



IRP/CEIP WORKSHOP 2 PREPARATION MATERIALS

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVE

The primary objective of this workshop is to follow up on some of the discussion that we had during our first workshop. Specifically, we will:

- (1) Share our approach to identifying vulnerable populations and discuss how it relates to racial equity;
- (2) Present the final indicator list we developed based on your input; and
- (3) Explore how those indicators look today for vulnerable populations.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

During our last workshop, we introduced the Clean Energy Implementation Plan and sought input on which indicators we should prioritize to track the distribution of costs and benefits from Washington's clean energy transition in our service area.

IDENTIFYING VULNERABLE POPULATIONS USING TACOMA'S EQUITY INDEX

One of the comments we heard from several participants in the last workshop is that we need to look at the distribution of indicators across racial demographics. In this workshop, we will discuss Tacoma's [Equity Index](#) in more detail and discuss how it relates to racial equity.

The Equity Index is an interactive tool that visually highlights disparities in Tacoma and is one of the primary tools that City staff, partners, and other decision makers use to help ensure they are making data-informed decisions to improve access to opportunity for all community members. It uses 29 data points sorted into five broad categories (Accessibility, Economy, Education, Livability, and Environmental Health) to assess where community members are less able to access services. Census block groups are grouped into five categories (Very Low Opportunity, Low Opportunity, Moderate Opportunity, High Opportunity and Very High Opportunity) based on an Equity Index score. The data points used to calculate the index do not include race, but the disparities in opportunity identified in the index reflect a history of racist systems, policies, and practices.

It originally covered only the City of Tacoma but now covers all of Tacoma Public Utilities, including areas outside of Tacoma's city limits. For the purposes of the CEIP, we plan to identify vulnerable populations as those located in "Very Low" and "Low" opportunity areas within Tacoma Power's service area. This approach identifies 110 of the 326 (34%) Census Block Groups in our service area as vulnerable populations.

FINAL INDICATOR LIST

CETA directs us to identify one or more indicators applicable to our service area and associated with energy benefits, nonenergy benefits, reduction of burdens, public health, environment, reduction in cost, energy security, or resiliency developed through a public process. In our last workshop, we asked participants to (a) identify the top indicator they would like to see added to the list of potential indicators and (b) provide input on which indicators we should prioritize. Each participant was given 100 points to assign however they chose across

the list of potential indicators (the eight identified by prior to the meeting plus the additions suggested during the meeting). The resulting list of indicators and prioritization scores are in the table below.¹

Indicator	Average Prioritization Score
Energy burden or % of households that are energy burdened	14.1
Rate impacts	12.3
Number or % of customers benefiting from conservation programs	11.8
SAIDI/SAIFI	10.9
Conservation \$ spent	9.1
Number of customers impacted by outages	8.2
MWh of energy saved	5.5
Residential customer disconnects	5.5
Assistance \$ spent	3.6
% of customers benefiting from assistance	3.6
MWs of Demand Response	1.8

After further discussion internally, we settled on the following three indicators:

- **Energy Benefits:** To track energy benefits, we will measure the share of electrically heated homes built before 1989 that have received a high-touch conservation measure (weatherization or HVAC).
- **Reduction of burdens:** To track reduction of burdens, we will measure energy burden among low-income residential customers using the US Department of Energy’s [Low-Income Energy Affordability Data \(LEAD\)](#).
- **Resiliency:** To track resiliency, we will measure the average number of service interruptions per year from 2018 through 2020 and the average number of minutes of service interruption per year within each Census tract and Census block group and using data we routinely collect to track reliability in our service area.

The three indicators we chose were among the top four prioritized in our last workshop. During our workshop, we will use the Equity Index to explore the distribution of these three indicators across our service area today.

¹ Note that, in some cases, we combined indicators that were very similar into a single category and added up the score. For example, the indicator “number of customers benefiting from conservation programs” received 9.1 points, and “% of customers benefiting from conservation programs” received 2.7 points. These two choices combined received 11.8 points.