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**Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3)  
Equity and Environmental Justice Working Group  
MEETING MINUTES**

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**Meeting Date: October 13, 2020**

**Meeting Time: 4:30-6:30 pm**

**Meeting Location: Zoom**

**[Meeting Recording](#)**

**ATTENDANCE**

12037342513	Gannon Long	Patricia Taylor
12092176494	Garrett Eucalitto	Patrick Comins
18607246550	george bradner	Paula Burton
18607487846	Gloria Freimann	pete Aarrestad
18608817677	Guy West	Rachel Hiskes
18609785724	Heather Aaron	Randall Anway
18609922499	Holly Drinkuth	Rebecca French
Adelaine McCloe	Huan Ngo	Rick Newton
Aicha Woods	Hugh hdbirdsall@aol.com	Robert Bell
Alan Poirier	James Albis	Robert LaFrance
Alec Shub	James Flynn	Robin Stein
Aleksandra Moch	james odonnell	Ryan Levandowski
Alex Rodriguez	Jane Brawerman	Samantha Dynowski
Alexandra Daum	Jean-Paul Simjouw	Samuel Tubman
Alexia Godron	Jennifer Kleindienst	Sena Wazer
Ali Ghiorse	Joanna Wozniak-Brown	Shanté Hanks
Alison Baranovic	Joey Wraithwall	Steven Wallett
Allen Kratz	Joseph Marrone	Susan Hibbard
Amanda's iPhone	Josh Carey	Susan Peterson
Amy McLean	Kara Marshall	Susan Quincy
Amy Paterson	Karen Stevenson	Tracy Babbidge
Andrew Lopez	karin jakubowski	valeryn fernandez
Anji Seth	Kate Donatelli	William Cavers
Anthony Allen	Katherine Kemen	
Anthony Cherolis	Kathleen Fay	
Arielle King	kathy dorgan	
Blanca Begert	Katie Ebinger	
Brenda Watson	Kevin Grigg	
Brian Thompson	Kevin McCarthy	
Catherine Diviney	Kimberly Stoner	
Chris Donnelly	Kirsten Ek	
Chris Phelps	Kirsten Rigney	
Christopher Lapointe	K'SerSeyo Htoo	
Claire Coleman	Lee Cruz (Eliezer Cruz)	
Connie Manes	Levon Bigelow	
Connor Rockett	Lindsay Larson	
Conor Koziatek	Lisa Hayden	
D. Lauricella	Lori Demaine	
Danielle WONG	Lori Mathieu	
David Michel	lynne bonnett	
David Murphy	M Chapman	
David Sutherland	Margrit Morley	
Davis Chacon	Marianne Engelman Lado	
deb denfeld	Mark Bolduc	
Denise Savageau	Mark Mitchell	
Diane Hoffman	Mary Pelletier	
Dino Pascua	Mary-beth Hart	
Edith Pestana	Max Teirstein	
Elina Griggs	Meghan O'Connor	
Eluned (she/they)	Melinda Tuhus	
Eric Hammerling	Ming-May Hu	
FRogard Ryan	pamela Roach	

## AGENDA & NOTES

### Welcome and Announcements

*Rebecca A. French, Office of Climate Planning, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection*

Rebecca French commenced the meeting at 4:45 pm and began by reviewing the agenda, which includes a brief overview of the Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3), followed by presentations by co-chairs of the working group, Equity and Environmental Justice.

Rebecca French provided a brief overview of the GC3. Overview and summary can be found [here](#). The GC3 process has been ongoing since December of 2019 and is now in a period of public review from September 22<sup>nd</sup> to October 21<sup>st</sup>. Following the conclusion of the public review period, the working groups will consider public feedback and revise their reports before sending them to the council. The final report and recommendations will be submitted to the governor by January 15, 2021.

- How else can you participate?
  - Read the working group reports, available [here](#)
  - Written comments can be sent to [deep.climatechange@ct.gov](mailto:deep.climatechange@ct.gov)

The charge of the Equity and Environmental Justice working group is to ensure communities most vulnerable to and disproportionately impacted by climate change will have the opportunity to meaningfully participate in the development of adaptation strategies that meet their needs and achieve equitable solutions and review and make new recommendations.

### Presentation: Equity and Environmental Justice Working Group Report

#### Overview

*Lee Cruz, Co-chair of the Equity and Environmental Justice Working Group*

Lee Cruz began by reviewing the Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3) Equity and Environmental Justice mandate:

“Prioritizing, integrating and advancing equitable distribution of the costs and benefits of climate change mitigation planning policies, specifically addressing disproportionate impacts of such strategies on environmental justice communities.”

“Recommended strategies to prioritize climate change adaptation efforts to protect vulnerable communities that may be disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change.”

He then provided a definition for climate justice and reiterated the mandate of the Equity and Environmental Justice Working Group (see presenter slides).

*Marianne Engelman Lado, Co-chair of the Equity and Environmental Justice Working Group*

Some communities, particularly communities of color, low income communities, and people with disabilities are at greater risk from climate change and that is why we are here.

Marianne Engelman Lado discussed some of the working group's accomplishments since February:

- Outreach to engage environmental justice communities- the communities most vulnerable to climate change because of intersecting effects
- Concept paper on equity
- Public participation and remote public participation guidelines
- Analysis and feedback to GC3 working groups on mitigation and adaptation recommendations
- Developed a checklist for other GC3 working groups to help make sure they would be implementing environmental justice ideas into their deliberations and holding themselves accountable
- Recommendation for creation and support of mapping tool
- Webinar series on environmental and climate justice

The group began by workshopping the definition of 'equity':

A commitment to equity starts by recognizing that disparities in health outcomes, inequities in living conditions, and lack of political power place many communities of color, including Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color ("BIPOC"), low-income communities, people with disabilities, and other historically disadvantaged people at greater risk and limit the capacity of their communities to adapt to climate change.

4 subcommittees

Public Engagement Subcommittee

Mitigation Subcommittee

Equity and Environmental Justice Adaptation

Environmental and Climate Justice Mapping Tool

### **Limitations**

*Lee Cruz, Co-chair of the Equity and Environmental Justice Working Group*

The pandemic and protests throughout the summer of 2020 have highlighted the needs of the most vulnerable communities, who are the focus of this working group.

### **Recommendations**

*Marianne Engelman Lado, Co-chair of the Equity and Environmental Justice Working Group*

2021 Investment in Community Engagement

- Develop and fund a community engagement strategy to inform the 2021 GC3 planning process and implementation, including support in the form of grants for partnering community-based, non-governmental organizations to design the community engagement process, receive training, and co-develop recommendations to ensure meaningful input and equitable approaches to mitigation and adaptation. Both public and private funding should be pursued.
- It is very important to engage the stakeholders of a particular community because they have the best knowledge of what the community needs

Mitigation

- Prioritize mitigation strategies in vulnerable communities, including low and moderate-income communities, and ensure access to mitigation approaches, such as clean energy, for low- and moderate-income communities
- EEJ and Adaptation: Provide funding for municipalities to develop their own adaptation plans
- Apportion funding by using a system that ensures more resources for municipalities where vulnerable populations reside and where plans have been developed specifically address the needs of the identified vulnerable population

#### Mapping Tool

- The group seeks legislative enactment supported by financial support to allow DEEP, DPH, and partners to create and maintain a tool for use in climate planning and implementation. This tool would allow for layering of different demographic information to help to identify geographically the area of the most vulnerable populations.

### Public Participation

*Alex Rodriguez, Connecticut League of Conservation Voters*

Four principals to public participation (details on presenter slides)

Transparent and accountable decision-making

- Using census data to appropriately account for demographics of a particular community when a decision is being made
- Using multilingual information

Accessible and Inclusive Decision-Making

- Work with community leaders to develop common language, free of jargon
- Translate and interpret documents

Equal Partnerships, Co-Production, and Self-Determination

- Form meeting agendas with community members

Respect, Efficiency, and Non-exploitation

- Creating a circle of trust and avoiding transactional relationships with community members

Remote Engagement was an important focus because that has become a critical form of communication over the last year.

- Selecting tools for remote engagement is important
- Making detailed plans
- Asking for and responding to feedback
- Set ground rules and clear expectations
- Ensuring accessibility of remote engagement

### Environmental Justice Mapping

*Marianne Engelman Lado*

There are mapping tools that are available online from the federal government, however, they typically do not include specific information that smaller geographic areas like Connecticut would collect. Many states have already done this, for example California and Washington.

- There are pre-existing mapping tools available now
- The idea is to layer this information and to have a comprehensive mapping tool

#### Goals of the subcommittee

- Ensure use of tools by GC3 working groups to integrate equity considerations
- Develop recommendation for the creation of a robust tool to represent vulnerabilities of the state's communities for use in future planning at state and local levels and for the implementation of GC3 recommendations

#### Recommendations

- Legislative enactment with financial support to create and maintain a robust tool for use in climate planning and implementation at state and hyperlocal levels
- DEEP and DPH launch a public-private interagency effort as part of the 2021 phase of the GC3 to develop the tool

#### **Mitigation Strategies**

*Sena Wazer, Sunrise Connecticut*

The group wanted to make sure that low- and moderate-income communities have equitable access to clean energy resources.

- Expand solar and access to electric vehicles
- Prioritize active transport

#### Prioritize vulnerable communities

- Remediate existing pollution in vulnerable communities
- Ensure that energy facilities are equitably located
- Statewide approach to expand access to clean energy

#### Communate/Outreach

- Identify local problems because not all environmental justice communities have the same issues
- Making sure that EEJ communities have access to clean jobs

#### **Adaptation Sub-Committee**

*Mark Mitchell, Chair of EEJ Adaptation Sub-Committee*

There was not much equity in previous adaptation plans. The group provided tools and information to the Governor's Council on Climate Change on common conditions in equity and environmental justice communities. They advocated for funding for local adaptation plans and funding for participation.

The result was that the sub-committee developed a lot of recommendations and all of the other working groups were very open to incorporating the recommendations into their own reports.

#### Primary recommendations

- Fund and develop local climate adaptation plans, based on guidelines
- Fund community groups to be able to give meaningful input to these plans
- Fund environmental justice groups more broadly

#### Next Steps

- Support equity and environmental justice climate policy experts
- Develop guidelines for equitable, effective, local adaptation plans

### Breakout Sessions

Participants of the public forum were then moved into separate breakout session rooms by Marybeth Hart, to discuss the details of the topics presented by each of the working group and sub-group teams.

**NOTE:** *Slides and presentations are available on GC3 web page: [www.ct.gov/deep/gc3](http://www.ct.gov/deep/gc3)*

### Chat Record

16:26:48 From Brenda Watson : Hello everyone

16:27:30 From Brenda Watson : Marybeth who is Conor?

16:35:54 From Marianne Engelman Lado : Welcome everyone! We'll get started soon.

16:37:40 From Marianne Engelman Lado : EEJ Draft Report is available at [https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/climatechange/GC3/GC3-working-group-reports/GC3\\_Equity\\_EJ\\_draft\\_report\\_public\\_comment\\_092220.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/climatechange/GC3/GC3-working-group-reports/GC3_Equity_EJ_draft_report_public_comment_092220.pdf).

16:37:44 From Karen Stevenson : I did, too, but just re-registered and then clicked the link again to join.

16:37:46 From Hugh hdbirdsall@aol.com : I did not get a link

16:37:53 From Patrick Comins : I had a little trouble getting in and had to register again

16:37:53 From Kevin Grigg : I had the same issues gaining access despite early registration.

16:37:58 From Huan Ngo : Same here

16:37:59 From Margrit Morley : I did re-register as well and then got on

16:37:59 From Lindsay Larson : Same for me! I had to re-register

16:38:01 From Adelaine McCloe : Same here!

16:38:01 From Susan Hibbard : Me too

16:38:01 From pete Aarrestad : It took me a while to get in. Susan Peterson said she was having problems also.

16:38:02 From Patricia Taylor : I had trouble, too, and I had to reregister.

16:38:04 From Gannon Long : i had the meeting in my calendar but the link took me back to register

16:38:04 From Joanna Wozniak-Brown : I had the same issue.

16:38:05 From Hugh hdbirdsall@aol.com : Me too.

16:38:07 From Steven Walleth : same here

16:38:07 From Alex Rodriguez : I had some trouble on my end. Had to re register

16:38:10 From William Cavers : same

16:38:10 From Rep. David Michel : Same here

16:38:13 From Amy Paterson : Same issue.

16:38:15 From Diane Hoffman : I had to re-register also

16:38:26 From lynne bonnett : yes, I had some trouble. I preregistered and was given the link, When I signed in they asked me to register again. I was on the call last week with the hacked screen. so sorry.

16:38:42 From FRogard Ryan : Same here.

16:38:49 From Christopher Lapointe : I had no issues entering the meeting, but I did register later

16:38:51 From Patricia Taylor : Me too

16:38:57 From Eric Hammerling : patience and persistence wins out, but we're here now.

16:39:00 From Anthony Cherolis : Hello friends - We'd love everyone to take the CT's Transportation Future Survey! (after our meeting of course) --- <https://centerlatino.wufoo.com/forms/cts-transportation-future-survey-fall-2020/>

16:39:14 From Anthony Cherolis : (and please share that link widely!)

16:39:17 From Allen Kratz : Yes, I got a re-register prompt--and then the original one magically worked!

16:39:58 From Alex Rodriguez : Just admitted some participants

16:42:05 From Anthony Cherolis : You can start taking the transportation survey while we're waiting to get started ;) ---- <https://centerlatino.wufoo.com/forms/cts-transportation-future-survey-fall-2020/>

16:42:26 From Gannon Long : OMG Tony everyone's already taken the survey

16:42:27 From Gannon Long : LOL

16:42:41 From Anthony Cherolis : (that's just you Gannon LOL)

16:43:21 From Gannon Long : hehe. Yes I took it. Click the link folks, my comments will outweigh the average otherwise!

16:43:54 From Anthony Cherolis : Only one submission per IP address so Gannon can't take it multiple times.

16:45:01 From Christopher Lapointe : I have received the confirmation email :)

16:45:19 From Anthony Allen : Just got the email again

16:45:23 From Gannon Long : Also I (accidentally) recorded our work zip code incorrectly so the data is a little skewed.

16:45:48 From Anthony Cherolis : Re: attendance - If you have 97 attendees and 170 registered, that is a typical percentage for attendance.

16:46:14 From Gannon Long : Thanks Rebecca. This is a lot to manage.

16:47:43 From Gannon Long : Alex your dart board is giving me life!

16:47:50 From Anthony Allen : Thanks for your patience and taking steps to keep this session secure - appreciate you, Rebecca and Mary-beth!

16:48:52 From Patricia Taylor : Will there be another public hearing on this platform for the Public Health & Safety work-group draft report presentation that was disrupted and canceled last week?

16:51:31 From Marianne Engelman Lado : Note that the EEJ Working Group also has a Working Group meeting next Wednesday at 9:30 am. You're all welcome to join us as we review our report and recommendations and discuss feedback we've received. More info about the call-in info and agenda is on the GC3 website.

16:55:18 From Anthony Cherolis : From an vulnerable population standpoint, I've looked into the state's emergency response plans before.



There is very little thought put into how to evacuate cities where car-ownership levels are low in the case of a natural disaster or extreme weather event. Both Bridgeport and New Haven have high percentage of zero-car households. Emergency evacuation (with short notice) is also very inefficient if we're only relying on personal motor vehicles due to limited roadway and interstate capacity that will quickly choke with congestion. Beyond low income and zero-car households, our state's emergency response plans should include considerations for seniors, health issues, and disabled persons that don't drive. Other cities and regions have already failed with evacuation and emergency response plans for senior centers and hospitals. Please intentionally include bus transit, rail transit, and dial-a-ride services in emergency response planning.

16:55:36 From Anthony Cherolis : Several years ago I reached out on this shortfall and totally ignored.

16:55:48 From Andrew Lopez : <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Climate-Change/GC3/Governors-Council-on-Climate-Change>

17:02:45 From Rebecca French : You can find the Equity & Environmental Justice Working Group report here:

<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Climate-Change/GC3/GC3-Working-group-reports>

17:03:51 From Rebecca French : Written comments may be emailed to [deep.climatechange@ct.gov](mailto:deep.climatechange@ct.gov)

17:05:21 From Anthony Cherolis : @Rebecca - 61 pages!

17:10:42 From Andrew Lopez : when are comments due?

17:10:55 From Arielle King : We're accepting comments until Oct. 21st

17:10:56 From Patrick Comins : October 21

17:10:57 From Gannon Long : 10/21 at 11:59 PM

17:11:22 From Andrew Lopez : nice thanks

17:14:29 From Anthony Cherolis : You can email comments and input to [deep.climatechange@ct.gov](mailto:deep.climatechange@ct.gov)

17:16:21 From Anthony Cherolis : Relative to the transportation section in the Mitigation report (pgs 77 through 117, includes appendix, 40 pages total), we summarized here for a previous public forum and put a lot of focus on equity and environmental justice considerations - [https://www.ctprf.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Transportation\\_Section\\_Breakout\\_Discussion\\_Slides\\_09\\_23\\_2020.pdf](https://www.ctprf.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Transportation_Section_Breakout_Discussion_Slides_09_23_2020.pdf)

17:18:31 From Karen Stevenson : yes, please!

17:19:07 From FRogard Ryan : Yes, please.

17:20:45 From Lisa Hayden : Yes, that would be great - thanks!

17:20:53 From Kathleen Fay : yes please for the (remote0 public participation details

17:21:13 From Patricia Taylor : Mapping tools should include air monitoring stations and easy public view of the air quality results, including sharing air quality indicators through multiple venues, including weather reports on television, radio, and community news online, like PATCH.

17:22:35 From Andrew Lopez : Love the air quality comment

17:22:48 From Robin Stein : Mapping should include existing vegetation (trees) or lack thereof by neighborhood.

17:22:53 From Diane Hoffman : Mapping tool should also show where parks, and forests are located

17:23:06 From Andrew Lopez : Totally

17:23:22 From Patrick Comins : The mapping of natural and community resources should be integrated

17:24:24 From Marianne Engelman Lado : Yes: thanks for the comments on mapping!

17:24:45 From Kathleen Fay : Yes, Patrice Taylor is right. Data from the EPA air quality monitoring stations should definitely be available live as well as brought into the mapping tool.

17:24:47 From Karen Stevenson : Is there somewhere to find the existing mapping tools available out there?

17:25:30 From Kevin Grigg : CIRCA is a good place to start.

17:25:53 From Andrew Lopez : <http://www.cteco.uconn.edu/>

17:26:40 From Max Teirstein : @Karen as an intern with DEEP's EJ program I compiled all the available mapping tools here:  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TpcF12seKDvopg2zxbPCKKEeoqpoARDf-WRL1PA4\\_P4/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TpcF12seKDvopg2zxbPCKKEeoqpoARDf-WRL1PA4_P4/edit?usp=sharing)

17:26:47 From Karen Stevenson : thank you all!!

17:27:06 From Alex Rodriguez : Well done, Sena and Brenda!

17:27:22 From Alex Rodriguez : 100% agree

17:27:34 From Hugh hdbirdsall@aol.com : Is climate change and environmental justice education in public schools part of the recommendations?

17:28:15 From Kathleen Fay : DataHaven is a good resource for local data mapping

17:28:29 From james odonnell : Climate Education in schools should be part of the Sci recommendations - I'll check.

17:28:41 From Patricia Taylor : Air monitoring stations should also be located near sources of air pollution, including incinerators and industrial manufacturing facilities that are disproportionately located in vulnerable communities. There need to be more air quality monitors in this state, and they need to measure fine particle emissions as well as GHGs.

17:28:52 From Marianne Engelman Lado : Yes, we have a document that we sent out with a list of the existing tools. I'll look for it and put it in the chat.

17:29:01 From Edith Pestana : Yes Data Haven has participated

17:29:51 From Max Teirstein : Posting the document of existing tools again here:  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TpcF12seKDvopg2zxbPCKKEeoqpoARDf-WRL1PA4\\_P4/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TpcF12seKDvopg2zxbPCKKEeoqpoARDf-WRL1PA4_P4/edit?usp=sharing)

17:30:13 From Marianne Engelman Lado : Thanks Max!

17:31:51 From Eric Hammerling : We really appreciated the input of the EEJ Working Group on the Forests Report (e.g., the need to plant and maintain trees in EJ communities to combat heat island, air pollution, and other impacts) as well as the rest of the reports from the Working & Natural Lands Working Group. Thank you!

17:32:27 From Alex Rodriguez : Fully agree with Dr. Mitchell on the need for funding EJ groups and groups who prioritize EJ advocacy

17:32:32 From james odonnell : Are maps really all that is needed? Interpretation and integration seems to me to be essential.

17:33:33 From Anthony Cherolis : @Alex - I've been confused by how little EJ organizing and advocacy exists in Connecticut

17:33:57 From Kevin McCarthy : James O'Donnell, yes. Perhaps focus groups reviewing the maps would help.

17:34:41 From Denise Savageau : For mitigation EEJ, need to look at distributed generation and not focus on centralized renewables. We need to open this up to our cities.

17:34:49 From Marianne Engelman Lado : James O'Donnell - great question. Important visual representation that all can see, creating common ground in understanding where to focus. Thanks!

17:36:17 From Rebecca French : Send a chat to mary-beth with your breakout session choice: 1) Mitigation; 2) Adaptation; 3) Public Participation; 4) Mapping

17:38:31 From Rebecca French : Direct link to join the meeting: <https://ctdeep.zoom.us/j/93691577518>

17:38:51 From Rebecca French : Please share with anyone who may not have been able to join earlier. <https://ctdeep.zoom.us/j/93691577518>