

**NARUC-NASEO-NGA-NASUCA Western Regional Roundtable:  
Equity Considerations in Distribution Planning and Policy  
September 21-22, 2023  
AGENDA**

NASEO, NARUC, NGA, and NASUCA welcome State Energy Offices, Public Utility Commissions, Governor's Office staff, and Consumer Advocates from Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. Meeting objectives include:

- Explore integration of distributed energy resources (DERs) and distribution planning through an equity lens
- Identify relevant state and regional programmatic, regulatory, and policy challenges and opportunities related to equity
- Spotlight innovative equity work being done by states
- Develop an action plan to address equity issues related to selected electricity-focused topics

**Day 1 - Thursday, September 21, 2023**

<b>8:00 - 9:00 am Breakfast</b>
<b>9:00 - 9:30 am Welcome, Introductions, and Overview of Objectives</b> Colorado Welcome: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dominique Gomez, Colorado Energy Office</li><li>• Rebecca White, Colorado Public Utilities Commission</li></ul>
<b>9:30 - 11:00 am State Roundtable Discussion – Approaches to Equity</b> Participants introduce themselves and their role in equity related work (may be consolidated for organizations with more than one attendee) and answer one or both of the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How do you define equity in your work (either how you do it or what you aspire it to be)?</li><li>• What do you hope to take away from this event?</li></ul>
<b>11:00 - 11:15 am Break</b>
<b>11:15 am - 12:00 pm Equitable Approaches to Distribution System Planning</b> Explore foundations of energy justice and equity in the energy system broadly and distribution system planning specifically, including ways to evaluate progress. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jennifer Yoshimura, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory</li></ul>
<b>12:00 - 12:15 pm Brainstorming Equity Opportunities &amp; Challenges</b>
<b>12:15 - 1:15 pm Lunch</b>
<b>1:15- 2:30 pm Foundations of Equitable Decision Making - Colorado Case Study</b> In recent years, Colorado has adopted numerous policies to address historic inequities, support environmental justice, and include lower income households in the state's clean energy transition. This session will explore the state's policy foundations, explore challenges and successes in implementation by state agencies, and discuss coordination across agencies. Participant Q&A and discussion to follow. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jocelyn Durkay, Colorado Energy Office</li><li>• Kelly Crandall &amp; Jessie Ciulla, Colorado Public Utilities Commission</li><li>• Issamar Pichardo, Colorado Energy Office</li></ul>
<b>2:30 - 3:00 pm Incorporating Equity into Distribution Planning - Oregon Case Study</b> Explore one state's journey with equitable distribution system planning policy and implementation from the perspective of a regulator. This discussion will include policy on identification of benefits for disadvantaged communities and methods to measure them. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Michelle Scala, Oregon Public Utilities Commission</li></ul>

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**3:00 - 3:30 pm Break**

**3:30 - 4:00 pm Meaningful Tribal Engagement**

A moderated discussion with audience Q&A regarding successful examples and effective approaches to engaging with tribes in energy programs, policy, and regulatory decision making.

- Robert Gomez, New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (moderator)
- Daniel Cardenas, National Tribal Energy Association (speaker)

**4:00 - 4:45 pm Examples of Distributed Energy Resource Integration to Further Equity**

Interactive conversation sharing needs and examples among peer participants. Opening examples:

- Mary Jane Parks, New Mexico Public Regulation Commission
- Clay Deckert, Oregon Department of Energy

**4:45- 5:00 pm Wrap Up & Preview Day 2**

Day 1 sessions will have provided the foundation for Day 2 sessions where attendees will engage in coordinated state action planning using frameworks and tips they heard throughout the day.

**5:00 pm Adjourn**

**6:00 pm Optional No Host Dinner at Nearby Restaurant**

**Day 2 - Friday, September 22, 2023**

**8:00 - 9:00 am Breakfast**

Optional Session: EPA will highlight how new programs can offer funding and technical assistance to reduce GHG emissions and advance energy equity in the context of energy planning and distributed energy resources. Program examples will include: Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF), The Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (TCTACs), Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program, and the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program (CPRG).

- Colby Tucker, Environmental Protection Agency

**9:00 - 9:30 am Day 1 Recap, Reflections, Overview of Day 2**

**9:30 - 11:30 am State Action Planning**

This will be an opportunity to work in [small groups](#) to determine what equity-focused decision making will look like in their state/agency. The main objective is to support collaboration among the state attendees and ensure everyone leaves with some concrete actions they can take when they get home, leveraging others' expertise. Potential activities/focus areas to include:

- Discussing who the relevant stakeholders are in their state/region and how to effectively engage on specific topics
- Building on strategies that have been shared or used in the past and how they can be improved going forward
- Outlining decisions that the state will be making in the near future and how to actively incorporate equity into their decision making (aligned with state-specific goals and jurisdiction)
- Creating an initial outline for one issue and describing how equity would be incorporated into the initiative

**11:30 am- 12:00 noon Report Outs/Group Discussion over Lunch**

**12:00 noon Adjourn**