



Minutes

Indigenous Advisory Council

Friday, April 11, 2025

12:30 PM PST – 2:30 PM PST

In-Person Meeting Location

Seattle City Hall 600 4th Ave, Seattle, WA 98104

Room 370

[Instructions for visiting Seattle City Hall \(bus access, parking, & building access\)](#)

Remote Meeting Location

Webex

Members Present

Councilmember Jay Mills, Councilmember Jeremy Takala, Megan Castillo & Asia Tail

Members Excused

Councilmember Donny Stevenson, Suzanne Sailto, Esther Lucero, Derrick Belgarde & Jaci McCormack

Meeting Guests

Angela Rae, Department of Neighborhoods; Grecia Elenes, Angela Bertrand, Dylan King, and Alex Porteshawver, Seattle City Light

Items

Number	Topic	Time
1	Welcome and Opening Blessing	5 min
2	Approval of the Agenda (April) <ul style="list-style-type: none">No quorum. Approval of the Minutes (March) <ul style="list-style-type: none">No quorum.	5 min
3	Strategic Roadmap, Clean Energy Implementation Plan, and Integrated Resource Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none">Representatives of Seattle City Light conducted a community conversation around planning for a clean energy future to inform the Clean Energy Implementation Plan and Integrated Resource Plan. Staff provided an overview of Seattle City Light, including its service area and power portfolio. Seattle City Light is a municipally owned utility serving Seattle and several surrounding areas and local jurisdictions. Seattle City Light's power portfolio is 88% hydro, 5% wind, 4% nuclear, 2% unspecified (purchased through wholesale power market – source unknown), and 1% biogas. Staff provided an	35 min



overview of the climate resilience programs and services currently offered to community members and ratepayers. For example, the utility support electrification of appliances, heating/cooling systems, and transportation. To support affordability, the utility offers a Utility Discount Program and bill assistance. In the area of energy efficiency programs, the utility offers energy efficient rebates and home repair. And the in the area of job opportunities, the utility provide apprenticeships and trade certification.

- Staff shared about Seattle City Light's Just Transition Framework that seeks to focus on people and planet to provide equitable benefits in the transition to a clean energy future. Staff shared about the utility's goals needed for a just transition and sought feedback on what goals to focus on. Currently defined goals include: 1) Improved community health, 2) access to clean energy, 3) job opportunities, 4) improved air quality, 5) economic development, 6) more affordable power, 7) decreased power outages, 8) community investment, and 9) withstanding extreme weather.

- Members discussed support for home weatherization programs and incentives that support energy efficiency. There was emphasis on increasing access to these programs and services for elders.

Members provided examples of these types of programs from Tribal governments that have invested in roof replacements, window and door replacements to improve energy efficiency of homes. Members discussed Tribally owned utilities and programs. Members called attention to the need for Seattle City Light to consider how the actions of the utility ripple throughout the region. Whether it is wholesale purchased power from Bonneville Power Administration to City owned hydro projects, clean energy projects can have significant impacts to Tribal and rural communities far from city limits of Seattle. Members expressed support for Seattle City Light leadership to hear directly from Tribal partners about the pressures of climate changes and its impacts to snowpack, fish passage, habitat, subsistence and ceremonial use of traditional foods. These impacts can be both cultural and economic for many Tribal and rural communities. Members discussed the relatively low-cost energy provided by Seattle City Light, yet that can come at a cost to the environment and community. Members reflected on the significant anticipated grow in the Seattle City Light service area as well as regional energy growth pressures brought on by data centers and regional population growth. Members highlighted that Seattle City



Light has opportunity to explore other energy technologies. Members discussed the importance of considering elderly adults, people with medical devices, apartment dwellers, and people without homes that are deeply impacted by extreme weather as target populations to consider when assessing a just transition.

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Community Solar Program

35 min

- Seattle City Light staff provided an overview of the Community Solar Program. This program is housed in the Customer Energy Solutions team at the utility. The role of this team is to design and implement customer-facing programs including renewable energy programs. Programs are developed with subject matter experts and customers.
- Seattle City Light invests in community solar because 1) it increases equitable access to renewable energy and reduce electricity bills, 2) builds new, local renewable generation, and 3) it increases community resilience by pairing battery storage with solar systems.
- Staff shared that community solar is any solar project with a geographic area, in which benefits (environmental and financial) flow to multiple customers. Seattle City Light's first Community Solar Program launched in 2011 and ended in 2020. It included five projects at four sites that are all now owned by the site hosts. The second iteration of the Community Solar Program is currently being designed. Seattle City Light has initially scoped that this program will ensure that at least 50% of new solar power will be for income-eligible customers (0-80% AMI) at no costs through a guaranteed bill credit. Customers that can afford it would pay extra to participate. Seattle City Light plans to build 4MW by 2028 – this is estimated to reach about 14,000 customers. The project will leverage external funding through a state expansion grant and tax credit. There will be a workforce development component, and projects will include art. Other features of the program are yet to be defined.
- Staff shared about ongoing efforts to engage the Department of Neighborhoods' Community Liaisons Program to increase engagement with Native residents and organizations in the Seattle City Light service area.
- Staff provided an overview of the project timeline include 2024-2024 program design, 2025-2026 project siting, 2026-2028 project construction, and 2028 customer enrollment.
- There are opportunities for the IAC to stay in engaged with this project team through regular updates, referrals to community events

and presentations, relationship building, and sharing ideas for program design, launch, and implementation.

- Members shared examples of solar projects at tribal schools and youth centers. Expressions of support to expand solar energy across urban areas and in rural tribal communities to diverse energy portfolio. Members discussed that solar is often preferable to wind or hydro due to the high impacts of wind and hydro of cultural resources. Members discussed that solar can have challenges with site selection due to both environmental conditions and cultural resource impacts. Members discussed the important of siting within already disturbed lands such as parking lot to limit additional environmental and cultural resource impacts. Members expressed that opportunities for renters (residential and commercial) to participate in solar energy programs as energy consumers is essential to advancing equity.

 5

Old Business

35 min

Webinar debrief

- 4/10 webinar was attended by over 40 representatives from city, county, and tribal governments, urban Indian organizations, affordable housing sector, and community members.
- Panelists provided an overview and discussion of successes and challenges of partnering with Tribal governments to leverage the Indian Housing Block Grant and applying Indian Preference. Panelists reviewed the gaps and opportunities for property management services that take culture into consideration. Panelists reviewed Coordinated Entry processes and best practices for matching housing opportunities with the needs of Native people. Other topics included partnership structures, and funding streams for construction and supportive services at housing sites.

Community assembly

- Staff reviewed an upcoming opportunity to co-host a Community Assembly in partnership with the Office of Sustainability and Environment and Green New Deal Oversight Board.
 - Community Assemblies are participatory processes where community representatives dive deep into program solving around specific policy or program issues. This Community Assembly would gather feedback to inform the City's Climate Action Plan and other OSE work.
 - Members discussed intertribal organizing groups in urban and Tribal communities that may be aligned with this type of work.
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MMIP advocacy

- Department of Neighborhoods will support setting up an introductory meeting between Chief Barnes and IAC representatives.
- Seattle Police Department has been invited to present at the June or July IAC meeting to provide an more detailed overview of 1) SPD's role and other system partners roles in missing persons and violent crime cases, 2) an overview of how data is collected and managed across case types, including challenges to expanded data collection, and 3) detailed overview of cold case work and other MMIP Data Program initiatives.

2025 budget and policy priorities

- Staff provided a draft of 2025 budget and policy priorities for members consideration. Priorities from 2024 remain very similar, but include additional detail for clarity and alignment.

Film Commission connection

- Staff provided an overview of an introductory meeting with staff and representatives of the Seattle Film Commission.
- Discussion included interest in referrals to Tribal Nations or Tribal enterprises that may have interest in the film industry. The IAC shared about Native-led groups in the film and creative areas industry and encouraged outreach to Tribal Nations.

6	Member Announcements <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A member shared about two upcoming film screenings in Olympia of These Sacred Hills.	Up to 5 min
7	Hybrid Public Comment <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There were no requests for public comment.	Up to 10 min
8	Closing & Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quater 1 invoicing will be for 01/01/25-03/31/25. Members participating in invoicing will receive draft invoices in March 2025.	