
**Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3)
EEJ Mitigation Subgroup
BREAK OUT SESSION NOTES**

Meeting Date: 10/13/2020

Meeting Time: 5:30-

6:30

Zoom

Attendees

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▼ EEJ Mitigation

- Alan Poirier
- Blanca Begert
- Brenda Watson
- Brenda Watson
- Christopher Lapointe
- Dino Pascua
- Eluned (she/they)
- FRogard Ryan
- Jennifer Kleindienst
- Katie Ebinger
- Kirsten Ek
- Lisa Hayden
- Melinda Tuhus
- Patricia Taylor
- Randall Anway
- Robin Stein
- Ryan Levandowski
- Sena Wazer
- Tracy Babbidge (not joined)
- William Cavers

AGENDA & NOTES

Melinda Tuhus - Climate change mitigation includes not building new fossil fuel power plants such as Killingly.

Amy Paterson - How will nature based solutions be incorporated into mitigation strategies?

Kirsten Ek - Do you look for heat tolerant trees?

Lisa Hayden - In forest report included planting the right tree in the right place

Alan Poirier - adequate stock of housing for LMI individuals - also needs to ensure that housing stock has access to clean energy, EV charging, etc.

Brenda Watson - need to ensure that housing policy people are included in conversation. Housing is an entrance point to climate change

Kristen Ek - Land near sea may become cheap because of sea level rise, how will we make sure that low income communities don't just get stuck with that land, or are inadvertently drawn to flood prone land/areas?

Robin Stein - need to include multiple groups such as mapping. Consider impacts of redlining and lack of trees (and other env. issues). Make sure nature is part of our solution.

Brenda - very often when working with people struggling financially there is a focus on just getting

through the day, getting through the crisis, and not thinking about something as abstract as climate change. Should we be looking at how nonprofits work and make sure that they are taking action to mitigate climate change. Similarly state agencies should make sure that they are taking action on climate change - should they get a "climate grade"?

Alan Poirier - Nonprofits might be key to developing a pilot of mapping tool (perhaps a static map).

- Brenda can follow up with him at alanfpoirier10@gmail.com

Brenda - Dr. Mark Mitchell has already developed a baseline, but unfortunately nobody did anything with the map when he originally developed it.

Patricia Taylor - Present it as an EJ audit to nonprofits, creates social pressure on those nonprofits.

Kristen Ek - Link to health impacts and distribute to doctors and nurses. Health industry is very wasteful, and so perhaps rating hospitals on waste.

Brenda - Need health professionals on boards such as the siting council, water council, etc.

Patricia Taylor - should be public health officials, because public health departments work on things such as infections, and other intersecting climate issues.

Brenda - thoughts on creating a green jobs pipeline. Should technical schools have a training program for green/clean energy jobs

Jennifer Kleindienst - yes, we should definitely be doing this.

Sena - Make sure that students are educated about the options to go into clean energy jobs

Christopher Lapointe - Climate and environmental education is really important for students (of all ages). The technical aspect, and understanding, of these issues is also really helpful and important.

Brenda - would love to see infrastructure for bicyclists and walkers. If the state moves towards expanding access to EV's need to make sure there's access for folks who can't afford cars. Also perhaps have another cash for clunkers program.

Sena - Prioritize safety. There are more and more pedestrian and cyclist deaths and is a big de-incentivization to walk, bike, run, etc.

Brenda - Also need to ramp up public transit. And have more convenient bus schedules and routes.

Robin Stein - need to include businesses in this discussion.

Melinda - One note in the report about business was that they shouldn't just be prioritizing free parking, but also free public transit.

[via chat] Eluned - I think in low income communities we could be communicating these ideas and opportunities through different funnels: local religious centers, mutual aid groups, community organizations, etc. Also ensuring that local NGOs and grassroots organizations are unifying and partnering under the umbrella of equity and climate justice. Knowing about all the initiatives going on right now, like "Vision Zero" from Safe Streets for cyclists and pedestrians -- and offering connecting those youth-led movements to establishment support, is a big step forward. I think there are a lot of small initiatives that aren't finding each other, and those silos are perhaps less effective at petitioning local government.

Randall Anway - Should also include mapping of public transit in mapping tool (*may have gotten this wrong when taking notes*)

Brenda - Irritated with DOT on moving of vehicles vs moving of people. Goes back to the point of looking at state agencies and how they're including climate change in priorities.

Randall Anway - It seems that we have progressively been increasing the stringency of building codes, but seems that recently have stalled. Doesn't seem like there is going to be another progression to new codes that are available. Stuck at codes for a couple years ago. Rather concerning.

Robin Stein - Need state agencies to really come forth. Because DEEP does both energy and

environment causes problems - pulled in opposite directions.

Brenda - Assumes that the demographic around Killingly is an LMI white community. How do we include, and mobilize, that community?

Melinda - There is already another fracked gas in killingly. Killingly is no longer considered an EJ community, folks nearest to plant are not necessarily low income. Some people from Killingly want it, some don't. Others in surrounding communities also don't want it - would receive no benefit but would get the pollution. Governor seems to think he is unable to stop the plant, even though he doesn't want it and governor's in neighboring states have stopped plants.

[via chat] Eluned -

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1POW1zW8z0MBFuhYVHcyeqNeeIAQ5thQOhlyXQdM7fc/edit#>

Patricia Taylor - Community engagement is late, and last, in public meetings. Public often doesn't understand health impacts, only prevented as economic benefits. Operating principle is out of sight out of mind, so if not in sight line and out of smell then often not too concerned. Really need community engagement first, before approval of something like the Killingly plant.

[via chat] Melinda Tuhus - I can't access my computer right now where I have those addresses but anyone who wants them and can't find them for the governor and Katie Dykes please email me at melinda.tuhus@gmail.com

NOTE: *Identify if slides or presentations are available on GC3 web page: www.ct.gov/deep/gc3*