
Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3) Equity and Environmental Justice Public Participation MEETING MINUTES

June 19, 2020

2 to 3 PM

Attendees:

Alex Rodriguez, CTLCV, Subcommittee Chair

Joanna Wozniak-Brown UConn CIRCA joanna@uconn.edu

Dani Zanutinni - Frank dani.zanuttini-frank@yale.edu

Marianne Engelman Lado, Co-chair

Rebecca French, DEEP rebecca.french@ct.gov

Lee Cruz, Co-chair

Maya Vardi, New Haven City Planning Department

Mark Mitchell mmitch3@gmu.edu

Alex: The Equity & EJ Working Group drafted comments on public participation at the first meeting

Marianne: Another goal is to review the public participation recommendations on the GC3 website and pass on recommendations by August

Finalization is needed

In-person and remote outreach is needed

Identifying people to be in the working groups

Public comment period taking place

Stage process: What is immediate vs what can be done over the summer?

Edith: More diversity needed in the Working Groups. Identifying individuals from "Environmental Justice Communities". Their input is valuable and meaningful.

Lee: Creating trustful relationships. Utilize the relationships you have built in marginalized.

Rebecca: UConn CIRCA is leading an adaptation and resiliency project with funding from HUD. Working with the Commissioner on setting an interim report date for January. I want a robust public participation process. Worked on community engagement projects in Bridgeport. I want to set the stage for an in-person engagement meeting but want to be cautious of the COVID precautions.

Joanna: What about translation?

Marianne: Language access and accessibility for those with disabilities are elements that are needed in ensuring we are engaging the public.

Joanna: Debra Goss at Department of Transportation could be helpful.

Marianne: What is already in place at DEEP?

Edith: We are in the process of developing a limited English proficiency plan. When a request comes in at a public meeting, we need to rely on translation vendors from the Department of Social Services website. We do have a Disability Coordinator.

Joanna: Arenstein's Ladder of Public Participation: Citizens Empowerment and Collaboration:
<https://citizenshandbook.org/arnsteinsladder.html>

Lee: Identifying those struggling with health issues and are being required to work during COVID are people who should be in these conversations.

Marianne:

1. Let's finish the document deliverables at the next meeting and consider that piece of our subcommittee tentatively done.
2. I agree with Lee's point earlier that we should grow the relationships we already have. Let us figure out where we have gaps in participation from EJ communities and invite them to our meetings.
3. Let's start to plan for in-person gatherings with COVID safety precautions in mind.

Joanna: We should also look at pre-existing vulnerability mapping to help us identify those in need.
<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DOT/documents/dcontractcompliance/Resource-Directory-for-Community-Outreach-Employee-Referrals.xlsx>

Marianne: There is a Mapping Tool Subcommittee working on this.

Alex: Let's plan to reconvene Friday
July 10 at 3:00PM. Keep an eye
out for a Google Hangouts

