

GC3 Work Group and Council Deliverables and Timeline

Governor's Council on Climate Change
Council Meeting
July 15, 2020



Presentation Outline

- GC3 Background and Objectives
- Phased process for GC3 through December 31, 2021
- Structure of the GC3 and work groups
- Outline of the GC3 report due by January 15, 2021
- Timeline for reports and public participation through January 2021
- Overview of the types of content to be included in the work group reports



GC3 Background and Objectives

In September 2019, Governor Lamont rejuvenated the GC3 through Executive Order 3, expanded its scope to include climate change adaptation, and tasked the Council with two primary objectives:

1. Monitor and report on the state's implementation of the greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategies set forth in the GC3's December 2018 recommendations report.
2. Develop and implement adaptation strategies to assess and prepare for the impacts of climate change in areas such as infrastructure, agriculture, natural resources, and public health.

Role of the DEEP is for the Commissioner to serve as chair and to administer the GC3 process and provide staff support



Two Phase GC3 Process

- GC3 reporting process will continue through the end of 2021
- *Phase 1* interim reports provided to the Governor with initial recommendations by **January 15, 2021**
- *Phase 2* final report and recommendations provided by **December 31, 2021**



Two Phase GC3 Process

- **Phase 1. By January 15, 2021, GC3 will provide the Governor with an interim report with prioritized recommendations including:**
 - An evaluation of the progress towards the implementation of mitigation strategies in the 2018 GC3 report (4) (*Phase 1 Mitigation Update*) including:
 - Addressing equity and environmental justice (4a)
 - Evaluation of efficacy of policies to reduce GHG emissions (4c)
 - Maximizing climate adaptation and resilience opportunities (4d)
 - Updated recommendations for adapting to and improving the state's resilience to the effects of climate change based on the best available science (5b) (*Phase 1 Adaptation and Resilience Plan*) including:
 - A review and synthesis of the recommendations in the 2011 Climate Change Adaptation and Preparedness Plan and subsequent planning processes (5b.i)
 - Identified funding sources and financing mechanisms (5b.ii)
 - Strategies to protect vulnerable communities disproportionately impacted by climate change (5b.iii)
 - Recommendations aligning with municipal and regional adaptation efforts (5b.iv)

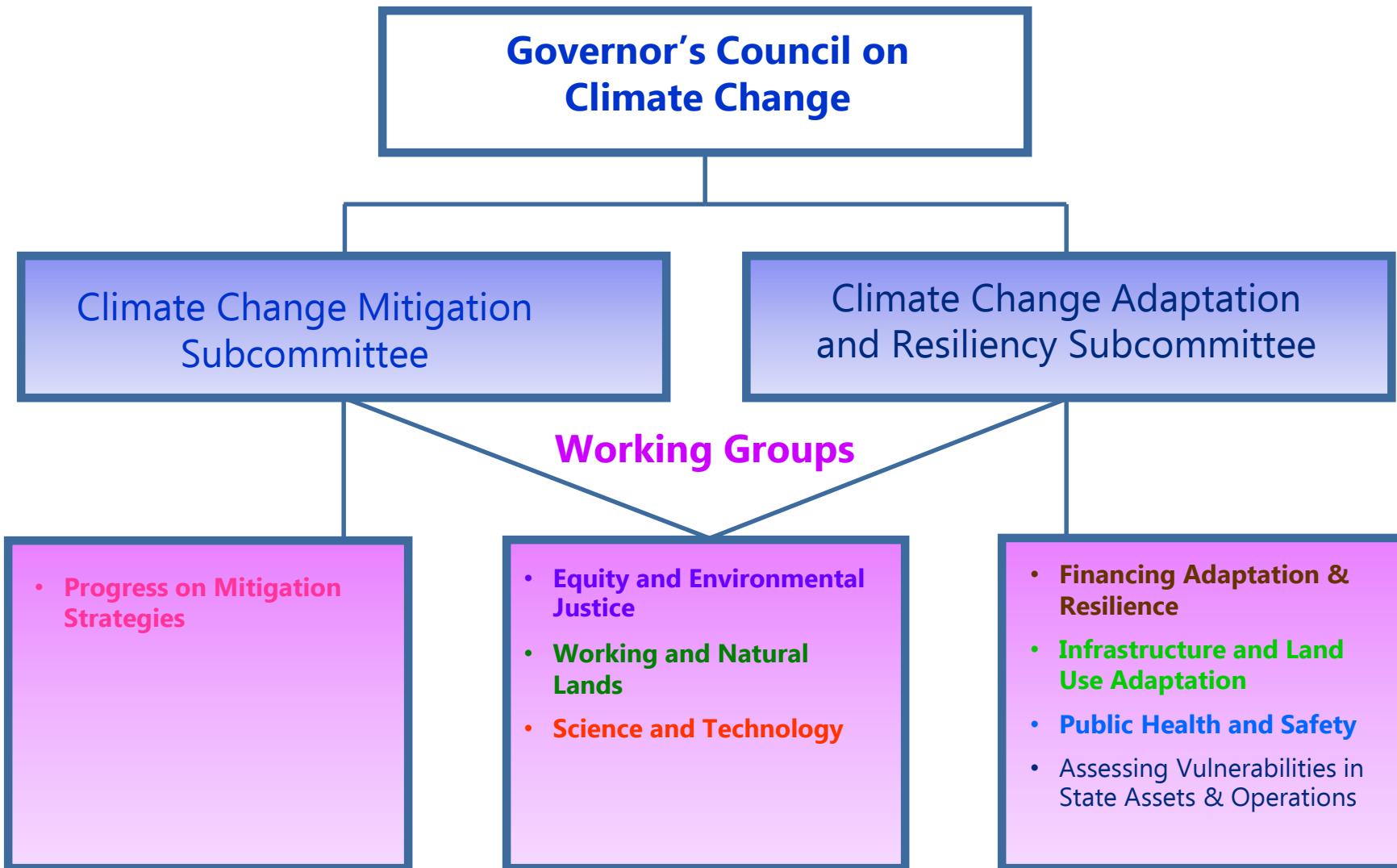


Two Phase GC3 Process

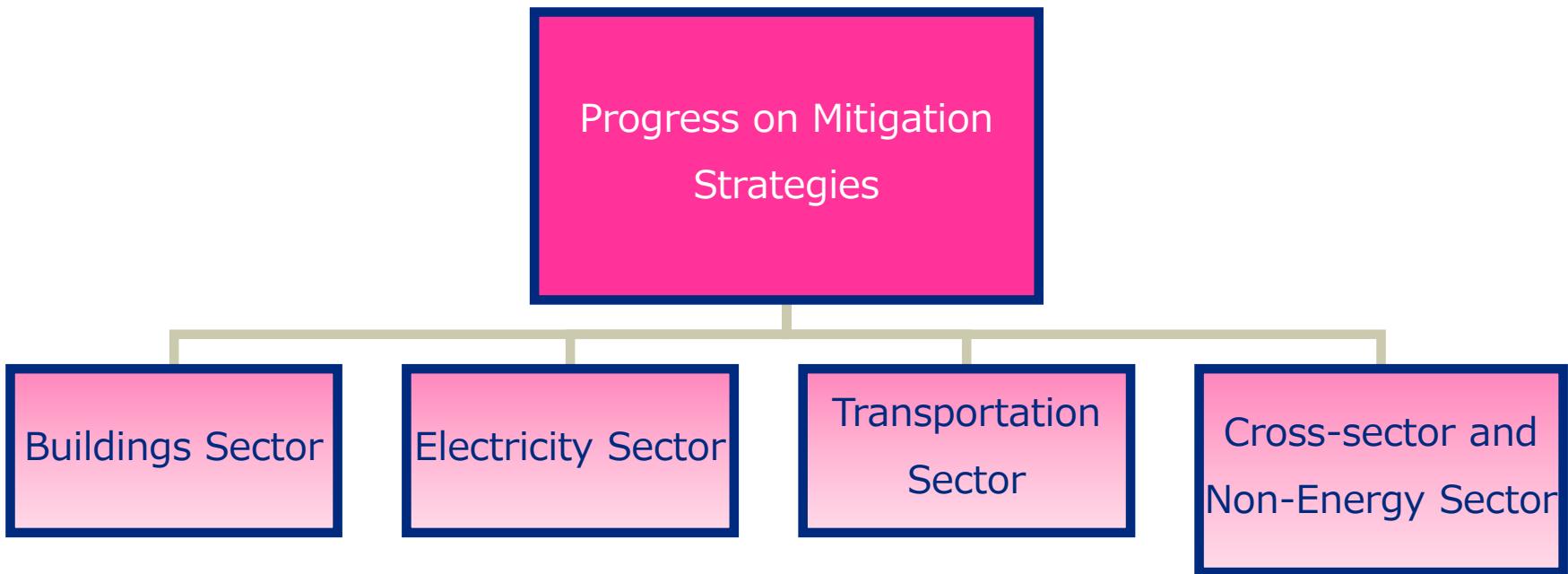
- **Phase 2. By December 31, 2021, provide the Governor with a final report of the Governor's Council on Climate Change, including:**
 - A robust public participation and engagement process specifically targeting feedback from environmental justice communities.
 - Phase 2 Mitigation Update: An annual update to the recommendations for mitigation strategies from the January 15, 2021 interim report, incorporating additional feedback from the public participation process.
 - Phase 2 Adaptation & Resilience Plan: The development of a strategic statewide Adaptation and Resilience Plan that is informed by:
 - The review and synthesis of existing planning processes from the Phase 1 interim GC3 report
 - The public participation process
 - The vulnerability assessment and inventory of vulnerable assets prepared by state agencies called for in EO3 (5a)
 - The incorporation and alignment of climate adaptation strategies into state agency planning and process documents as required to be completed by December 31, 2021 in EO3. (5c)



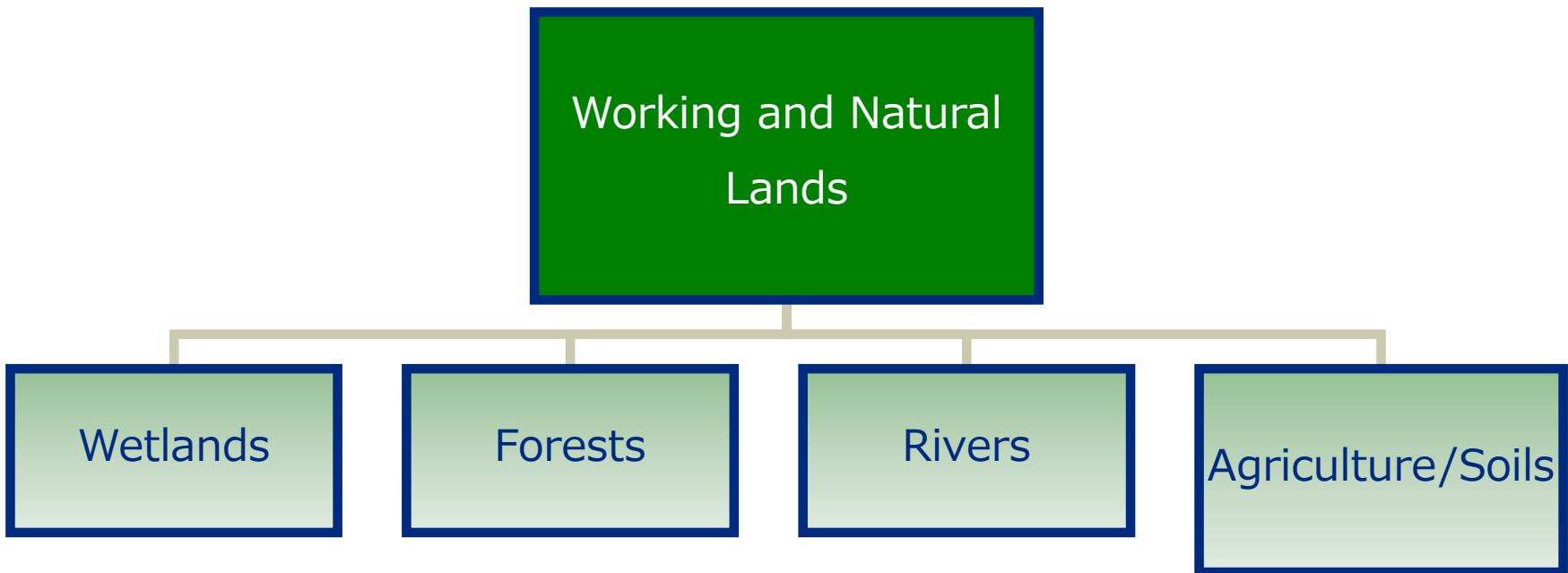
GC3 Structure



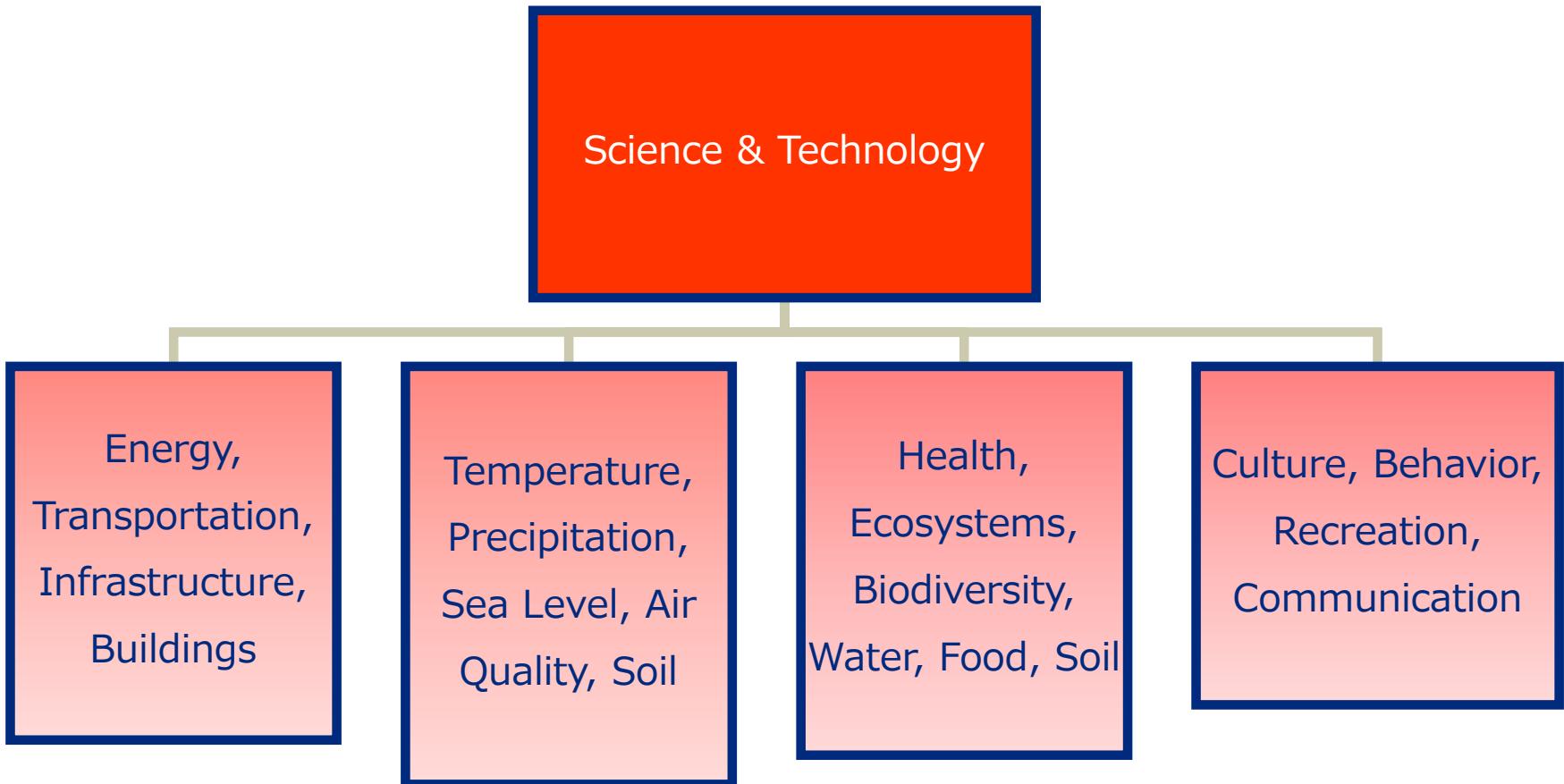
GC3 Work Group Structure



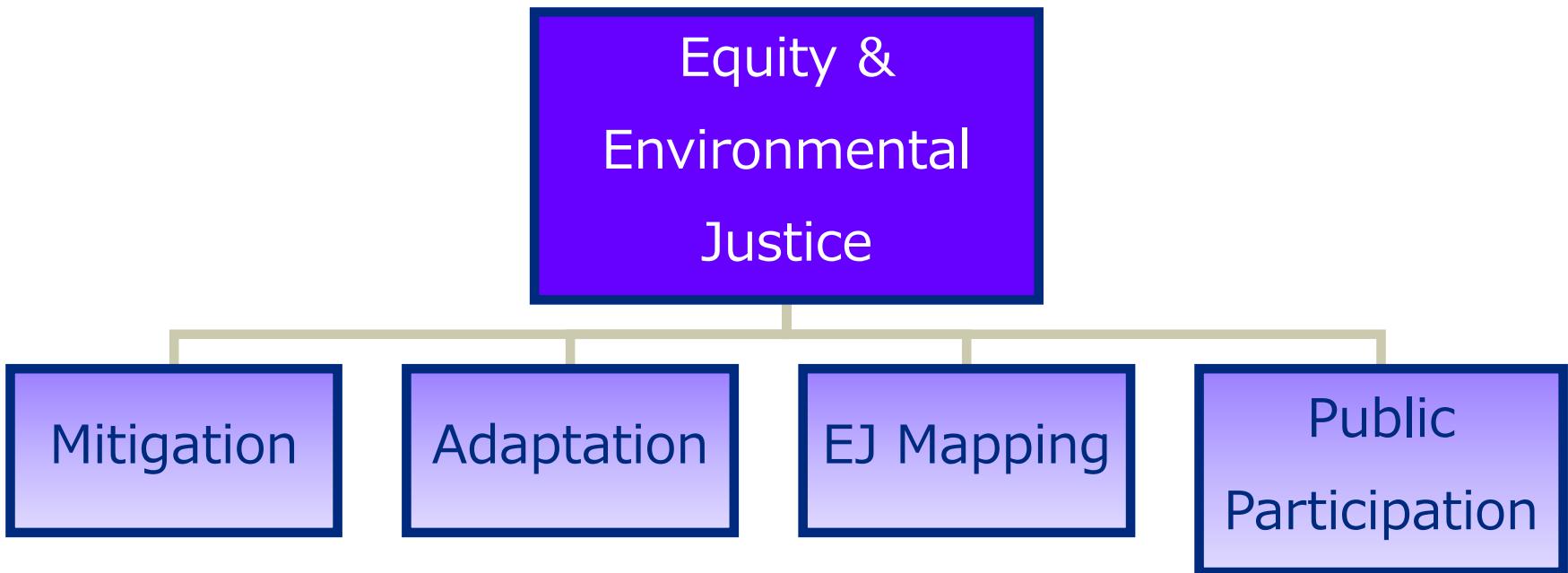
GC3 Work Group Structure



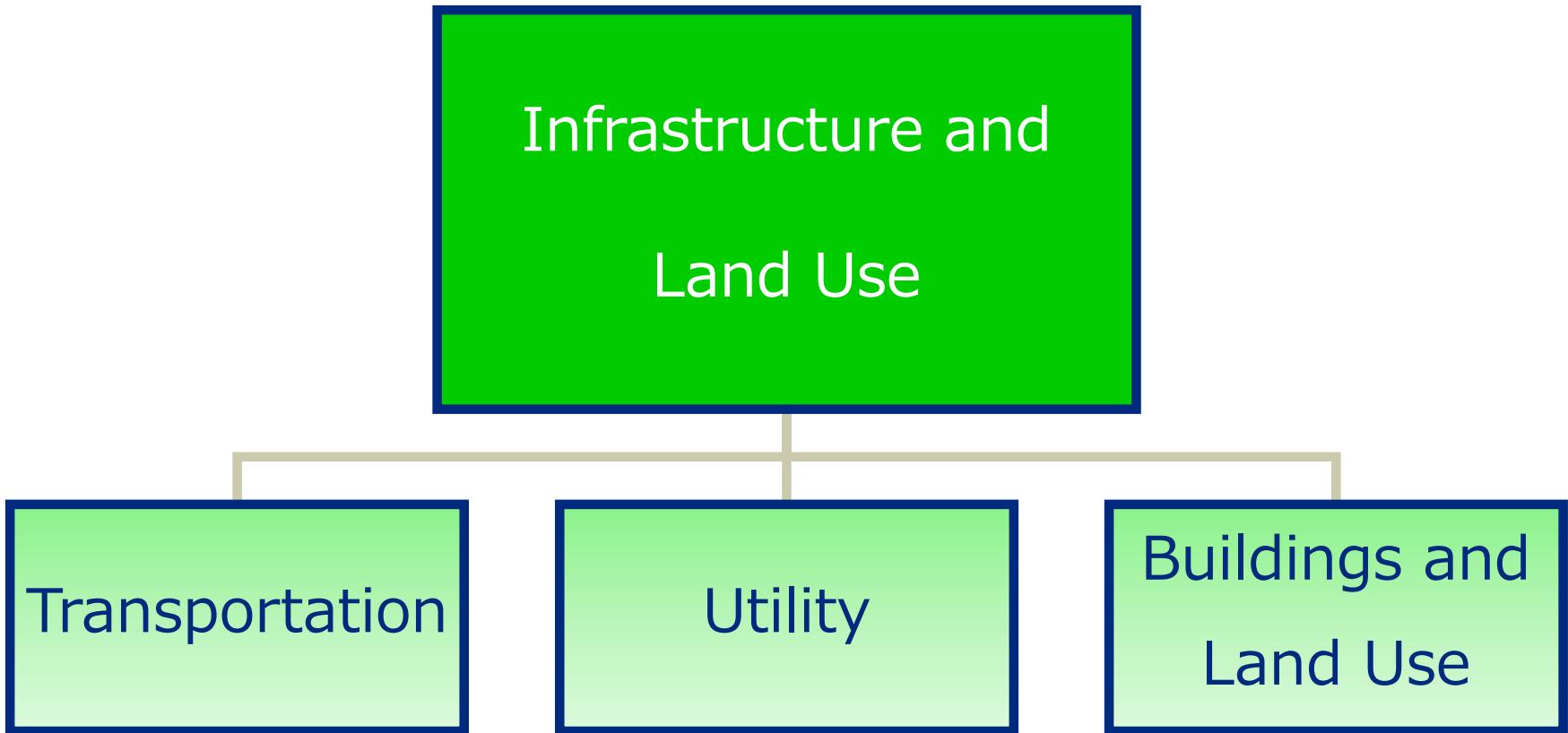
GC3 Work Group Structure



GC3 Work Group Structure



GC3 Work Group Structure



Phase 1: Work Group Reports

- Each Work Group will produce reports to inform the Council's report to the Governor.
- The Work Group reports will contain (as appropriate) *recommendations for the Council's review and potential adoption.*
- The Work Group reports will be appended to the Council's report when it is submitted to the Governor.



Phase 1 Council and WG Reports

Council reports with prioritized recommendations

- Phase 1 Mitigation Update
- Phase 1 Adaptation and Resilience Plan

Work Group Reports

- GC3 Background and Process (*DEEP Liaisons*)
- Equity & Environmental Justice WG Report
- Science & Technology WG Report
- Phase 1 Mitigation Update WG Reports
 - Progress on Mitigation Strategies
 - Working and Natural Lands
- Phase 1 Adaptation & Resilience Plan WG Reports
 - Working and Natural Lands
 - Infrastructure and Land Use Adaptation
 - Public Health and Safety
 - Financing Adaptation and Resilience



Phase 1 Overall Timeline



Phase 1: Public Participation and Engagement

- COVID-19 pandemic impacted original plans for robust in person public participation and engagement process, specifically focused on environmental justice communities
- Actions taken to date to off-set this impact:
 - The EEJ Work Group appointed representatives to sit on the mitigation and adaptation Work Groups to contribute EEJ issue knowledge and perspective to the development of recommendations.
 - Work group meetings noticed and advertised to the public on the GC3 listserv and on the GC3 website
 - EEJ Work Group issued draft guidance for best practices for online public participation
 - The EEJ Work Group will review and comment on Work Group reports prior to issuing a report for public review and comment.



Phase 1: Public Participation and Engagement

- All Work Group and the Council's reports will undergo a public review and comment period.
- DEEP is working with the EEJ Public Participation subgroup to develop an engagement plan for the public review and comment periods.
- Out of an abundance of caution at this time it is anticipated the GC3 meeting and public review process will continue to be held remotely.



23

Members of the Governor's Council
on Climate Change

100

Contributing Organizations



0

Carbon
Target

For electricity sector by

2040

120+

Collaborative public meetings in 2020



7

Critical Working Group
Focus Areas

Progress on Mitigation
Strategies

Working and Natural Lands

Science and Technology

Equity and Environmental Justice

Infrastructure and Land Use
Adaptation

Public Health and Safety

Financing Adaptation
& Resilience

162

Individual Working
Group Members



Progress update on

45% reduction

in CO₂ levels by 2030

1

Statewide Adaptation & Resilience Plan



Phase 1: Work Group Report Timeline

EEJ charged with review for equity & environmental justice and addressing impacts to vulnerable communities

S&T charged with ensuring reports informed by best available science

Work Group Draft Reports & Presentations to EEJ & S&T
Due August 12

EEJ and S&T WG Report Reviews
Due September 1

Revised WG Draft Reports
Due September 10

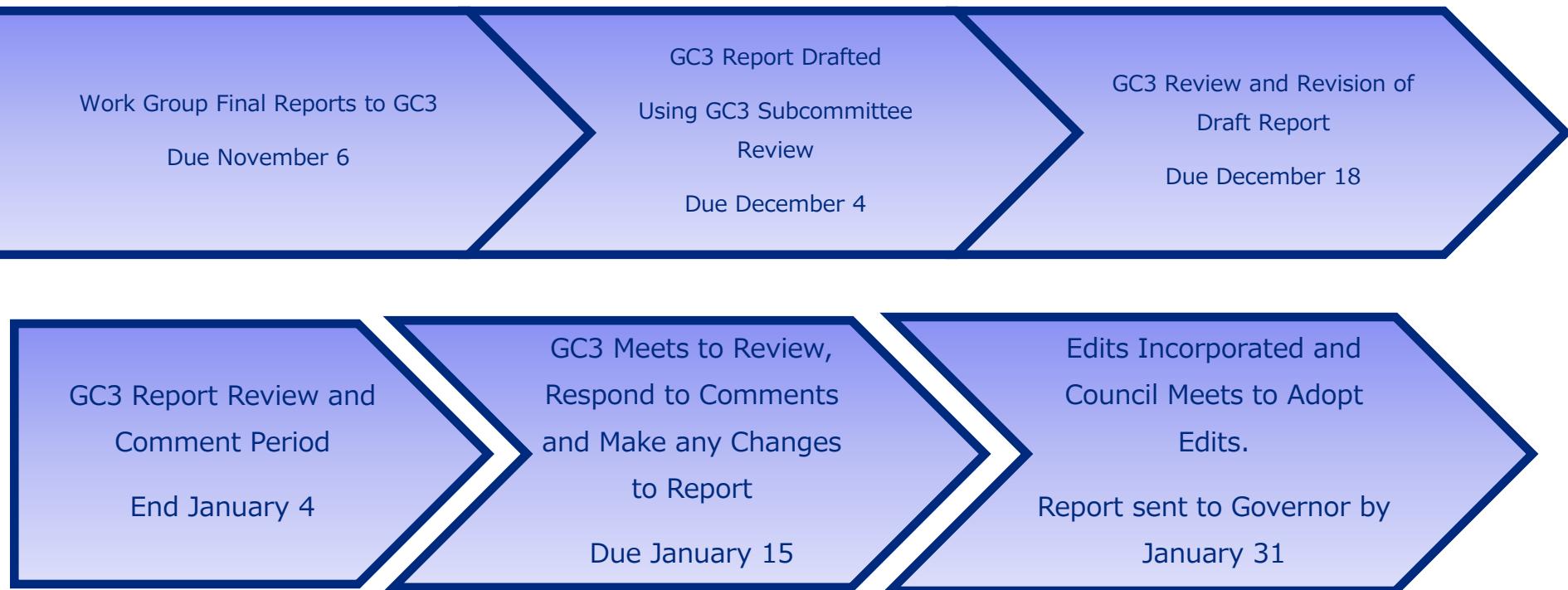
Work Group Report Public Review and Comment Period
End October 19

Presentations on Work Group reports to the GC3

*EO3 orders annual report on GC3 progress to the relevant committees of the CGA



Phase 1: Council Report Timeline



Work Group Report Content



Equity and Environmental Justice Report

- Discussion on equity and environmental justice as a lens for consideration of vulnerable communities
- Public participation guidance
- EJ Mapping
- Strategies to prioritize, integrate and advance equitable distribution of the costs and benefits of climate change mitigation planning and policies, specifically addressing disproportionate impacts of such strategies on environmental justice communities
- Strategies to prioritize climate change adaptation efforts to protect vulnerable communities that may be disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change



- Overview of Expected Impacts from Climate Change in areas of:
 - Energy, Buildings, Transportation, Infrastructure
 - Temperature, Precipitation, Sea Level, Air Quality, Soil
 - Health, Ecosystems, Biodiversity, Water, Food, Soil
 - Culture, Behavior, Recreation, Communication



Phase 1 Mitigation Update Work Groups' Reports

- Charge from EO3 - Update on progress on achieving the “Building a Low Carbon Future for Connecticut: Achieving a 45% GHG Reduction 2030” (2018 Report)
- **Progress on Mitigation Strategies** WG Reports and **Working and Natural Lands** WG should each prepare a report addressing the following:
 - i. Look at the 2018 Report Strategies:
 - Evaluate for equitable distribution of costs and benefits and disproportionate impacts
 - Evaluate efficacy of existing policies to reduce GHG emissions (may include reporting on progress, but only necessary in support of evaluating efficacy)



Phase 1 Mitigation Update Work Groups' Reports

ii. New Strategies: Each work group may propose prioritized strategies to potentially be implemented by (at a minimum) statewide governing bodies

– Prioritize by:

- » Equitable distribution of costs and benefits and disproportionate impacts
- » Efficacy to reduce GHG emissions
- » Highlight strategies that maximize opportunities for climate change adaptation and resilience (and if recommendations have a potential negative effect on adaptation, then they should be ranked lower or reconsidered)



Phase 1 Adaptation and Resilience Plan Work Groups' Reports

- Working and Natural Lands, Infrastructure and Land Use Adaptation & Resilience, and Public Health & Safety will each provide reports including the following information:
 - Progress on 2011 Adaptation and Preparedness Plan
 - Discuss areas of low progress that are assessed to be of continued relevance
 - Recommended Implementation Actions
 - Provide prioritized climate change adaptation strategies that can be implemented by (at a minimum) the statewide governing bodies



– Recommended Implementation Actions

- Recommended implementation actions may be from:
 - » The 2011 Climate Change Adaptation and Preparedness Plan
 - » Previous planning processes at the local, regional or state level in Connecticut
 - » Research or reports relevant to Connecticut (may include actions from other states)
 - » The GC3 process



– Recommended Implementation Actions

- Each strategy and implementation recommendation should explain how:
 - » Informed by most current and locally-scaled scientific information and analysis available with respect to the impacts of climate change
 - » Prioritizes protection of vulnerable communities
 - » Highlight strategies that maximize opportunities for climate change mitigation (and if recommendations have a potential negative effect on mitigation, then they should be ranked lower or reconsidered)



Financing Adaptation and Resilience WG Report

- Existing climate finance mechanisms
- New and emerging funding and finance mechanisms
- Identification of barriers
- Recommended implementation actions for financing strategies that can be implemented by (at a minimum) the statewide governing bodies
 - Prioritization of recommendations should be tied to:
 - Addressing vulnerable populations
 - Addressing recommendations put forward by the other working groups



A&R Recommendation Template

Recommended Implementation Action Title This is a short sentence (100 characters) describing the action. It typically includes an action word (engage, perform, develop) to facilitate measurable outcomes.	
Recommended Implementation Action Description	~100 words. Brief description about why the action is relevant and what adaptation strategy it addresses. It may also include how it complements other actions.
Completion Timeframe	These time frame categories are a guide to implementation of this action: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Less than 2 years• 3 to 5 years• Greater than 5 years
Implementation Entities	Agencies, CGA, Municipalities, NGOs, Academic Institutions, etc. that may participate in the action.
Climate challenges addressed	This section identifies the primary climate interactions and associated impacts that an action is proposed to address. Refer to the Science & Technology workgroup report. Please note if the action provides opportunity to reduce carbon emissions or if it can increase emissions.
Protection of vulnerable communities	Provide a description of how the action prioritizes the protection of vulnerable communities. The Equity and Environmental Justice workgroup can provide assistance with this section.
References for action	Provide links to plans, reports, academic papers, etc. that support the action or where the action was first proposed or note if originated with GC3 process.

