Meeting of the Governor’s Council on Climate Change

March 9, 2020
1:00-3:00 p.m.
Agenda

1:00 p.m. Welcome
1:05 p.m. Working Group Spotlight: Equity and Environmental Justice
1:25 p.m. Working Group Updates
2:10 p.m. Table of Contents Discussion
2:30 p.m. Discussion on Integration Between Working Groups and with Other Efforts
2:45 p.m. Other Announcements
2:50 p.m. Public Comments
Working Group Spotlight – Equity and Environmental Justice
Equity and Environmental Justice

• WG held its first meeting on February 25th at the Sound School in New Haven.

• Well attended – nearly 60 people. Discussed a draft definition of equity for GC3 to use as guidance and held breakout session to discuss equitable processes.

• WG to finalize equity definition, identify EJ representatives to serve on other WGs, and develop best practices for community outreach for GC3.

• Equity should be embedded in all GC3 processes – how do we work with other WGs to ensure that happens?

• Next steps: identify EJ representatives for all WGs, schedule additional community meetings.
Working Group Updates
• Experts in academia, land management, forest products, forest science, forest/land policy, urban forests, etc.

• The group has met twice and will be meeting again 3/10.

• Reviewed and prioritized actions set in the 2011 plan, and identified some possible gaps to be addressed.

• Members have contributed relevant scientific literature and information available online.

• Identified and scheduled ~8 meeting topics and will discuss presenters, e.g. Maria Janowiak, USFS climate expert. Next meeting is on changes in science since 2011 and developing a carbon “baseline” for CT forests.
Rivers Sub Group

- An excellent mix of experts in ecology, geomorphology, engineering, and policy.
- The group has met twice and will meet again on 3/18
- The group will consider all inland waters including groundwater, and utilize an ecosystem services model. Recurring theme: effectively communicating to the public.
- Some overlap with other lands groups and infrastructure (particularly wastewater and drinking water infrastructure)
- Reviewed Background, Context, and Importance sections in Table of Contents. Will evaluate Impact Assessments, Vulnerabilities, and strategies from the 2011 report.
Wetlands Sub Group

• Great mix of experts in wetland science, planning, infrastructure, climate change, and more.

• The group has met twice and will be meeting again 3/19.

• Reviewed, prioritized, and ranked actions set in the 2011 plan, and identified some possible gaps to be addressed.

• Members have contributed relevant scientific literature and information for the team to utilize, and have created a shared work space.

• Next meeting will focus on a deeper discussion of the Table of Contents and how we envision crafting the wetlands component.
Ag & Soils Working Group

• A lot of interest in this area and participants are very engaged

• Four focus areas:
  • Farming Practices/Land Use
  • Energy
  • Market Opportunity
  • Innovation & Technology

• Next Steps
  • Regional meetings with a presentation and public hearing
• WG is still finalizing membership—need to ensure members represent a variety of perspectives touching on many relevant topic areas

• Anticipate holding first meeting in mid-March

• Will provide support for all other WGs to assist in accomplishing GC3 tasks

• WG next steps:
  • review 2011 *Climate Change Preparedness Plan* and 2018 report *Building a Low Carbon Future for Connecticut*
  • receive feedback on needs from other WGs
Adaptation Planning and Implementation

- WG held its first meeting on March 5th.

- Key take-aways
  - Need to coordinate discussions and work across the various working groups. Multi-WG coordination meetings suggested.
  - There are many opportunities to integrate efforts with CIRCA Resilient CT.
  - Funding to implement projects is critical to progress, and should not be tied exclusively to disaster response but need to have shovel-ready projects available when disaster funds become available.
  - Include recreation facilities in Land Use & Buildings discussion
  - Need to consider geography (urban, suburban, rural) when assessing climate impacts and adaptation measures
  - Need input from Science & Technology WG on what scenarios to use as inputs to assessments
Adaptation Planning and Implementation

• **Topic areas for future discussion**
  - Clarification of what we mean by indicators, targets, outcomes, objectives and strategies
  - How are we going to quantitatively and qualitatively measure progress on these goals and the goals outlined by the different theme-area work groups?

• **List potential areas of overlap with other WGs**
  - Funding for adaptation
  - Public health issues related to impacts of climate change and adaptation measures cross-cut all WGs.

• **WG next steps**
  - Update progress over the last 10 years, working from 2011 report as a base; prioritize and assess future action for 2011 recommendations
  - Compile existing local and regional plans; identify key elements for consideration
  - Identify problems, gaps and needs
Financing Adaptation and Resilience

• WG held its first meeting on February 25th.

• Discussed strategies already used for financing resilience in CT, and the need to capitalize on successful strategies and develop new, creative financing options.

• Topics for future discussion include nature-based solutions, the insurance industry’s role in resilience, municipal financing strategies, and financing planning efforts.

• Will need to communicate with other WGs to ensure financing strategies align with adaptation strategies.

• Next steps: schedule monthly meetings on the topics above.
• WG is identifying membership; anticipate holding first meeting by the end of March

• Task is to establish a framework for state agencies to compile and maintain an inventory of vulnerable assets and operations

• Working with Chief Data Officer to identify existing relevant data for all state agencies, and with CIRCA to identify vulnerability assessment tools

• Analyzing Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency state asset survey to help frame CT approach

• Potential areas of overlap with Adaptation, Working and Natural Lands, and Financing WGs
Table of Contents Discussion
Discussion on Integration Between Working Groups and with Other Efforts
Other Announcements
Public Comments