

**Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3)**  
**Mitigation Strategies**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**Meeting Date: September 27, 2022**

**Meeting Time: 3:00 - 4:30 PM**

**Zoom Recording: [Mitigation Strategies Working Group Meeting Recording](#)**

**ATTENDANCE:** GC3 Working Group Members in bold

<b>Name:</b>
Alanis Allen, DEEP Liaison
Tyler Anderson
Susmitha Attota
<b>Stephanie Bahramian</b>
<b>David Barkin, Co-chair</b>
<b>Fred Behringer</b>
Amy Blaymore Paterson
<b>Thomas Bontly</b>
<b>Steve Bright</b>
<b>Ginger Chapman</b>
Leticia Colon
<b>Mary Donegan</b>
<b>Cecelia Drayton</b>
<b>Garrett Eucalitto, Co-chair</b>
<b>Kathleen Fay</b>
<b>Cathy Fletcher</b>
Rebecca French
<b>Nathan Frohling</b>
<b>Maureen Goulet</b>
Maebel Haynes
Paul Hearn
<b>Stillman Jordan</b>
<b>Melissa Kops</b>
<b>Shannon Laun</b>
Aaron Lefland
<b>Emma MacDonald</b>
<b>Robert Maddox</b>
Bud McAllister
Kat Morris
<b>Christine O'Neill</b>
<b>Julie Paquette</b>
Betsy Paterson
<b>Chris Phelps</b>
<b>Francis Pickering</b>
Allison Pilcher
<b>Alan Poirier</b>
<b>Bonnie Potocki</b>

<b>Kate Richard</b>
<b>Marc Richards</b>
<b>Jacob Robison</b>
<b>Nicholas Ross</b>
<b>Charles Rothenberger</b>
<b>Lyle Scruggs</b>
<b>Anji Seth</b>
Claire Sickinger
Hailey Simpson
Lynn Towill
<b>Becca Trietch, Co-chair</b>
<b>Mike Uhl</b>
Joanna Wozniak-Brown
Karen Zimmer

## AGENDA & NOTES

**Welcome:** Alanis Allen, DEEP Liaison

Ground Rules:

- Meeting is recorded and a link will be posted
- Announcement that the chat is public record, but may be used for questions and comments by working group members
- Working group members are asked to post their names and affiliation in the chat
- Reminder that the discussion portion is reserved for working group members
- Announcement that non-working group members should mute and turn video off until public comment

**Welcome and Introduction of Co-chairs:** *Becca Trietch, Designee for Commissioner Katie Dykes; Deputy Commissioner Garrett Eucalitto, Aziz Dehkan, David Barkin, Designee for Commissioner Michelle Gilman*

**Charge of Working Group in 2022:** *Alanis Allen*

- Focusing on engagement and implementation
- Reporting responsibility is a presentation, as opposed to a report
- All presentations will employ an equity lens
- Introduction of other working groups
- Introduction of timeline
- Expectations:
  - Meet at least twice

**Presentations from DEEP, DAS, DOT**

**DEEP:** *Becca Trietch*

- Overview of Connecticut's Comprehensive Energy Strategy
- Introduces mission of Bureau of Energy and Technology Policy (BETP)
- Key strategies to develop 2022 CES:
  - Build upon and leverage results from quantitative studies
  - Build upon and modify recommendations from previous CESs
- Key Lenses (5):
  - Climate
  - Equity
  - Affordability
  - Economic development
  - Reliability & Resilience
- Key Factors (3):
  - Current carbon intensity of electric grid
  - Fuel price volatility
  - Need for solutions that can reduce carbon emissions while supporting climate adaptation, resiliency, and energy security
- Timeline:
  - Will hold several more technical sessions between now and November
  - Generate several white papers
  - Draft CES in Q1 and Q2

**DAS:** *David Barkin*

- Final stage of planned adoption of IgCC for DAS Projects
  - The policy will be in place within a month or less, pending determination of rules
- Updating high performance building standards
- Supporting and collaborating efforts under the Greener Gov. Umbrella
  - Selecting consultants and managers for 16 projects under the 20 million in allocated funds
  - Projects came out of the energy audits from initial GC3 process
  - 7.5 million will be going to upgrade the DVA campus in Rocky Hill
- Other successes:
  - Secured an additional 7.5 million for Bullard Havens and greenhouse gas reductions
  - Beginning project at Chesire Department of Corrections
- Fleet electrification:
  - Ongoing effort for DAS fleet (maintain most of the cars for state agencies)
    - Will require investment in infrastructure and charging stations, which is ongoing
    - Adopting data to track usage of state cars, which will result in reduction in mileage of state cars, thereby reducing energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions

- Sustainability Committee:
  - Established within DAS to bring different facets of DAS together
  - Approved to hire a Sustainability Specialist
- Updates to DAS Facilities is forthcoming
- New statewide building code is taking effect in Connecticut
  - The state has been historically behind in codes
  - Now, we are one of the first states to adopt new codes
  - Clarifies meaning of stretch code, which provides higher standards over the bench code

Questions:

Can what occurred at Bullard Haven be applied to other schools or types of proposed climate projects?

- Yes, but climate considerations must be included in the schematic design due to cost implications

**DOT:** *Garrett Eucalitto*

- DOT is working on climate mitigation policies in alignment with EO 21-3
  - Cease purchase and funding of diesel buses by the end of 2023
  - Identify barriers to bus fleet electrification
  - Set a 2030 Vehicle Miles Traveled reduction target
    - Considering targets from other states
  - Identify opportunities to deploy solar on properties and rights-of-way
    - Considering properties including bus depots
- Carbon Reduction Program:
  - 75 million in formula funding for Connecticut over 5 years
  - Still determining how the funds can be applied
  - Will include developing a carbon reduction strategy
    - Hiring staff to manage funds
- National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program:
  - 52 million over 5 years for charging station infrastructure
  - Fill gaps on highways
  - Full charge in 15-20 minutes
- Federal funding for adaptation of infrastructure
  - Funding for five years
  - Many more exciting mitigation and adaptation opportunities

Questions and Discussion: *For full comments please see the Zoom recording and/or audio transcript*

- Discussion regarding solar panels on buses:
  - Garrett explains that solar panels cannot go on top of buses because of mechanical features
- Culvert program:

- Federal government has not issued guidance yet
- Update regarding electrification of buses:
  - Garrett is not able to comment on it right now, but electric buses will be returned to service when all safety measures have been accounted for
- Leticia Colon asks if the Mitigation Strategies Working Group has had a chance to review the planning tool created by the equity committee?
  - Rebecca asks that each committee incorporates the equity lens throughout the process of discussion and recommendations
  - Garrett says that he has served on the GC3 since 2020 and that used both federal and state guidance to consider equity
    - Some challenges related to funding constraints, but it is a priority
  - Becca adds that while their technical sessions are complex, they are incorporating equity as robustly as possible and want to incorporate equity within the CES process without reinventing the wheel
  - Kathleen Fay suggests building time into the agenda going forward to review equity tools
    - Rebecca appreciates the call for training for working group members
- Christine O'Neill asks if the GC3 affects legislation?
  - Garrett confirms that many GC3 recommendations have ended up as laws, executive orders, or programs
  - DEEP will share a link to the slide-deck to show progress
  - Garrett also mentions that Aziz Dehkan, another co-chair, can speak more to the alignment between government and other community organizations
- Bonnie Potocki asks for more clarification around what we should aim to accomplish prior to November.
  - Becca says she would like to use the next several meetings to get feedback on program design and
  - Rebecca and Alanis also reiterate that this year's focus is on implementation rather than policy creation or recommendations
  - Bonnie also has some process questions about meeting logistics and how decisions will be made
- Alanis suggests that between now and October 19, working group members should review programs and get up to speed on how they are being implemented and how equity is being considered
- Rebecca mentions that working groups can create sub-groups for policy, but that implementation should be the focus since significant federal funding resources have been made available.
  - The focus should be on how to spend those funds well
  - Kathleen Fay asks whether we should be developing a monitoring plan
    - Garrett says that the working group could be most impactful in ensuring that funds are being deployed in the most equitable way possible

- Garrett also says that the working group can help shape proposal and subsequent funding process on the state side
- Bud McAllister asks if the faith community has been involved in the GC3 process and notes that a particular denomination has an environmental justice charge
  - Alanis notes that all are invited to participate in the GC3 process and that recordings can be shared

**Public Comments:** *For full comments please see the Zoom recording and/or audio transcript*  
No comments

**Closing Comments:**

Alanis notes that the next meeting is on Oct. 19 and that they will send correspondence related to readings to prepare for the next meeting.

**Adjourn and Next Steps:**

**Resources:**

[GC3 Phase 1 Report](#)

[GC3 Annual Progress Report Slides](#)

**Chat Record:**

00:22:02 Rebecca French, DEEP Office of Climate Planning: working group members can introduce themselves in the chat and rename themselves by hovering over their name and clicking on "more" and then "rename"

00:22:39 Christine O'Neill (NVCOG): Good afternoon! My name is Christine and I am a Regional Environmental Planner with the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments.

00:25:38 Maureen Goulet: Maureen Goulet, Principal Program Manager at Capitol Region Council of Governments.

00:25:42 Bonnie Potocki: Good Afternoon All, an utility-scale solar project developer at Greenskies Clean Energy located in North Haven, CT

00:25:43 Cathy Fletcher, City of Bridgeport: Hello! I'm Cathy and I work as a planner at the City of Bridgeport.

00:27:14 Leticia Colon: <https://efficiencyforall.org/wordpress/2022/03/01/efa-2021-workforce-development-outcomes/>

00:27:39 Steve Bright (WeaveGrid): Afternoon All. My name is Steve Bright, and I am the East Policy and Regulatory Affairs lead at WeaveGrid.

00:28:10 Stephanie Bahramian: Stephanie Bahramian, environmental planner for Bloomfield

00:28:53 Emma MacDonald: Adrienne Farrar Houel, President/CEO, Greater Bridgeport Community Enterprises, Inc.

00:30:10 Leticia Colon: 1- 4 unit housing that houses LMI and disabled people's have no way to access help, as ICAST is focusing on Multifamily properties in CT with over 5 units. Yet, 1-4 unit had the highest rates of barriers to EE- and Residential use is 15% of energy use. Addressing Housing in disadvantage communities creates resilience, addresses equity, and strengthens our grid, all while lowering the heating needs and providing local jobs .

<https://efficiencyforall.org/wordpress/2021/03/01/addressing-health-and-affordability-challenges-for-low-income-families/>

00:30:38 Leticia Colon: <https://efficiencyforall.org/wordpress/2020/11/22/addressing-health-safety-barriers-in-ct/>

00:30:58 Mary Donegan: Hello, I'm Mary Donegan, a faculty member at UConn in Urban and Community Studies.

00:31:09 Maebel Haynes - Sunrise Movement: Maebel Haynes, National Correspondent for Sunrise Movement Connecticut

00:31:27 Allison Pilcher: Hi everyone! I'm Allison Pilcher, Policy Director with the Connecticut Roundtable on Climate and Jobs

00:31:51 Francis Pickering: Francis Pickering, Western Connecticut Council of Governments

00:32:44 Anji Seth: Hello Everyone, Anji Seth here, Climate Scientist, Professor and Interim Head of the Geography Department at UConn Storrs. I have been on the GC3 Science and Technology WG.

00:32:51 Rebecca French, DEEP Office of Climate Planning: IgCC = International Green Construction Code (IgCC)

00:33:25 Shannon Laun: Hi all, I'm Shannon Laun, an attorney and CT state director for Conservation Law Foundation.

00:33:34 Rebecca French, DEEP Office of Climate Planning: HPBS = high performance building standards

00:35:39 Julie Paquette: Hello - My name is Julie Paquette. Mechanical engineer, Director of Engineering & Energy Management in Yale University Facilities, and member of the Town of Guilford Sustainability Task Force. Happy to be part of this WG.

00:35:41 Nathan Frohling: Good to be here, I'm Nathan Frohling, Dir. of External Affairs for The Nature Conservancy in CT. I oversee our climate and clean energy program.

00:36:48 Leticia Colon: Leticia Colon de Mejias with [www.efficiencyforall.org](http://www.efficiencyforall.org) and [www.gewportal.org](http://www.gewportal.org) both CT based nonprofits run by people of color, serving with a focus on lifting people of color, and lifting at risk communities, and taking action that helps protect all of CT. I am also a NEJAC official, and a CEEJAC member, as well as co-chair of policy at BPA, I am Chair of Latino affairs in CT, and an appointed MBI member, as well as an appointed member of the office of workforce strategies. I pray and hope that this work could begin to show efforts to close the energy disparity gap, by INVESTING in our communities needs, for efficient housing, and deep investments in retrofitting our buildings and houses to lower energy and heating demands by up 30%. We need investments in solar, and shared solar, as People of color have not had equal access to clean energy in CT. Nor have we had equal chances to work in the energy , environment, or climate action sectors. Inclusion requires inclusion, and meaningful engagement also.

00:38:30 Emma MacDonald: Re: Bullard Havens, at what point in the process were you in before seeking the additional funding for climate adaptation? Can that be applied to other schools in the (pre)construction stage? Or other types of proposed climate project

00:39:16 Melissa Kops: Lots of new Melissa Kops from the CT Green Building Council and Architect at the City of New Haven

00:39:40 Leticia Colon: Mitigation: Must support education of humans that use energy. A person can not take action to make positive change, if they not aware of the need, or of the ways to take action. People also will not be able to change with out support, or resources, which help them convert, change, or take action. These plans must take equity into account- there are several lens on equity - here: <https://efficiencyforall.org/wordpress/2020/02/25/governors-council-on-climate-change-gc3-equity-lens/>

00:41:00 Rebecca French, DEEP Office of Climate Planning: Yay for new building codes!

00:41:03 Leticia Colon: Reports on climate energy and equity can be located here: <https://efficiencyforall.org/wordpress/publications/>

00:41:09 Melissa Kops: Oh sorry, I meant to say lots of new people here!



00:41:15 Stillman Jordan: Hi Everyone, I am Stillman Jordan. I am the President of ENCON Heating and Air Conditioning (A large HVAC contractor based on out of Stratford CT). I also serve as the Government Affairs Chairperson for the CT Heating Cooling Contractors Association. I am a licensed Professional Engineer (PE) and Certified Energy Manager (CEM). I am glad to participate and contribute however I can.

00:41:24 Leticia Colon: [https://efficiencyforall.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/EE-2\\_13-Slides-2.pdf](https://efficiencyforall.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/EE-2_13-Slides-2.pdf)

00:41:53 Leticia Colon: [https://efficiencyforall.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/EE-Health\\_2-18-2019\\_Flyer.pdf](https://efficiencyforall.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/EE-Health_2-18-2019_Flyer.pdf)

00:41:54 Jacob Robison: Jacob Robison, AICP, Senior Project Manager, New Haven City Plan Department

00:42:05 Rebecca French, DEEP Office of Climate Planning: @david can you explain what you mean by a stretch code?

00:42:42 Leticia Colon: <https://efficiencyforall.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Uconn-2.pdf>

00:43:26 Leticia Colon: [https://youtu.be/l\\_7MUIDb2E0](https://youtu.be/l_7MUIDb2E0)

00:43:56 Leticia Colon: Last support document <https://efficiencyforall.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/2020-People-and-the-Planet-a-Plan-to-lower-carbon-emission-2.pdf>

00:44:37 Leticia Colon: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/climatechange/GC3/GC3-2022-agendas-and-minutes/Centering-Equity-in-Climate-Change-Resilience-PlanningA-Guide-for-Connecticut-Municipalities672022.pdf>

00:47:33 Kathleen Fay: Hi all, Kathy Fay, Director of Community Sustainability at Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven. We offer a statewide home energy concierge program, I Heart My Home CT. Locally we are also engaged in a variety of environmental equity issues impacting residents in their homes and neighborhoods - for example residential stormwater management to mitigate combined sewer outflows.

00:48:14 Stephanie Bahramian, EP, Bloomfield: Can you explain why solar panels on buses is not feasible?

00:52:46 Christine O'Neill (NVCOG): Can you share information on the culvert program?

00:54:16 Shannon Laun, CLF: Question for Deputy Commissioner Eucalitto: When do you expect the final report re: the electric bus fire in Hamden? When will other electric buses in the fleet return to service?

00:54:19 Christine O'Neill (NVCOG): Thank you Garrett, much appreciated.

00:54:45 Leticia Colon: Equity - would tell us that we should ensure the investments are solving for multi issues in equity areas. Like the tool we created at DEEP- I am not hearing that Equity lens tool discussed here?

00:55:10 Leticia Colon: ALANIS - I have a question.

00:59:15 Alanis Allen, DEEP Office of Climate Planning: 2021 GC3 Report: [https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/climatechange/GC3/GC3\\_Phase1\\_Report\\_Jan2021.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/climatechange/GC3/GC3_Phase1_Report_Jan2021.pdf)

00:59:28 Leticia Colon: Prior to anyone using any funds- this group needs to participate in the equity training, and ensuring the GC3 aligns with our governors exc order on equity. Which they can not do with out knowing of it.

01:03:13 Emma MacDonald: I understood that there is supposed to be a liaison with the EJ group. What is happening with that???

01:03:19 Kathleen Fay: I have a follow up question

01:03:24 Leticia Colon: Would it be useful then to know the Equity lens?

01:03:52 Rebecca French, DEEP Office of Climate Planning: [https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/climatechange/GC3/GC3\\_Phase1\\_Report\\_Jan2021.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/climatechange/GC3/GC3_Phase1_Report_Jan2021.pdf)

01:04:11 Leticia Colon: Should this group of excellent leaders - get the training on equity? It is online at DEEP we recorded it as a training session.

01:06:45 Leticia Colon: The Spin on Energy .....  
Many of us are focused on "Climate talk", "Carbon Talk", "Clean Energy", "Green Energy", EV policy, EV infrastructure build outs, Wind, Solar, Geothermal, Transportation, workforce, Ratepayer Funds, Green Bank, Programs, Outreach needs, highest carbon emitters, where to start, who should pay for all of what we want as goals, who should be allowed to use incentives, who can't use the incentives and programs, what they can be used for, cost effective testing, what is the best plan to lower carbon, protect health, mitigate climate change, grow our economy, lower energy burdens, close affordability gaps, protect water and air, educate people, ensure Equity for all, and what steps we need to take this year to lay the foundation for our success. Because without a plan a goal is just a wish..... learn more here <https://youtu.be/L7MUIDb2E0>

01:08:12 Leticia Colon: Yes - DEEP writes bills. They have an office of policy.

01:10:16 Alanis Allen, DEEP Office of Climate Planning: GC3 Annual Report Slides: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/climatechange/GC3/GC3-2022-agendas-and-minutes/GC3-Annual-Progress-Report-060822.pdf>

01:11:49 Christine O'Neill (NVCOG): Thanks Alanis, I appreciate the overview you did and I'm sorry if you already answered that question.

01:12:23 Alanis Allen, DEEP Office of Climate Planning: No problem!

01:13:07 Leticia Colon: With out education on equity lens? Which is require by a legal binding Executive order. How will you have something for Nov?

01:15:50 Shannon Laun, CLF: I have to leave for another meeting. Thanks all for the updates and discussion.

01:17:13 Leticia Colon: Regarding DEI- Equity& Inclusion and Diversity: Are there any Latino'/as or POC's representatives for any of the disadvantaged public residents in the leadership of these groups. Have any folks here with lived experience in disparity, or in directly working with those groups. been placed in a leadership role on this mitigation planning/ leadership via GC3?

01:17:24 Christine O'Neill (NVCOG): Thanks for clarifying. So if we do have new recommendations, this is not the space to share those? We are just focusing on implementation and monitoring? Thank you.

01:18:01 Leticia Colon: When we focus on monitoring and implementing will the metrics and focus include DEI? or Equity lens?

01:18:37 Emma MacDonald: Don't we need to know more about programs across the state to see if and how the EO is being fulfilled?

01:19:16 Nathan Frohling: Will a link to the presentations from today be sent around including the charge of this group? If there are good recommendations that could be helpful to the '23 legislative session are we able to do that or are we really being constrained to "reporting" on what we see?

01:19:38 Christine O'Neill (NVCOG): Thank you, sounds good.

01:21:19 Maureen Goulet: That's helpful, thank you.

01:21:46 Leticia Colon: Saturday the EPA federal body announced the new office of EJ and external Civil rights- this is Justice 40 work- to protect the least of us.. those who have been left behind.

01:22:11 Christine O'Neill (NVCOG): I saw that Leticia! It is shocking to me that such an office did not already exist.

01:24:18 Leticia Colon: The federal IRA act has civil right embedded in the grants- thus this GC3 group and all GC3 groups may want to brush up on civil rights and DEI- as the grants require this lens. If we do not place EQUITY at the front of the planning- then we will not get that as result of the working groups- or planning- or efforts. Thus EQUITY must be addresses at the start. Please the disadvantaged people will be left in the dark, and cold literally. Thank you for thinking of the people who are not here today- who have no PC- no AC- and NO power to be here.

01:24:37 Kathleen Fay: I have another question if I may.

01:24:39 Nathan Frohling: Thanks Rebecca, that's very helpful.

01:24:44 Joanna Wozniak-Brown, CT OPM: I think policy suggestions that limit program deployment such as conflicting department policies or regulations and barriers to deployment of important programs to vulnerable communities will be really important given the cross-expertise in the working groups.

01:25:20 Joanna Wozniak-Brown, CT OPM: \*suggestions that fix issues that limit deployment

01:28:10 Leticia Colon: Solving for cumulative impacts is part of EJ and Climate ACTION, and DEI metrics must be laid. That includes the findings of the equity group work. The mapping tools, and the funds need to reach the places they have not reached.

01:28:20 Leticia Colon: is education part of mitigation?

01:32:41 Maureen Goulet: It would probably be helpful to take affirmative steps to make sure the communities most negatively impacted by these issues are represented on the committee, rather than just having a public notice go out.

01:33:22 Leticia Colon: +++It would probably be helpful to take affirmative steps to make sure the communities most negatively impacted by these issues are represented on the committee, rather than just having a public notice go out.

01:33:41 Leticia Colon: ++++ inclusion requires inclusion

01:33:44 Leticia Colon: It would probably be helpful to take affirmative steps to make sure the communities most negatively impacted by these issues are represented on the committee, rather than just having a public notice go out.