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

**June 23, 2020
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm
Virtual Meeting**

ATTENDANCE

Working Group Member:	Organization:	Present:
Alex Rodriguez	Connecticut League of Conservation Voters	Yes
Alia Salem		No
Angie Liao		No
Aicha Woods	Executive Director for the City Planning Dept. of New Haven	Yes
Bompoti, Nefeli		No
Brenda Geer		No
Brenda Watson		No
Catherine Cushman		No
Charlie Crosby		No
Cynthia Jennings		No
Doris Johnson	DEEP Office of Environmental Equity	Yes
Deborah Sims		No
Edith Pestana	DEEP Administrator, OEJ	Yes
Emily Bashame		No
Gina Calabro		No
James Albis	Senior Advisor to DEEP Commissioner	Yes
Jill Capotosto		No
Julie Jones		No
Joanna Wozniak-Brown	Assistant Director for Resilience Planning Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA)	Yes
John Truscinski		Yes
Kathleen Donovan		No
Kenny Foscue		No
Lee Cruz	Member of GC3, Co-Chair EEJ Workgroup	Yes
Leticia Colon	Equity and Opportunity Chair	Yes

GC3 EQUITY & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE/ADAPTATION

June 23, 2020

Laura Bozzi	Director of Programs for the Yale Center on Climate Change and Health	Yes
Laura Hayes	Epidemiologist, CT Dept of Public Health	Yes
Lynne Bonnett	Former Chair, New Haven Environmental Justice Network	Yes
Maisa Tisdale	Mary & Eliza Freeman Center	Yes
Marianne Engelman-Lado	Co-Chair of the Equity and EJ Working group	Yes
Marissa Rivera	Disability Rights Connecticut advocate - the designated protection agency for people with disabilities	Yes
Mark A Mitchell	Chair of Adaptation Subcommittee of EEJ	Yes
Matt Fulda	Co-lead on the land use/buildings and transportation theme groups	Yes
Max Teirstein	Yale student interning with DEEP's internship program	Yes
Maryam Elahi		No
Michael Piscatelli		No
Orlando Velazco	Director Office of Health Equity of Dept of Public Health	Yes
Susan Quincy	DEEP- state park registration and outreach	Yes
Rev Lord		No
Rebecca French	Director of the office of climate planning at the DEEP	Yes
Sena Wazer	Co-Director of Sunrise Connecticut, Chairing mitigation subcommittee for the EEJ	Yes
Sharon Lewis		No
Shubhada Kambli	Office of sustainability in Hartford Mayor's office	Yes
Stacey Davis		No
Stanley Lord *	Greater Bridgeport & CT NAACP Conference	Yes
Stephanye Clark		No
Steven Schrag		No
Tasheenah Brown		No
Tom Swarr		No
Todd Berman		Yes

Introduction

Facilitated by Rebecca French

- Initial comments by Rebecca
 - Reiterated Governor's Executive Order and EEJ's specific mission
 - Environmental justice called out by name in mitigation portion
 - This group is to ensure vulnerable communities are prioritized
 - Adaptation groups should present to EEJ-A by August 20th
- Leticia Colon asked how feedback from the DEEP will be incorporated into the final product
 - Rebecca French responded that the Governor's Council will further conduct a review and adoption process of the information put forth by the working groups with public review in the fall
- Marianne Engelman-Lado asked about the timeline of the GC3 process
 - Rebecca French responded that the timeline may shift a few days and she can't tell exact dates yet but certainly August is the month of presentations and iterative time of feedback, followed by ~45 day period of public comment process.
 - All the working reports will go up to the Governor's Council which will review the recommendations and go through an adoption process, there will be a distinction between all the reports and the adopted recommendations.
 - The full reports of the Workgroups will be included in the final document
 - While an interim report will be presented by January 15, 2021 this will be an ongoing process until December 2021.

Goals of the EEJ-A Committee

Facilitated by Dr. Mark Mitchell

- Goals of the EEJ-A Committee
 - Provide iterative feedback and recommendations to other adaptation subgroups and the Health Workgroup
 - Provide general climate justice recommendations
- Marianne Engelman-Lado voiced her support for the group and its mission. She expressed that one of the challenges is being both reactive to the recommendations and generative of viable ideas.

GC3 Adaptation Structure: Theme Areas

Facilitated by Dr. Mark Mitchell

- Theme Areas
 - Transportation,
 - Utility Infrastructure,
 - Land Use/Buildings,
 - Public Health & Safety (now separate workgroup)

Dr. Mitchell's Vision of the Adaptation/Resilience Planning Process

Facilitated by Dr. Mark Mitchell

- Dr. Mark Mitchell spoke about how he sees the role of the subgroup being two-fold:
 - Create tools that can increase the capacity of the adaptation process to engage communities
 - Increase capacity of impacted communities to engage in this process

- Hyper-local Town Planning Process (perhaps as part of POCD)
- EEJ and EEJ-A to provide
 - *Guidance documents* (e.g. equitable public participation process, identifying your most vulnerable populations)
 - *Starter Toolkit* (e.g. vulnerability maps, leads to engaging vulnerable populations) (see Marissa Rivera's disability doc's) to be built upon by the local planning
 - *Evaluation Indicators* (Yale) are needed in order to develop adaptation plans
- GC3 Recommends State, Federal and Foundation Planning and Implementation Funding
- GC3 Monitors Local Adaptation Plan Development
- GC3 Prioritizes Implementation with Stakeholder Input

Disability Considerations in Adaptation Planning

Facilitated by Marissa Rivera

- Marissa spoke about how we can incorporate and consider people with disabilities throughout this process
- She put together an information sheet with disability considerations for adaptation planning: <https://www.disrightsct.org/focus-areas>
 - Key points: access to healthcare, accessible housing, preventing and removing physical barriers, neglect of people with disabilities
- Group comment:
 - Alex Rodriguez agrees with the plan
 - Doris Johnson appreciates the organization of this plan
 - Edith Pestana voiced her support as well
 - Maisa likes the idea of marrying the local planning with the disability adaptation and thinks it will be helpful
 - Lee Cruz thinks this presentation is great, however implementation will be challenging as the systems are already stressed by COVID and other current stresses. He stresses that we will need to be strong advocates for the disabled and what they need. He brought up the example that we will need the government to step up snow plowing of crosswalks and sidewalks so that people using wheelchairs can adequately travel.
 - Marianne Engelman-Lado agrees with hyperlocal focus and disability consideration, wanted to clarify that we will be responding to both statewide recommendations *and* make a set of recommendations to support the hyperlocal effort
 - Laura Hayes had a question about the compressed timeframe for strategic plan and whether or not members of this group will receive guidance in any form to prioritize recommendations
 - Rebecca French responded that the original timeline was no longer realistic given the pandemic and other outside forces. She is encouraging groups to look at what has already been done outside GC3, to look to previous planning processes for ideas and recommendations instead of creating recommendations for scratch
 - Rebecca wrote the following in the chat:
 - *To note for this group federal funding sources for climate resilience are increasingly asking for project proposals that address the needs of vulnerable populations. Prioritizing this area makes Connecticut more competitive for federal funding.*

How to Monitor Theme Area Recommendation Development

Facilitated by Dr. Mitchell

- Two things we are requesting:
 - Ask that one person from this group be a part of the other three theme areas
 - Ask for representatives from each of the theme areas to be in this group

- Marianne wondered whether it was possible to have a shared document to share ideas and recommendations between the other theme groups.
- Mark Mitchell suggested that this was the purpose of having Liaisons coming together to discuss new ideas and recommendations
- Brian Thompson suggested creating a central source where recommendations are summarized and finalized
- Leticia Colon de Mejias stressed the importance of a formal presentation and evaluation process even prior to the public review
 - Leticia wrote the following in the chat:
 - *It is important to also think about disabled people who work, and we may be impacted in the ability to work in clean energy or energy efficiency (EE) careers if we over burden those industries with PPE burdens that are not part of other trades. Specifically the state should make efforts to ensure there is fair application of state guidelines which do not overburden EE upgrades or assessments beyond what other trades are asked to do for safety. EE is the fastest cleanest energy of all and should be the base of all climate work in our state. This work should focus on health and safety and this is very critical to the disabled.*
 - *I am also concerned that past planning processes did NOT take into account equity. Did not have public workgroups and were not reviewed for equity prior to application of those plans. Specifically the last report focused on personal transit for example, when housing and health are very important to equity and at-risk populations. I appreciate all of you getting on and note we do need to be sure we review who will be helped by the suggested GC3 plans.*
 - *My worry is the draft recommendations will not likely be changed once they are formally drafted. As part of the process there should be early feedback prior to formal plans being sent out. Which would not allow for true inclusion of equity.*
- Rebecca French responded that EEJ workgroups will be reviewing recommendations prior to public comment period formally and there is time for revision prior to reports going out
 - Rebecca wrote the following in the chat:
 - *In response to Marianne and Leticia, this is why it is important to have EEJ reps...sit on the adaptation workgroups to help develop recommendations.*
 - Leticia Colon de Mejias wrote the following in the chat:
 - *There needs to be a FORMAL process that is presented, not an expectation that people will read everything*
- Laura Hayes Mentioned that having formal recommendation criteria would be very helpful as we don't always have all representatives together at one time
- Marriane said that we should be focused on bringing people from all perspectives and expertise to the floor so that we can ask the right questions during each meeting
 - Brian Thompson wrote the following in the chat:
 - *For the infrastructure and Land use Working group meeting scheduled on July 15th, it is our intention to have a report out of the preliminary recommendations developed at that point from each of the 3 areas of Transportation, Land use and Buildings, and Utility Infrastructure. Time for input will be provided during and after the meeting*

Liaison to Other Groups - Volunteers?

Facilitated by Dr. Mark Mitchell

- Volunteers for the four groups needing official liaisons:
 - Transportation:
 - Marissa Rivera wrote the following in the chat:

- *I think it's a great idea to have people part of this group and part of the other groups to be part of the idea of the development process. Though, for me, I can make time to review the materials afterwards and provide feedback from Transportation, Land Use and Buildings, and Utility & infrastructure.*
- Utility and Infrastructure:
 - Lynne wrote the following in the chat:
 - *I recommend Kathy Fay for Utility of Michael Uhl*
 - Maisa wrote the following in the chat:
 - *I am interested in utilities, but I have time constraints. Will let you know*
- Public Health and Safety: Orlando Velazco, Leticia Colon de Mejias
- Land Use and Buildings: Leticia Colon de Mejias, Aicha Woods
 - Aicha Woods wrote the following in the chat:
 - *Happy to help with Land Use and Buildings*
- Matt Fulda wrote the following in the chat:
 - All, I am the co-lead on the land use/buildings and transportation theme groups. Please feel free to email me directly mfulda@ctmetro.org to be included in either of those groups

Funding Request for Community Engagement for Equitable Climate Adaptation

Facilitated by Dr. Mark Mitchell

- Dr. Mitchell suggested that since the state legislature is likely to convene a Special Session after the Fourth of July to address police violence and racial equity. Perhaps we can request funding for community groups to engage those most impacted by climate change in the state and local climate adaptation planning processes. He suggested \$25k for 10 groups that work in the areas of:
 - Housing
 - Transportation
 - Health
 - Energy/Infrastructure/Land Use
 - Other?

Next Meeting

- A month from now (likely 21st of July from 4-5:30 PM)
- Dr. Mitchell urged members to email him if that will be a particularly bad time (mmitch3@gmu.edu)

Adjourn

NOTE: Slides are available on GC3 web page: www.ct.gov/deep/gc3