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**Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3)  
EQUITY & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE WORKING GROUP  
MEETING MINUTES**

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**Meeting Date:** 8-10-20

**Meeting Time:** 12-1 pm ET

**Meeting Location:** Zoom link:

<https://ctdeep.zoom.us/j/92345433272>

**ATTENDANCE**

<b>Working Group Member</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Present</b>
Marianne Engelman-Lado	Co-chair, Professor	VT Law School, Yale School of Public Health & Yale School of the Environment	X
Lee Cruz	Co-chair, Director of Community Outreach	Community Foundation for a Great New Haven	X
Saranda Alka	Intern	CT League of Conservation Voters	X
Alexander Rodriguez	Community Organizer	CT League of Conservation Voters	X
Sena Wazer	Co-Director	Sunrise CT	X
Laura Cahn	Chair	New Haven Environmental Advisory Council	X
Mary-Beth Hart		CT DEEP: Land and Water Resources Division	X
Rebecca French	Director	Office of Climate Planning	X
Kathy Fay	Director of Community Sustainability	Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven	X
James Albis	Senior Advisor to the Commissioner	CT DEEP	X
Aaron Goode		New England Grassroots Environmental Fund	X
Lynne Bonnett		Greater New Haven Green Fund	X
Rosalynn Grzywinski	Administrative Assistant	CT DEEP	X

<b>Associated Staff</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Present</b>
Edith Pestana	Administrator	CT DEEP: EJ Program	X
Doris Johnson	Outreach & Education Coordinator	CT DEEP: EJ Program	X
Max Teirstein	Intern	CT DEEP: EJ Program	X

## AGENDA & NOTES

### Welcome and Announcements

#### Update on GC3

*Facilitated by Rebecca French and Marianne Engelman-Lado*

- EEJ will now begin reviewing drafts of reports from other working groups
- Disruptions from the Tropical Storm has resulted in some members losing power/internet, so timeline extensions are available for groups that need them
  - If this group needs more time, can be worked into the schedule
  - At this point, none of the presentations will be postponed
- EEJ will be both reviewing draft reports and generating unique recommendations
- Working groups will make a short presentation on their reports to the mitigation working group or the EEJ-A working group
  - Additional comments can be sent by email
  - **All feedback due September 1**
    - They then have 15 days to incorporate feedback into their reports
    - Some wiggle room on the end date—aim for mid-September (though currently it's September 11<sup>th</sup>)
- During Public Participation period, Public Participation working group will support public engagement
  - Robust planning now to figure out how to engage people
- EEJ will be able to submit a report as well
- What will be the format for conveying feedback to working group reports?
  - Template will be shared for this

#### Reports from Subcommittees 20 minutes

Mitigation, *Sena Wazer, Sunrise CT*

- Presentations from each of the Mitigation subcommittees on August 19<sup>th</sup>
  - 3 hours with a half hour break
- Mitigation subcommittees will be reporting on their EEJ considerations
  - Some recommendations will occur at that meeting
  - Avenue for further comments will be established
- Another meeting after the presentations to discuss further recommendations
- Process for providing recommendations is complicated
  - Presentations will hopefully streamline that, giving all participants access to the key information presented in the report
- Presentations should be limited to 20 minutes

#### Public comments

**Marianne Engelman-Lado**, YSPH

- Would be great to have more participation from people with diverse backgrounds and expertise, if the Public Participation working group can be thinking about how that might happen
- Everyone on this call and reading these minutes should take it upon themselves to be reaching out to folks to get involved

Equity, EJ & Adaptation, *James Albis*, CT Commissioner's Office

- Agendas for all upcoming meetings will be posted shortly
- EEJ-A Presentations—invitations are open to all, if you need to ration your time then join either the EEJ-A subcommittee or the EEJ-Mitigation subcommittee
  - Public Health; Infrastructure & Land Use working groups: Tuesday 8/18—3:30-5:30
    - Infrastructure & Land Use looking at climate change resilience

- Financing Adaptation & Resilience: August 24<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-10:30
- August 20<sup>th</sup> (presentations to broader EEJ, not just EEJ-A)
  - Science & Technology: 9-10 am
  - Working and Natural Lands: 5:30-7:30
- All presentations finalized today, will be shared by email
- What recommendations should get out the door for 2020? What are the issues which should continue to be discussed through 2021?
  - Template clarifies this difference

Public Participation, *Alex Rodriguez*, Organizer, CTLCV

- Last meeting, worked to revise the public participation draft guidance document and the public participation checklist
- Finalizing recommendations for 1) the guidance document, 2) the checklist, and 3) the remote engagement guidance documents are the key priorities now
  - Convening a meeting to finalize these within the next month to serve as a guiding tool for the rest of the GC3
  - Links will be posted shortly
- Tracked changes would be useful
  - Google docs' "suggestions" settings or Word's "tracked changes" settings can accomplish this
- Putting something out for additional input versus making the move to incorporate that input
  - Subcommittee can take a vote on it via email
  - Question is when Public Participation is ready to put the materials up for public input
- Is there a preferred date for the finalization of these public participation documents?
  - EEJ's September meeting to review and vote on the EEJ report
    - Should include these documents
    - Should include mapping tool recommendation
    - Should include anything else people are considering
    - No date yet—likely in the first two weeks of September
- Ongoing efforts to engage people in the public comment period or in these ongoing meetings?
  - These efforts are moving slowly, especially with last week's power outages

**Public comments**

**Lynne Bonnett,**

- Concerned when Rebecca was discussing the overall plan that each group would have a two-hour session to present their report to the public.
  - So many different groups—how can the public be engaged on the presentations? One two-hour session comes and passes
  - **James Albis:** Those meetings will be recorded, so people can always go back and watch those recordings. Also, at least a 40-day comment period for the reception of written comments, as well as the outward-facing presentations. If public participation group has any additional suggestions, administrators want to accommodate those.
    - Of course, remote engagement will make all of this more difficult
    - Feedback will not be limited to only the presentations
- Pointed out that it's often difficult to read presentations on Zoom, so it's critical that people have access to the documents themselves.

**Kathy Fay,** Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven

- The meetings will be recorded, but they'll be showing documents. If we were to send out the link to the recorded meeting, would we simultaneously send the links to the documents being shown in the meeting? Difficult to write comments during a talk.
  - **Marianne Engelman-Lado:** Many different ways to promote public engagement. May be helpful for the Public Participation working group to include Rebecca in brainstorming ways to engage people.
  - **Lee Cruz:** All documents will be shared on the website ahead of the meeting. Notice of upcoming meetings must include direct links to the documents being discussed in the meeting.

**Marianne Engelman-Lado,** YSPH

- People from the disabled, aging, rural community need to engage in this process. Crucial for the public participation efforts to consider how to engage relevant people in the conversations that relate to them.

**Lee Cruz, CFGNH**

- Critical that the state ensures that when announcements are published, documents are published as well. When those documents are shared, the format should be considered for accessibility. An editable document that they can download for their use would allow them to make use of any software technology that they have to change the view for them.

**James Albis, Commissioner's Office**

- Asking for all of the documents that people are providing to be in both PDF and word form?
  - **Lee Cruz:** documents that need to be linked to an email that goes out are ones that are specific to that meeting. All of those documents should be up on the website. Word documents are an opportunity for people to download a document and manipulate it such that it becomes readable for themselves.

Mapping Tool, *Marianne Engelman Lado, YSPH*

- Trying to coordinate with Public Health
  - Creating a recommendation that dovetails well with the mapping tool recommendation
  - This Thursday at 11 am will be convening with the EEJ subcommittee to ensure it can encapsulate climate, health, environmental, and social vulnerabilities to help the state with climate policy and with a hyperlocal approach to climate action plans and implementation
- Three things on the table:
  - 1. Making sure that the current work of the GC3 is informed by whatever mapping tools are already available.
    - Lots of databases. Short document listing those various tools here:
  - 2. Recommendation needs to be shaped, since consensus has been reached that it should go into this report
  - 3. Series of webinars, one each week, starting in September. There will be a webinar on mapping tools, so Thursday's call will also focus on planning for that webinar
    - **Edith Pestana:** Focus of the webinars is to continue to provide education and information on the topic so there is understanding across all participants in the GC3 about the topics they should consider as they write reports and provide recommendations
- Upcoming call on Thursday, August 13<sup>th</sup>: 11 am ET

**Public comments****Development of an Equity & Environmental Justice Report: Substance and Timing***Facilitated by Marianne Engelman-Lado, YSPH*

- What should go into that report?
  - Other working groups have been working for months on creating their own, while EEJ didn't entirely realize that it was incumbent on us to do that by September 11<sup>th</sup>
  - Obvious elements:
    - Public Participation Guidance
    - Recommendation for an EJ/CJ Mapping Tool
  - Anything else?
  - Would anyone like to participate in drafting this report?
  - Is there anything coming from the EEJ-A or Mitigation subcommittees that should be emphasized in the EEJ report
- When conducting reviews of the other working groups' drafts, there may be things that come up that need emphasis in our own report, even if it's already being emphasized in other feedback
- One month to put together a draft of this report
  - Less than that if there needs to be a meeting in the first two weeks of September.
  - Process for soliciting additional ideas and doing quick drafting over next 3-4 weeks?
  - **Edith Pestana:** Send out a table of contents about what will be submitted and how it'll be structured, as well as any comments that EEJ working group might have to contribute to a background or concerns about translating proposals into action.
    - Additional ideas might come out of the back-and-forth between the EEJ subcommittees and the working groups presenting to them, so it might not be the right timing yet to send that out.

**Public comments**

**Kathy Fay, Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven**

- Would be helpful to catalog dimensions of vulnerability. What makes an EJ community?
  - Edith Pestana: Laura Hayes has provided a federal standard definition of vulnerable communities, but we need our own definitions of EJ communities and vulnerable communities in our report.
- We don't want to only think about the form in which information is provided, but also the form in which we receive feedback. It's important to specify the manner in which we are provided feedback. There needs to be provision for spoken responses. Hotline where they can leave a recording? Something recorded in these meetings? Easier for people to speak on something, often.
- Right now, there's a "column for EJ," but we should insist on multiple columns for different vulnerable communities, rather than lumping all EJ communities together.
  - **Marianne Engelman-Lado:** This seems related to the seminar series. If someone doesn't come to the table with a fleshed-out understanding of EJ and vulnerabilities, how do you even apply that column, with all of its complexities?

**James Albis, Commissioner's Office**

- With the GC3 continuing its work in 2021, after this initial report is submitted to the governor, something that could be considered would be an outline of everything the EEJ working group wants to look at in 2021.

**Lynne Bonnett**

- Maybe not the scope of this process, but what do we expect to happen from identifying vulnerable populations and areas? Whatever the issue is, are the recommendations supposed to address these inequities? Often reports just identify that there is an EJ issue, but who is proposing that something be done to address these things?
  - **Marianne Engelman-Lado:** Everyone should be making those proposals. In an ideal world, planning would have started with an assessment of the existing vulnerabilities so that reports can address those issues directly. But we can take the information we have and pull together more information to ensure that working groups are addressing those realities because otherwise, to put it frankly, people will die. The spreadsheet that working groups are putting together must include an equity column. A lot of community groups already have ideas and may not need that assessment, but it's really a leg in the stool to determine the communities that need most support.
  - **James Albis:** That's why we're so excited about the prospect of this mapping tool. It will help us figure out where resources are directed, but also to justify these decisions to legislators and other stakeholders. When the EEJ subcommittees and full working group are reviewing presentations over the coming weeks, critical that people not only identify EJ issue but to think about how that issue can be addressed.

**Laura Cahn, New Haven Environmental Advisory Council**

- Are we going to give examples of specific items that caused us to make certain recommendations and our proposed solutions? If we have issues that caused us to make certain recommendations and we want to encourage the suggestions to be taken, it helps to justify, rather than just making a list. If we could give examples of why we're making these comments when we leave them, that will strengthen the case we make for why the revision is necessary.