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

Meeting Date: 9-3-20
Meeting Time: 1-2:30 pm ET
Meeting Location: Zoom Link:
https://ctdeep.zoom.us/j/9
5349295077

ATTENDANCE

Working Group Member	Title	Organization	Present
Marianne Engelman-Lado	Professor	Yale School of the Environment, Yale School of Public Health, VT Law School	X
Yaprak Onat	Assistant Director of Research	UCONN CIRCA	X
Brian Hall	GIS Analyst; GIS Consultant	Harvard Forest; CT Land Conservation Council	X
Laura Hayes	Epidemiologist	CT Department of Public Health	X
Laura Cahn	Chair	New Haven Environmental Advisory Council	X
Todd Berman	Manager of Environmental Programs and Projects	United Illuminating	X
Andy Jolly-Ballantine	Professor; Director	UCONN Department of Geography; Sustainable Community Food Systems	X
Joanna Wozniak-Brown	Assistant Director for Resilience Planning	UCONN CIRCA	X
Joey Wraithwall	Manager, State Director's Office	The Nature Conservancy: Connecticut	X
Lynne Bonnett	Resident	New Haven	X
Michelle Riordan-Nold	Executive Director	CT Data Collaborative	X
Anji Seth	Professor	UCONN Department of Geography	X
Kathy Fay	Community Sustainability Director	Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven	X
Nathaniel Trumbull			X

Associated Staff	Title	Organization	Present
Max Teirstein	Intern	CT DEEP: EJ Program	X
Edith Pestana	Administrator	CT DEEP: EJ Program	X

AGENDA & NOTES
Welcome and Announcements

Agenda Item(s)
Facilitated by Marianne Engelman-Lado & Laura Hayes, Co-Chairs
- Discuss development of the recommendation for the GC3
  - Review early draft of recommendation:
    https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dji1LbvpT6dInj7Pj1W3mLEDMwa3h8sEfXDWpM4j-AE/edit?usp=sharing

Discussion
- **Todd Berman,** United Illuminating
  - Utility WG seeking to geolocate the population of vulnerable facilities and overlay that with vulnerable communities
- **Brian Hall,** Harvard Forest
  - Add explicit need for legislative action
    - **Kathy Fay:** Should be framed as a suggestion, since it could be killed due to political reasons.
- **Andy Jolly-Ballantine,** UCONN
  - o Gov. Malloy administration may be helpful. Mr. Jolly-Ballantine has a contact who may be helpful.
- **Laura Cahn,** New Haven Environmental Advisory Council
  - o Things can be added to the tool as those new elements get developed, perfect shouldn't be the enemy of the good
- **Marianne Engelman-Lado,** Yale University
  - o Would create a mandate for sustainability
  - o Legislation can be tied to the tool after its development, or before
- **Laura Hayes,** DPH
  - o Recommendation shared with DPH leadership. Big caveat in response was that funding be identified before DPH can get involved. Ideally written into the recommendation. Text should reflect that.
    - Without legislation, hard to get the funding needed.
- **Kathy Fay,** Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven
  - o Should be considered within the broader EEJ context. Is this the only thing the EEJ is asking for funding for? If there are other funding priorities, they should be prioritized accordingly.
    - *Next week's EEJ meeting will focus on discussion of funding.*
      - Current funding needs: funding for public participation
- **Laura Cahn,** New Haven Environmental Advisory Council
  - o Approximate estimates of cost for this tool?
    - *Low cost in Washington state because they built on their CDC trackers. We could be in a similar situation, building on the work of CIRCA, DataHaven, CTData. Were able to do it inexpensively. Main grant was for one organization to conduct community outreach.*
- **Joanna Wozniak-Brown,** UCONN CIRCA
  - o Legislation is needed or the governor needs to set aside in his budget the funds that are needed. Emily Wilson at UCONN (heads CT GIS network) may be helpful in identifying funding streams. DOT could also be a source of funding.
  - o Could start with the federal layers that exist and have an agency set it up, and then look at it in stages and add on over time with different organizations weighing in.
- **Todd Berman,** United Illuminating
  - o Ultimately, there will only be 10-20 actionable items that the governor will want to

work on. Best recommendation possible should refer to format and mechanisms, but be prepared to continue to advocate for that model as the recommendation goes up the pipeline to the governor.
- o Mapping connects to so many other working groups. Look at utility WG, look at public health, etc. Add in language about holistic nature of this tool.
- **Andy Jolly-Ballantine,** UCONN
  - o CT State Data Center has lots of data on this. May be room to get some of the interns that work through CTData. Free labor, student labor.
- **Marianne Engelman-Lado**, Yale University
  - o Recommendation 1 timeline should make some reference to iterative nature of legislation.
- **Yaprak Onat,** UCONN CIRCA
  - o Maintenance and updates needs to be mentioned and considered within the timeline.
    - ▪ Updates every two years would be optimal.
- **Joey Wraithwall,** TNC: CT
  - o If EEJ is calling for funding for vulnerable communities, case should be made that this is how those communities be identified.
  - o Setting up a mapping tool doesn't need to be resource-intensive. Spreadsheet that identifies the areas can be easier than a full-blown mapper.
- **Marianne Engelman-Lado,** Yale University
  - o Something should be added to the recommendation about integrating the mapping tool into recommendations from other working groups.
  - o Feasible to launch a public-private interagency effort to confer around the tool right now, rather than recommending it for 2021.
    - ▪ **Edith Pestana**: only way to get this done is by bringing private organizations and multiple organizations and NGOs to come together to work on this.
- **Edith Pestana,** CT DEEP
  - o Needs a clearer fiscal note regarding creation and then maintenance.
- **Marianne Engelman-Lado,** Yale University
  - o Extremely useful to add comments directly to this document. Please continue to do so.
- **Laura Cahn,** New Haven Environmental Advisory Council
  - o Would it be useful to list some of the things that can be mapped already?
- **Joey Wraithwall,** TNC: CT
  - o [via chat] I think one qualified staff position at DEEP or CIRCA would be largely sufficient for climate change and equity data work (and that position would likely be able to then take on much more than just a mapping tool). My perception that additional funds to set up a separate website and map viewer (if even deemed necessary) would be a one-time appropriation in the low 5 figures.
  - o [via chat] Could this working group work with DEEP or CIRCA to put out a non-binding RFP or RFQ for a single contract around building the tool?

- Discuss parameters of the tool
  - - e.g., statewide? Resolution? Layered demographic health, climate-specific indicators, and proximity to environmental pollutant sources?
  - - Distinction between data that goes into the index and data that goes into the tool indicators
  - - Criteria up for discussion:
    - ▪ Statewide availability
    - ▪ Public availability
      - • Doesn't mean that every data *point* is available, but datasets are available
    - ▪ Categories of data: health status, environmental exposure (levels of PM2.5, location of facilities, etc.), climate factors (heat zones)…?

Discussion

- **Brian Hall,** Harvard Forest
  - [via chat] other working groups will want to see datasets important to them in the mapper. So could be lots and lots of layers (which is good and bad).
- **Todd Berman,** United Illuminating
  - Critical infrastructures can get tricky with publicly-shared data
    - Some utility infrastructures are permitted non-disclosure to the public
- **Joey Wraithwall,** TNC: CT
  - Can be difficult/subjective to incorporate climate vs. EJ concerns
    - Shouldn't necessarily be conflated
    - EJ tool is more straightforward, evaluating climate data onto that is very complex
      - **Marianne Engelman-Lado**: true for indices, but climate data could still be layered even if it wasn't included in the index.
- **Laura Cahn,** New Haven Environmental Advisory Council
  - Concerns over security for putting data in the public domain?
    - **Max Teirstein**: true for public health data.
- **Michelle Riordan-Nold**, CT Data Collaborative
  - Accuracy is certainly a concern, with the American Community Survey, particularly looking at race and ethnicity in smaller towns and regions.
- **Kathy Fay,** Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven
  - Buildings workgroup is working on developing a database of all of the buildings in the state in order to track efficiency upgrades. Could be of use.
- **Brian Hall,** Harvard Forest
  - Maybe other WGs of the GC3 should be answering this question?
- **Marianne Engelman-Lado,** Yale University
  - Generic language in recommendation that emphasizes consultation with other WGs
- **Lynne Bonnett,** New Haven Resident
  - Vehicle miles traveled data could be useful, and a good dataset.
- **Yaprak Onat,** UCONN CIRCA
  - CIRCA is leading a project to identify landscape typologies of CT
    - Research in other cities done on how heat is affecting zoning and urban planning
    - Could be useful for the tool
- **Marianne Engelman-Lado,** Yale University
  - Iterative nature of the tool is critical here. It should be added to after the initial version is published.
- **Joey Wraithwall,** TNC: CT
  - We should definitely hold off on making specific recommendations on what indicators should be included in the index, but reference only the high-level categories of data. Climate data should not be included, though, due to issues with standardization.
- **Yaprak Onat,** UCONN CIRCA
  - Climate data can be included and CIRCA has experience doing so. However, when it comes to public health data, it becomes more difficult.
  - Climate vulnerability assessment is only for New Haven and Fairfield counties. Flooding mapping is only for coastal regions. We need to look for the data gaps—what is missing in the physical sciences aspect? Should be categorized. We have an idea of what should go into a general climate vulnerability index (infrastructure vulnerability, habitat, water quality vulnerability, and flooding) but we don't have resources to complete all of that statewide. State funding should be targeted to this.
    - We need to state explicitly that tremendous work has been done, but further funding is required to expand that work statewide. Between university work and CIRCA, there is plenty of capacity to complete that.
- **Marianne Engelman-Lado**, Yale University

- o Rather than excluding the possibility of being able to layer climate factors into the index, if we say that more work and thinking needs to be done on the climate portion then that would give us the flexibility to ultimately aim to take these multiple climate layers into account at some point.
- **Joey Wraithwall,** TNC: CT
  - o [via chat] Just wanted to point to California's all-in-one climate projection and data tool as one example; there have been conversations for years to create an option to overlay CalEnviroScreen data onto Cal-Adapt projections: https://cal-adapt.org/
- **Todd Berman,** United Illuminating
  - o What is the plan for this group? What is the process within the GC3?
    - *Two stages: recommendations this year, and then those things that are not fully fleshed out can be developed during 2021. We haven't had the kind of robust public participation we need to properly consider community voices. We need to get through the recommendations phase of 2020 before we can figure out what needs to happen in 2021, but there is certainly a mandate to continue providing recommendations through 2021.*
- **Edith Pestana**
  - o This mapping tool workgroup will undoubtedly continue through 2021. I can't see this not happening at this point.

Next Steps
- We may not be ready to specify specific data until 2021, but all of it will go into the recommendations in some way and be seriously considered.
- Please add feedback to the google doc at this link: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dji1LbvpT6dInj7Pj1W3mLEDMwa3h8sEfXDWpM4j-AE/edit?usp=sharing