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
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)
Governor’s Council on Climate Change

Climate Change Mitigation Subcommittee
- Progress on Mitigation Strategies

Climate Change Adaptation and Resiliency Subcommittee
- Equity and Environmental Justice
- Working and Natural Lands
- Science and Technology
- Financing Adaptation & Resilience
  - Infrastructure and Land Use Adaptation
  - Public Health and Safety
  - Assessing Vulnerabilities in State Assets & Operations

Working Groups
GC3 Work Group Structure

Progress on Mitigation Strategies

- Buildings Sector
- Electricity Sector
- Transportation Sector
- Cross-sector and Non-Energy Sector
GC3 Work Group Structure

- Working and Natural Lands
  - Wetlands
  - Forests
  - Rivers
  - Agriculture/Soils
GC3 Work Group Structure

Science & Technology

- Energy, Transportation, Infrastructure, Buildings
- Temperature, Precipitation, Sea Level, Air Quality, Soil
- Health, Ecosystems, Biodiversity, Water, Food, Soil
- Culture, Behavior, Recreation, Communication
GC3 Work Group Structure

Equity & Environmental Justice

- Mitigation
- Adaptation
- EJ Mapping
- Public Participation
GC3 Work Group Structure

Infrastructure and Land Use

- Transportation
- Utility
- Buildings and Land Use
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

- **Dec 2019**: GC3 Kick Off Meeting
- **Jan 2020**: Subcommittees Meet (Define & set subcommittee & working groups tasks and schedule for the year)
- **Feb – Aug 2020**: Working Groups meet, conduct outreach and draft recommendations
- **Sept-Oct 2020**: Release draft WG reports for public comment
- **Nov-Dec 2020**: GC3 Deliberation and Adoption of Recommendations and Release for Public Comment
- **January 2021**: Finalize GC3 Phase 1 Report and send to Governor Lamont

**March 23, 2020**: Stay Safe. Stay Home. E.O. 7H
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.
Members of the Governor’s Council on Climate Change

23
Contributing Organizations

100

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

1 Statewide Adaptation & Resilience Plan

Progress update on
45% reduction in CO2 levels by 2030
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**

**Timeline:

- **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 Final Reports to GC3
  Due November 6

- GC3 Report Drafted
  Using GC3 Subcommittee Review
  Due December 4

- GC3 Review and Revision of Draft Report
  Due December 18

- GC3 Report Review and Comment Period
  End January 4

- GC3 Meets to Review, Respond to Comments and Make any Changes to Report
  Due January 15

- Edits Incorporated and Council Meets to Adopt Edits.
  Report sent to Governor by January 31
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)
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)
– 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
## 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Recommended Implementation Action Description</strong></th>
<th>~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.</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| **Completion Timeframe**                         | These time frame categories are a guide to implementation of this action:  
  • 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. |