators #1-4, 10, and 13?

- A Member commented that there is no need for a separate sector as it is already sufficient for PAs and readers to be able to distinguish and separate sub-sectors that "roll into" the residential sector.

Wu summarized that there is no recommendation to update CEDARS at this point and more experience reporting on these Indicators is needed before developing new tools or databases.



Topic 5: Discussion on Collaboration

Slides 18 - 21

Wu recapped previous discussions on "collaboration" versus "partnership" in specific Market Support Indicators. Based on these discussions, Wu proposed what the application of these definitions would be for Market Support Indicator #13 (Number of collaborations, with contextual descriptions, by business plan sector to jointly develop or share training materials or resources).

Wu then guided the group through discussion questions (*italicized below*) while she live-edited notes onto the slide (screenshot included below).

Summary of Discussion on Topic 5

Are Working Group members ready to make a decision about how to define "collaboration"? (Should collaboration and partnership be defined in the same way? If not, should the distinction be contractual versus non-contractual?) If not, what additional information or actions are needed to support decision-making?

- A Member from ED asked for clarification on what is and is not considered a contracted relationship, e.g., would a partnership with ENERGY STAR be considered a contracted relationship? Would an MOU serve as a contract? A PA Member shared that the PA defines partnership as a legal contract between the PA and another entity, and as there is no legal contract with ENERGY STAR, the relationship with ENERGY STAR would not be considered a partnership. In addition, an MOU would not count as a contracted relationship.

- A Member suggested that collaborations be defined as informal relationships with any type of partner (referenced on Slide 25) and partnerships defined as contracted to maintain the definition already used in the WE&T Metric and to establish a distinction between the two terms. It is important that there is documentation that indicates the relationship within collaborations (e.g., MOU). Another Member agreed and added that partners in a partnership are vested in the outcome of the partnership while collaborators in a collaboration could have different interests in the work that's being done.
- A Member from ED asked for Market Support Indicator #20 (Assessed value of the partnership by partners), if a partnership is a contracted relationship, would the value of the contract be the assessed value.
    - Wu replied that in past discussions, Market Support Indicator #20 is envisioned to be a survey assessing the value of the partnership so there's an implication that the Indicator would not be restricted to the dollar value of the contract.
    - A PA Member added that the value of the contract can be more than the monetary value due to non-tangible benefits, particularly for non-implementer partnerships.
    - A Member from ED raised the potential concern of creating an anti-competitive practice if the value of a contract is estimated to be more than the monetary value.
    - A Member asked if there may be conflicts of interest.
- A Member raised concern that defining partnerships as formal contractual relationships will limit what the Indicators can capture about partnerships, especially since there is only one Indicator to capture collaborations or informal relationships.
    - A PA Member agreed that there are informal relationships, such as with a trade school, that do not need a contract and may be overlooked by the Indicators.
    - A Member suggested that a partnership should not be limited to a contractual relationship, but instead be classified as one of three types: contracted, MOU, informal. A collaboration would be a partnership that is informal or has an MOU. Another Member agreed.
    - A PA Member suggested to define the partner types as formal (contractual) and informal (non-contractual + MOU + letters of collaboration + etc.).
    - A PA Member shared that the past MSMWG did not want to limit "partnership" as contracted relationships, but raised concern about potential double counting. The partnership definition shouldn't be overly broad, but a two-way street. Another PA Member agreed and added that some partners are so under-resourced that formal relationships are infeasible.

- A Member commented that either collaborations or partnerships need to be clear and consistent between the PAs on the type of relationship and whether financial or other non-tangible benefits for each party in agreement is transparent. Another Member agreed.

Wu summarized hearing general support for “partnership” to include both informal and formal relationships with documentation, and to perhaps replace “collaboration” with “partnership” in Market Support Indicator #13.

- A PA Member commented that collaboration is defined by the WE&T Common Metric as “sharing mutually beneficial resources such as training materials, expertise, and marketing/outreach tactics that help achieve WE&T goals and outcomes and that support the collaborating organizations' goals and objectives," and asked if partnerships can be defined as any co-working relationship that is not a collaboration.
- A PA Member commented that collaboration is not the same as partnership and wouldn't require a contractual relationship, and noted that Market Support Indicator #13 requires a contextual description to be included in the reporting so there is no need for a prescriptive definition of collaboration. The Indicator also counts the number of collaborations, not collaborators.
    - A PA Member noted that the PA has been reporting this metric as collaborators (number of organizations) versus the instances of the collaboration.
    - A PA Member asked if CAEECC can propose Indicator language updates for clarity purposes.
- A PA Member commented that partnership and collaboration should not mean the same thing as it is an already-reported Common Metric and could cause confusion if the definition of collaboration is expanded.

Wu summarized that partnership should be inclusive of both contracted and non-contracted working relationships, and collaborations should continue to be defined within the reporting of Market Support Indicator #13 as required through contextual descriptions.

Discussion Questions

1. Are Working Group members ready to make a decision about how to define "collaboration"? If not, what additional information or actions are needed to support decision-making?
2. Given the language included in Market Support Indicator #13, what is the scope of programs that should be captured?

Live-edit Notes:

- For PG&E, "contracted" means having a legal contract; MOU does not count as a contracted relationship
- Collaboration could include MOU or informal partnership; still need documentation; collaboration partners could have a different interest in work being done
- Partnership could be someone contracted; can use type of partner; partners are invested in shared outcomes
- Collaboration only appears in MS #13; limiting "partnerships" to contracted relationships mean that related Indicators only capture information about contracted partners and creates an information gap for more informal working relationships
- General support for defining partnership to include both informal and formal relationships
- When thinking about clarifications - Are the distinctions capturing value and not double counting

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Topic 6: Testing for Consensus on Market Support Definitions

Slides 22 - 30

There was not enough time to cover Topic 6, so Wu proposed to send a survey of suggested Market Support definitions for Members to provide feedback on. The survey responses are due February 9.

Wrap Up and Next Steps

Slides 31 - 34

Wu provided a recap of the day, reminded participants of the meeting objectives, and shared next steps, including:

- Meeting #6 Summary will be posted by February 7.
- A survey will be sent as homework shortly after Meeting #6.
- Meeting #7 materials will be posted by February 13.
- The draft report will be shared by February 14.
- Meeting #7 will be held on February 21, 2024 from 9am-12pm PT.

Appendix A: Attendees

Organization	Name
CAEECC Members	
3C-REN	Erica Helson
AMBAG	Amaury Berteaud
BayREN	Mary Sutter
MCE	Brandon Ewart
Mendota Group	Grey Staples
PG&E	Rob Bohn
RCEA/RuralREN	Patricia Terry
SBUA	Ted Howard
SCE	Gary Golden
SDG&E	Stephanie Guiterrez
Silent Running LLC	James Dodenhoff
SoCalGas	Halley Fitzpatrick
SoCalREN	Patrick Ngo
The Energy Coalition	Rebecca Hausheer
William Worthen Foundation	Alice Sung
Ex-Officio	
CPUC	Pam Rittelmeyer
CPUC, Energy Division	Ely Jacobsohn
CA Public Advocates	James Ahlstedt
Other Interested Stakeholders	
BayREN	Jenn Mitchell-Jackson
Frontier Energy	Nancy Barba
Frontier Energy	Jesse Farber-Eger
Frontier Energy	Margaret Marchant
ICF	Jesse Feinberg
I-REN/WRCOG	Benjamin Druyon
PG&E	Conrad Asper
PG&E	Moses Gastelum

SCE	Jessica Lau
SDG&E	Greg Green
SDG&E	Jen Palumbo
SDG&E	Matt Saintarbor
SoCalGas	Brian Johnston
SoCalRen	Tessa Charnofsky
The Energy Coalition	Natalie Espinoza
Unknown	Aaron Jones
Facilitators	
Katie Wu	Common Spark Consulting
Suhaila Sikand	Common Spark Consulting
Susan Rivo	Raab Associates