

Opportunities for the Governor's Council on Climate Change in 2022

Governor's Council on Climate Change Meeting
Council Meeting
June 8, 2022



How to read this presentation

- Slides 4-7 of this presentation were presented at the GC3 Meeting on June 8, 2022. Due to time constraints, the rest of the slides were not presented at that meeting.
- We recommend you view the recording of the presentation of these slides starting at ~17 minutes in [Part 2](#) of the GC3 meeting recording and Commissioner Dykes' remarks directly following that presentation to understand the general direction for the GC3 Working Groups for 2022.
- The subsequent slides not presented are text heavy and were prepared as a guide for the working groups.
- DEEP will hold an informational webinar on June 27, 12 pm – 1 pm ([REGISTER](#)) to review this presentation and answer questions.



Call for Working Group Members

- Previous GC3 Working Group Members: DEEP will send out a *survey the week of June 22* to all individuals who served on GC3 working groups previously, asking them to confirm if they wish to continue participating in a working group and their first and second choice of working groups.
 - **PLEASE DO NOT EMAIL DEEP WITH YOUR WORKING GROUP REQUEST.** There are 200+ previous GC3 working group members. Using the survey will help us accurately track everyone's request to continue to participate. Please wait for the survey to respond.
- New GC3 Working Group Members: DEEP is looking for new GC3 working group members too! *Who should be on a working group?* Anyone who is interested in and/or engaged with addressing climate change in Connecticut should fill out the working group survey.
 - We would like to increase representation of individuals associated with municipal government and Councils of Governments to participate to support the GC3 charge of aligning state climate strategies with municipal and regional government climate planning.
- Questions? DEEP will hold an informational webinar on **June 27, 12 pm – 1 pm** (**REGISTER**) to review this presentation and answer questions about the working groups.



GC3 Charge

- From EO3. Sec.2: *The Governor's Council on Climate Change (Council) shall have an expanded scope of responsibility, to wit, the Council shall **monitor and report** on the state's progress on the **implementation** of carbon mitigation strategies, as well as on the development and **implementation** of adaptation strategies to assess and prepare for the impacts of climate change in areas such as infrastructure, agriculture, natural resources and public health.*
- *From EO21-3 Sec.23: **Continue Governor's Council on Climate Change.** Sections 4 and 5 of EO3, issued September 3, 2019, are amended to provide that the reports required therein shall be submitted by December 31, 2022 and on December 31 of each year thereafter.*

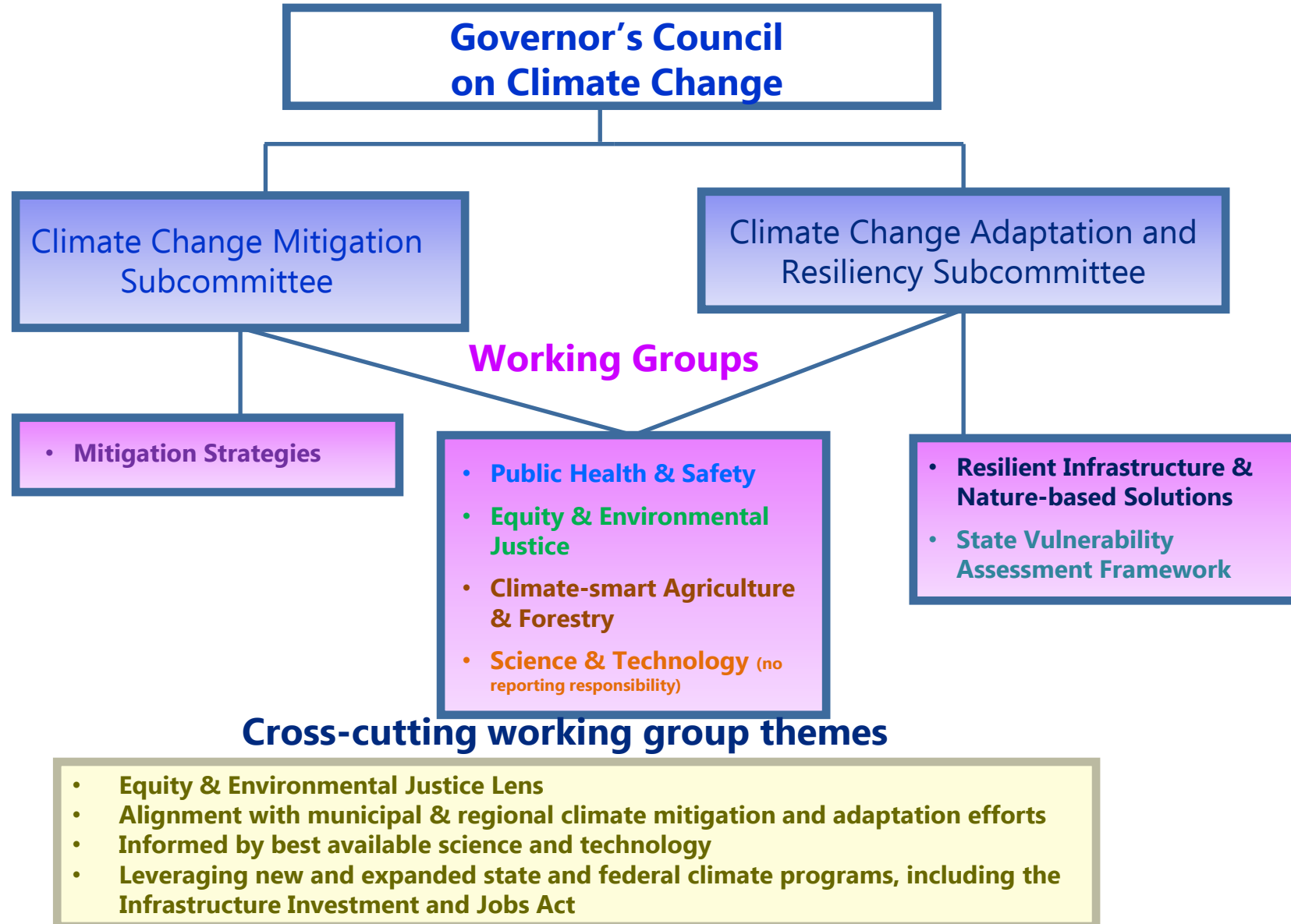


GC3 2022 Opportunities Summary

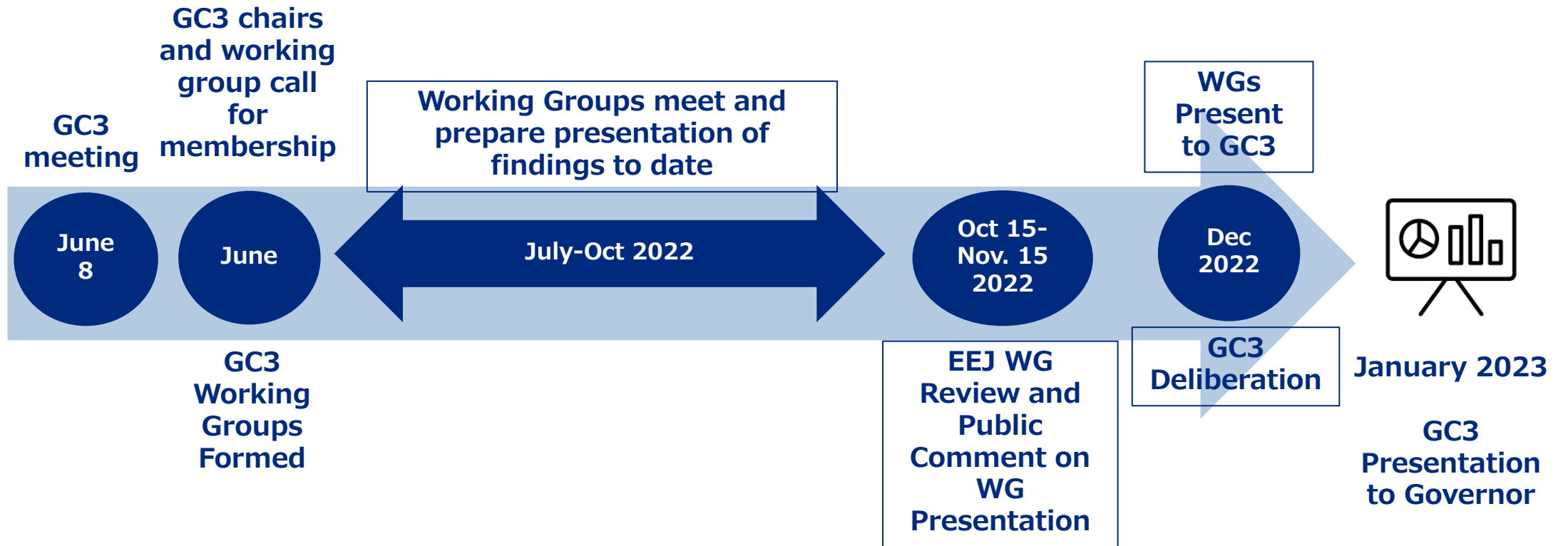
- Focus on **engagement and implementation** for all working groups
- 6 Working Groups with reporting responsibility
- Adding cross-cutting themes to each working group charge, building on success of equity lens model used in 2020 process
 - Apply equity lens
 - Alignment with municipal & regional climate mitigation and adaptation efforts
 - Informed by best available science & technology
 - Leveraging new and expanded state and federal climate programs, including the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act



GC3 Structure



GC3 2022 Timeline



Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Opportunity

- **Whereas the GC3 2020 effort was expansive and largely focused on state efforts, the GC3 2022 process has the opportunity to leverage federal investment.**
- Since the IIJA funding will last 5 years and fund infrastructure that will last for many decades, recommendations to ensure its success in Connecticut are **critical long-term climate actions** for the state, consistent with the Phase 2 approach.
- The IIJA presents an unprecedented opportunity for federal investment in climate mitigation and adaptation and resilience.
- With the state and municipalities preparing for the investments in this space, the GC3 will be leveraged to support this effort.



Working Group Chairs and Call for Working Group Members

- GC3 members should indicate their interest to serve on at least one working group and willingness to serve as a co-chair.
- The GC3 will issue a call for members for the working groups.
- All previous members of working groups will be invited to serve on a working group, if they wish to do so.
- New members are encouraged to join working groups.
- All working group meetings will continue to have a public notice and be open to the public with opportunity for public comment.



Cross-cutting Working Group Themes

- **Equity & Environmental Justice Lens**
- Working groups will ensure all recommendations are viewed through the equity lens described in the January 2021 GC3 report.
 - Working groups will include individuals and organizations representing environmental justice communities.
 - Working groups will conduct meetings following public participation guidance.
 - The Equity & Environmental Justice Working Group will provide review and comment on *draft* working group presentation of findings.



- **Alignment with municipal & regional climate mitigation and adaptation efforts**
 - Working groups should include **greater representation from municipal government and Councils of Government.**
 - EO3 and the GC3 January 2021 report called for greater alignment between the state and municipalities as well as a need for technical assistance and engagement.
 - In 2022 working group recommendations should address this charge recognizing that many state and federal climate programs are enacted at the municipal scale.



Cross-cutting Working Group Themes

- **Informed by best available science and technology**
 - Working groups will refer to the climate impacts in the January 2021 report.
 - The Science & Technology working group will provide climate expertise to each working group.
- **Leveraging new and expanded state and federal climate programs, including the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)**
 - Working groups will serve as an engagement forum for new and expanded state and federal climate programs with stakeholders and the public.



Working Groups



Working Group Charge

- All working groups should meet at least twice from July-October.
- Each working group will prepare a presentation of their findings for the GC3. No written report required.
- Working group meetings should focus on engagement; provide monitoring and reporting on progress and implementation; and incorporate cross-cutting themes.
- At their Chair(s)' discretion, the chair(s) may form one policy planning subgroup for their working group to develop policy recommendations. Developing new policy recommendations is not a requirement for working groups.
 - All policy planning subgroup recommendations must be presented in a public working group meeting prior to presentation to the GC3.
- Working group members may be invited to participate in other related agency planning processes as applicable (e.g. DEEP Comprehensive Energy Strategy) to avoid duplication of effort.
- Formation of additional working groups or working group subgroups is not recommended due to limited DEEP supporting staff and time constraints.



Mitigation Strategies Working Group

- Working group will review and evaluate progress on mitigation strategies. Assess how recommended strategies are integrated into existing and new policy planning efforts, evaluate the efficacy of existing and proposed policies at reducing GHG emissions, and prioritize the equitable distribution of costs and benefits of climate change mitigation.
- Example mitigation strategies:
 - Transportation Decarbonization & VMT Reduction
 - Building Efficiency & Decarbonization
 - Zero Carbon Electric Supply by 2040
 - Negative Emissions



Equity & Environmental Justice Working Group

- Review and apply the GC3 2020 equity lens to all working group findings
 - Identify members to serve on other GC3 working groups.
 - Review and provide comments on each working group presentation of findings.
 - At the discretion of the chair(s), the working group may meet from July to October to monitor and report on mitigation and adaptation and resilience strategies and make a presentation to the GC3.



Public Health & Safety Working Group

- Monitor and report on the implementation of mitigation and adaptation and resilience strategies at the intersection of climate change, public health, and safety.
- Examples of mitigation and adaptation and resilience strategies:
 - Address intersection of health equity and climate impacts including:
 - heat-related exposure, response and illnesses
 - ozone and allergen monitoring and impacts
 - food security
 - needs of mental health populations in disaster response
 - Prepare for vector-borne diseases
 - Prepare public and private drinking water systems
 - Plan for the emergencies related to the impacts of climate change
 - Incorporate vulnerable populations into emergency planning



Science & Technology Working Group

- Provide climate change science and technological expertise to each working group.
- The working group will assign its members to serve on each working group to provide this expertise, utilizing the summary of the impacts of climate change provided in the 2021 GC3 report.
- The working group will have no reporting responsibilities for 2022.



Climate-smart Agriculture & Forestry Working Group

- Monitor and report on the implementation of climate-smart agriculture and forestry programs and projects.
- Example mitigation and adaptation and resilience strategies (all supported by IIJA):
 - soil erosion control
 - wildfire risk reduction
 - conservation easements
 - soil health
 - carbon sequestration
 - greenhouse gas emissions reduction
 - disaster protection and recovery



Resilient Infrastructure and Nature-based Solutions WG

- Monitor and report on the implementation of resilient infrastructure and nature-based solutions adaptation and resilience strategies to protect communities from the impacts of natural hazards and climate change, including integrated 'grey' infrastructure and nature-based resilience solutions.
- Example adaptation and resilience strategies (all supported by IIJA):
 - community resilience
 - capacity-building and educational activities
 - evacuation routes
 - conserve, construct, restore or expand natural features
 - buyouts & elevation
 - coastal and inland flood risk management
 - electric, drinking water and wastewater utility resilience
 - stormwater management, green infrastructure and drainage improvements
 - removing dams and other barriers
 - replacement, removal, and repair of culverts or weirs that restore fish passage



State Vulnerability Assessment Framework Working Group

- *Establish a framework, in consultation with the state's Chief Data Officer, for which state agencies shall compile and maintain an inventory of vulnerable assets and operations in coordination with CIRCA's ongoing vulnerability assessment. (EO3. Sec.5a)*
- The framework will be applied to the implementation of EO21-3 Sec.11 "State Vulnerability Assessment of state government assets and operations and climate resilience project pipeline."
- Working group convened in 2021 and is wrapping up their work in summer 2022. This working group is not soliciting new members in 2022.

