

Evolving CAEECC Working Group Meeting #1 Summary

Date: June 15, 2023

Time: 9:30am - 12:30pm PT

On June 15, 2023, the Evolving CAEECC Working Group (ECWG) met virtually via Zoom. There were thirty seven participants including 26 ECWG Members and 6 members of the public (see *Appendix A for a full list of meeting attendees*). This meeting was facilitated by Michelle Vigen Ralston (Ralston) and Suhaila Sikand (Sikand) of Common Spark Consulting.

Supporting meeting materials are available at:

<https://www.caeec.org/evolving-caeccc-wg-mtg-1>. Relevant materials include:

- Agenda (*Evolving CAEECC WG #1 – Public Agenda*),
- Meeting Slide Deck (*Evolving CAEECC WG #1 – Slide Deck*), Onboarding Slide Deck (*Evolving CAEECC WG Onboarding Slides*), and
- Draft Prospectus (*Evolving CAEECC WG Draft Prospectus*).

Overview

Key Meeting Takeaways:

- Members enjoyed meeting each other and would like to continue opportunities to learn from each other.
- Members elevated inclusive practices including breaking down acronyms as the Facilitation Team modeled and selecting inclusive and dignifying word choice.
- Members requested a glossary of acronyms as well as the sharing of resources shared within the meeting and contact information.
- The Facilitation Team provided an overview of CAEECC and Energy Efficiency, to which there were only a handful of clarifying questions
- The Facilitation Team provided context for work between meetings, including how to work together productively.

This meeting summary is intended to capture this meeting's discussion of ideas, concerns, and alternative options for proposals. The final ECWG recommendations will be captured in a report delivered to the full CAEECC upon the completion of this WG's meetings/charge.

Key acronyms used in this document include: Evolving CAEECC Working Group (ECWG), California Energy Efficiency Coordinating Committee (CAEECC), California Public

Utilities Commission (CPUC), energy efficiency (EE), justice equity diversity and inclusion (JEDI), disadvantaged communities (DAC) and hard-to-reach (HTR) communities, Composition Diversity Equity and Inclusion Working Group (CDEI WG), Program Administrator (PA), Investor-owned utilities (IOU), Regional Energy Network (REN), CPUC's Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan ([ESJ Action Plan](#)), Intervenor Compensation (I-Comp), and Compensation Pilot (Pilot).

Agenda & Housekeeping

Slides 2 - 10

Michelle Vigen Ralston and Suhaila Sikand introduced the following agenda and provided general reminders, zoom etiquette, CAEECC Ground Rules and Meeting Norms.

- Welcome and Housekeeping
- Topic 1: Background on CAEECC and ECWG
- Topic 2: Meeting Each Other
- Topic 3: Working Together Productively
- Wrapping up
- *A closed session for Compensation Pilot Grantees followed the ECWG Meeting. As this information is relevant only to the Grantees, no summary is enclosed within this document.*

The purpose of this meeting was to kickoff the ECWG. Specifically, the objectives of this meeting were:

- Introduce the Working Group and review the purpose of this effort
- Meet Working Group members
- Ground the Working Group in process and collaboration expectations

In conclusion of this section, Ralston outlined the CAEECC Working Group disclosure requirements for members and noted that disclosures would be posted to the website within 5 business days. Members who have yet to disclose were instructed to do so by emailing suhaila@common-spark.com.

Discussion on the Agenda and Objectives

No ECWG members raised questions, concerns, or thoughts about the objectives or agenda.

Background on CAEECC and ECWG

Slides 11 - 34

Ralston provided background on both CAEECC and Evolving CAEECC Working Group. She noted how CAEECC is structured, its scope, and a little background on the energy

efficiency regulatory landscape. Ralston emphasized that CAEECC's role is only advisory and focuses on the market rate Energy Efficiency Proceeding ([R.13-11-005](#)).

Ralston continued to provide context on ECWG's purpose and charge as well as outlined the deliverables and anticipated influence of the working group. Ralston provided history to the development of ECWG. Ralston after the meeting acknowledged that the ECWG is a pivotal working group where open dialogue can occur for many stakeholders historically underrepresented in energy efficiency policy discussions.

During the meeting, Ralston recognized the launch of the Compensation Pilot providing some financial compensation for certain members of ECW. The Pilot recognizes that financial barriers are only one, but potentially a critical factor, in the involvement and inclusion of many important ideas and perspectives in regulatory bodies. Ralston also recognized that there are a lot of other members that are not receiving compensation, and that their participation is a significant dedication and commitment of their own organizations or their own personal time and resources to be part of ECWG. The Facilitators shared that they are enormously grateful for everyone's participation and that they will do their best to respect every minute of ECWG member time and contributions.

Discussion on the Background on CAEECC and ECWG

- Fabi Lao, CSE: Noted that the two terms “Hard-to-reach” and “Disadvantaged Community” have been defined by state either through legislation or a regulatory proceeding.
- Jan Maes, Individual: Asked if ECWG members are expected to participate in the CAEECC meetings as well.
 - Facilitator: Invited ECWG to attend Full CAEECC Quarterly Meetings to learn about that process. Noted that there will be two Full CAEECC Quarterly Meetings that include discussion between Full CAEECC and ECWG (CAEECC x ECWG) and that this is a unique discussion specific for this WG given its charge. Noted that these CAEECC x ECWG discussions are encouraged for ECWG member participation. Clarified that other Full CAEECC Quarterly Meetings will have brief updates of this Working Group.
- Jan Maes, Individual: Asked what was meant by ‘RENs fill a regional gap.’
 - Facilitator: Provided an overview of the energy program landscape, noting that programs can be designed to apply to the state, a large service territory (like all of an IOUs customers), or a more regional or local focus. Facilitator recognized that larger programs may be too standardized to meet the unique needs within a region or locality or type of consumer and that RENs fill that gap by addressing those unique needs through their own energy programs. Provided an example that certain communities may have a particular characteristic that may limit their ability to participate in the broader energy efficiency programs, and that a REN may provide the ability to access energy efficiency by tailoring a program for them.

- Melanie Gillette, MCR Group: Clarified that the “R” in a proceeding number like R.13-11-005 represents “Rulemaking”.
- Lucy Morris, PG&E: Shared from her perspective that one of the reasons that CAEECC agreed on the need for an evolution was because CAEECC has fulfilled its original goals (including building a space to reduce contention around the development and launch of the energy efficiency Business Plans). Noted that the sense of meeting its original goal was the foundation for figuring out what the new objectives should be.
- Fabi Lao, CSE: Clarified that “Parties” are entities that are formally participating in regulatory proceedings
 - Alice Sung, Individual: Asked for a list of the Parties.
 - Fabi Lao, CSE: Provided the list of the parties and others in the service list (those who want to be notified about the proceeding's happenings): https://ia.cpuc.ca.gov/servicelists/R1311005_81279.htm
 - Facilitator: Provided the service list for the EE proceeding noting it is extensive. You can download it as well. Note that many on this service list are “Information only” but the top of the list are “Parties”. And since this list begin in 2013 (and folks are added often), there may be some folks no longer active as a Party. https://ia.cpuc.ca.gov/servicelists/R1311005_81279.htm

Meeting Each Other

Slides 35 - 45

Sikand facilitated the second topic session with a brief overview of the intentions of participants derived from the applications. She highlighted that equity and leadership contributions were two key intentions of the group. Sikand continued to introduce both herself, Ralston, Susan Rivo of Raab Associates, and Katie Abrams of Birch Road Consulting as the Facilitation team of CAEECC as well as the Leadership Team made up of three ECWG Members, Nicole Milner (Individual), Evan Kamei (Energy Solutions), and Fabi Lao (Center for Sustainable Energy).

Sikand opened the floor for round robin introductions of each ECWG member with the prompt: "What's one thing you offer and one thing you seek with your participation in this WG?" Sikand briefly introduced members who were unable to attend this meeting and provided their introductions via email. Sikand closed this session with a commitment from the Facilitation Team that they will set aside a few minutes of each meeting to continue meeting each other and build relationships within the WG.

Discussion on the Meeting Each Other

CAEECC Affiliation	Name	Representation	Offering	Seeking
CAEECC	Stacie Risley	San Diego Gas	IOU perspective	Learning from other members of

CAEECC Affiliation	Name	Representation	Offering	Seeking
		& Electric (SDG&E)		ECWG
ECWG, CAEECC	Laurel Rothschild	The Energy Coalition	EE experience with local governments and RENS	Learning from other members of ECWG
ECWG	Lou Jacobson	Wilan	Rural Implementation	Learning from other members of ECWG; and positive contributions
ECWG	Leo Steinmetz	Acterra	Understanding of the program access	Connect the gap between program recipients and decisionmakers
ECWG, CAEECC Co-Chair	Lucy Morris	Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E)	Historical information of EE and IOU perspective	Less talking, more listening; Learning from other members of ECWG
ECWG	Martin Homec	Individual	N/A	Opportunities for virtual power plant programs
ECWG	Melanie Gillette	MCR Group	Program evaluation and deep EE knowledge	Learning from other members of ECWG on inclusion
ECWG Leader	Nicole Milner	Individual	Perspective, especially shining light on new ones	Learning from other members of ECWG
Public	Pamela	Individual	Hydrological systems and the intersectionality with energy	Elevate diverse perspectives and voices vertically
ECWG (alternate)	Sandy Laube	Energy Solutions	EE knowledge and building science	Pathways to decision-making
ECWG	Sarah Xu	Brightline Defense	Urban EJ perspective	Better understand the landscape of EE
ECWG	Spencer Lipp	Individual	EE knowledge, EE implementation	Learn and bring back ideas to other entities in an effort to de-silo EE across government avenues
ECWG	Sumi Grant	Gateway Cities Council Government	DAC communities, low-income communities of color	Better understand EE and distribute EE through representing regions
ECWG	Tanisha-Jean Martin	San Diego Urban Sustainability Coalition	People and planet, Voices from communities of concern	Learning from other members of ECWG and sharing with the community
ECWG	Tom Knox	Valley Clean Air Now	Program access	Better understand EE

CAEECC Affiliation	Name	Representation	Offering	Seeking
ECWG	Valerie Hash	MAAC Project	Middle income families	Learn how to support communities of concern and middle income families
ECWG	Aislyn Colgan	Individual	Low-income lived experience; developing anti-racist methodologies; EE accessibility	Learning from other members of ECWG
ECWG	Alice Sung	Individual	Green buildings; sustainability; climate justice	Climate justice in terms of environmental justice and zero emission
Ex-officio	Alison LaBonte	CPUC	Market rate and Income-qualified EE; champion within CPUC for uplifting underheard voices and perspectives	Learning from other members of ECWG; the vision from ECWG for a better CA in EE
ECWG	Amaury Berteaud	Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG)	Rural perspective; balance access	Learning from other members of ECWG
Public	Brett Bishop	Franklin Energy	EE implementation	N/A
ECWG	Charles Reed	Individual	Perspective from someone who had been removed and re-entered	Create a more equitable way of issuing out energy to more disenfranchised communities and that equity should be defined by the community (what it looks and feels like to the community)
ECWG Leader, CAEECC	Fabi Lao	Center for Sustainable Energy (CSE)	Community perspectives; policy expertise; technical expertise	Learning from other members of ECWG
ECWG	Jan Maes	Individual	Global South economic power programs; local climate action and policy, rural + communities of concern perspective; organizational low-capacity perspective	Learning from other members of ECWG; share strategies
ECWG	Jason Minsky	Association of California Community & Energy Services (ACCES)	Low-income perspectives, provide a voice for community agencies	Learning from other members of ECWG; connections from ECWG; provide benefits to community agencies

CAEECC Affiliation	Name	Representation	Offering	Seeking
ECWG	Jenifer Lomeli	Emerald Cities Collaborative	Program implementation and management; lived experience from East Oakland	Learning from other members of ECWG; Regional voices; sharing strategies
ECWG	Jordyn Bishop	The Greenlining Institute	' Making Equity Real ' framework; racial equity	Learning from other members of ECWG; relationship building
ECWG	Kate Woodford	Center for Accessible Technology (C4AT)	Perspective of people with disabilities	Learning from other members of ECWG
CAEECC	Kellvin Anaya	Southern California Edison (SCE)	EE experience and regulatory knowledge; transition to clean energy	Learning from other members of ECWG; sharing strategies and new ideas
Facilitator	Michelle Vigen Ralston	Common Spark Consulting	Building capacity holding space for a new and productive conversation that's inclusionary; shifting power dynamics	Relationship building; a pathway to bring perspectives into the work and see reflections if it
Facilitator	Suhaila Sikand	Common Spark Consulting	Head and heart; inclusive spaces	Create a space that can be learned from for parallel processes internally in CAEECC and throughout the US
<i>Former ECWG Member¹</i>	Latasha Washington	Individual	Public health perspective	Learning from other members of ECWG; how to make underrepresented communities more efficient
Responses from ECWG Members collected after the meeting				
ECWG, CAEECC	Kelsey Jones	San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization (SJVCEO)	Futuristic mindset; action-based thinking	Learning from other members of ECWG; broaden inclusivity in regulatory spaces
ECWG, CAEECC co-chair	Lara Ettenson	National Resources Defense Council (NRDC)	Historic EE knowledge; problem-solving thinking	Learning from other members of ECWG; relationship building
ECWG Leader	Evan Kamei	Energy Solutions	Implementation Lens	Better understand JEDI and integration in programs

¹ This member declined to continue participating as a member of the working group due to the extent of the commitment.

CAEECC Affiliation	Name	Representation	Offering	Seeking
ECWG	AJ Perkins	Individual	Insight of a renewable energy professional that is Native Hawaiian & who grew up in Hawaii; non-formal schooling perspective; excitement ²	How we can really make a difference through action and not just words and initiatives ³
ECWG	Charles Cormany	Efficiency First California	Hands on experience combined with Program Management	For program and policy folks to understand the real world implications of the technologies and their decisions.
ECWG	Tom Jackson	Individual	<i>Not yet provided</i>	<i>Not yet provided</i>
ECWG	Arieann Harrison	Marie Harrison Community Foundation for Social and Environmental Justice	<i>Not yet provided</i>	<i>Not yet provided</i>

- Latasha Washington, Individual: Asked the WG to be mindful of word choice, noting that “disadvantaged” would be a better word for “poor people”. Acknowledged that members of the working group are in different places in their learning journey around inclusivity.
 - a. Aislyn Colgan, Individual: Offered the term ‘disinvested people’.
 - b. Alice Sung, Individual: Responded that terms can be problematic without shared context and shared education/awareness. Suggested a longer conversation around "disadvantaged" and other terms.
- Brett Bishop, Franklin Energy (Public): Provided contact information for the launch of the Richmond project in partnership with MCE and GRID Alternatives.
- Melanie Gillette, MCR Group: Examined their excitement to work with the group.
- Sumi Grant, Gateway Cities Council of Governments: Clarified that she manages the SoCalREN program for the Gateway Cities Council of Governments to help make our cities more energy efficient and sustainable.
- Alice Sung, Individual: Noted excitement to see other community members at the WG.

² Full response: One of the things I offer participating in this WG is the insight of a renewable energy professional that is Native Hawaiian and who grew up in Hawaii. I also don't have the formal schooling as many other professionals but my insights into our industry and the needs of the people come from being a part of the entire environment. As a member of the DEI community and someone who has worked with and served this community, I am excited to bring insights from this world.

³ Full Response: One thing I seek in participating with this WG is to see how we can really make a difference through action and not just words and initiatives.

- Charles Reed, Individual: Noted his hope to ease the grid burden on impoverished people in Oakland by shifting the [cost] weight to the predominantly white cannabis growing industry that has pervaded the community.
- Fabi Lao, CSE: Clarified the acronym “CEQA” as [California Environmental Quality Act](#)

Working Together Productively

Slides 46 - 53

Ralston introduced the three phases of work as described in the [Draft WG Prospectus](#) (charted by CAEECC, CPUC, and the CDEI WG) briefly outlined below:

- Phase 1:
 - Purpose, Objectives, Scope of CAEECC
- Phase 2:
 - Composition/Representation and Eligibility (CAEECC and WGs)
 - Compensation
 - Competency Building
 - Recruitment and Retention
- Phase 3:
 - Facilitation
 - Accountability and Reporting
 - Additional Topics

Ralston then dissected the timeline of ECWG, showcasing in detail the timing of meetings, Full CAEECC interactions, work between meetings, and workshops as needed. Ralston broke down each activity with a few highlights:

- Full CAEECC Quarterly Meetings: Optional, some have a short update, others have a larger CAEECC x ECWG discussion.
- Work Between Meetings: Knowing how busy everyone is, the Facilitators commit to providing a structure for homework that’s flexible, easy, and simple to engage with so everyone can provide their input and know that it will be heard and affect outcomes of this WG.
- Huddles: Requested that any side conversations that occur about work happening in this WG, that it be an open invite from the facilitators to everyone in this WG as a mechanism to include WG Members.



Image 1: Timeline of Evolving CAEECC WG and relevant activities as of 6/21/23

In addition, Ralston launched a poll to request input on the Meeting Dates for Meetings #3 and #4 in the fall. **Meeting #3 will occur on Wednesday September 27 from 9:30am - 1:30pm PT and Meeting #4 will occur Wednesday November 15 from 9:30am - 1:30pm PT.** Ralston invited members to reach out ASAP with the Facilitation Team if members have concerns about the timeline and activities.

Ralston then invited a discussion in Homework about adding flexibility to the ECWG process to help guide the space to be productive for members of the WG, and offered a few starting suggestions.

Discussion on the Working Together Productively

- Fabi Lao, CSE: Requested a glossary of acronyms that can be shared during the onboarding process.

- Facilitator: Noted they will provide a 'living glossary' that everyone can contribute to.
- Alice Sung, Individual: Asked if the Facilitators could share everyone's contact information.
 - Facilitator: Asked members to raise their hand if they would like to share their contact information and noted that only members would be able to access the contact list.
- Latasha Washington, Individual: Asked if the timeline graphic will be shared.
 - Facilitator: Noted its available in the slides and will be provided in the Meeting Summary
- Alice Sung, Individual: Asked if there is a target month end date for the final recommendations
 - Facilitator: May 2024
- Melanie Gillette, MCR Group: In terms of future meetings, warned that Procurement Review Group meetings on Tuesdays usually include Alison, IOUs and some other folks from CAEECC.
- Facilitator: Clarified that "RFP" means request for proposals

Wrapping Up

Slides 54 - 57

Ralston closed the meeting with an overview of the Work Between Meetings Homework, Evaluations, and an upcoming on-demand video of the Onboarding Deck. She announced the next meeting date of **August 3 from 9:30am - 1:30pm PT.**

In a brief live evaluation at the end of the meeting, participants generally noted that the meeting was safe and trusting as well as effective, however select responses indicated the meeting was neither. Facilitators welcomed feedback and input on how they can promote a productive, safe, and trusting environment.

Next Steps

Ralston summarized the next steps, which include:

- **The second ECWG meeting will be August 3 from 9:30am - 1:30pm PT.**
- [Evaluations](#) are due by June 23.
- Homework B will be posted by June 23.
- Compensation Pilot Invoices are due July 1 by 11:59pm PT.

This was the conclusion of the first ECWG Meeting. There was a closed session after for Compensation Pilot Grantees only.