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**Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3)  
Public Health & Safety and Financing & Funding Adaptation &  
Resilience Working Groups  
MEETING MINUTES**

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**Meeting Date: October 7, 2020**

**Meeting Time: 4:00-6:00 pm**

**Meeting Location: Zoom**

**[Meeting Recording](#)**

## ATTENDANCE

Attendee	Title	Organization	Present
Phone Participant 1			√
Phone Participant 2			√
Phone Participant 3			√
Phone Participant 4			√
Phone Participant 5			√
Phone Participant 6			√
Phone Participant 7			√
Phone Participant 8			√
Phone Participant 9			√
Aaron goode			√
Adelaine McCloe			√
Adelheid Koepfer			√
Adrienne Houel			√
Alan Poirier			√
Alec Shub			√
Alexandra Daum			√
Ali Ghiorse			√
Allen Kratz			√
Amanda Clark			√
Amber Garrard			√
Amy Paterson			√
Amy Velasquez			√
Andrew Mais			√
Andy Bauer			√
Angel Serrano			√
Anji Seth			√
Ann Pratt			√
Anne Hulick			√
Anthony Allen			√
Arielle King			√
Ben Martin			√
Beverly Dunn			√
Bryan Baker			√
Bryan Garcia			√
Bud McAllister			√
Caroline Dumont			√
Cary Lynch			√
Charles Rothenbergere			√
Chris Phelps			√
Christian Wolf			√
Christine Kirchhoff			√
Connie Manes			√
Curt Johnson			√
Cynthia Costa			√
D'Arcy Jeffery			√

David Blatt			√
David Murphy			√
David Schneider			√
David Sutherland			√
Dean Audet			√
deb denfeld			√
denise savageau			√
Diane Estep			√
Diane Hoffman			√
Diane Keefe			√
Diane Lauricella			√
Diane Mas			√
Doris Johnson			√
EDITH FOLTA			√
Edith Pestana			√
FRogard Ryan			√
Gannon Long			√
george bradner			√
Goudarz Molaei			√
Heather Aaron			√
Helen Humphreys			√
Huan Ngo			√
James Albis			√
James Finch			√
Jasper Sha			√
Jeri Weiss			√
Joanna Wozniak-Brown			√
Jocelyn Mullins			√
John King			√
Joseph Wraithwall			√
Katherine Kemen			√
Kathy Fay			√
Katie Ebinger			√
Katie Lund			√
kelly o'brien			√
Kimberly Stoner			√
Kirby Stafford			√
Kris Kuhn			√
Laura Bozzi			√
Laura Cahn			√
Laura Hayes			√
Lee Cruz			√
Leticia de			√
Linda Erlanger			√
Linda Yannone			√
Lisa Morrissey			√
Lori Mathieu			√
Louis Rosado Burch			√
Lynn Johnson			√
Marianne Engelman Lado			√

Mark Bolduc			√
Martha Page			√
martin mador			√
Mary Pelletier			√
Mary-beth Hart			√
Mary-Michelle (Mikey) Hirschhoff			√
Matthew McCarthy			√
Max Cover			√
Meg Harvey			√
Meg Smith			√
Michael Doty			√
Michael Pascucilla			√
Michael Puglisi			√
Michelle Andrzejewski			√
Monica Zhang			√
Nathan Frohling			√
Nick Pacella			√
Patrice Gillespie			√
Paul Farrell			√
PETER HENTSCHEL			√
Rachel Hiskes			√
Rachel McLoughlin			√
Randall Anway			√
Rebecca French			√
Rick Newton			√
Rick Norris			√
robert bell			√
Robert LaFrance			√
Robert Nixon			√
Robert Scully			√
Rudy Sturk			√
Samantha Dynowski			√
Sarah Lowe			√
shirley mccarthy			√
Shubhada Kambli			√
Skye Wheeler			√
Sonia Marino			√
Steven Walleth			√
Susan Hibbard			√
Susan Peterson			√
Suzi Ruhl			√
Tanya Dwyer			√
tom swan			√
Wayne Cobleigh			√
William Cavers			√
William Mooney			√
Yuliya Kalmykova			√
Zell Steever			√

## AGENDA & NOTES

### Welcome and Announcements

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

Rebecca French commenced the meeting at 4:00 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 groups, Public Health and Safety and Financing and Funding Adaptation and Resilience.

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)

### Presentation: Public Health and Safety Working Group Report

*Deputy Commissioner Heather Aaron, Department of Public Health*

Heather Aaron introduced the working group report, which has been a collaborative effort between all of the partners (partners listed on presenter slides). The content of the presentation will include highlights of the draft report which is still open to public comments and revisions.

*Public Health and Safety Working Group Overview, Laura Hayes*

#### Working Group Scope

- The scope of the working group includes the suite of planning and implementation actions needed to address present-day and foreseeable threats to the protection and improvement of health and safety of all people of Connecticut associated with climate change, with a focus on health equity
- The recommendations that the working group made focus on adaptation and resilience, because that is the sub-committee under which the group was formed, however, recommendations that pertain to medication also have health care benefits and will have more of a focus in the 2021 report

#### Health Equity

- Health equity means that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to attain his or her full health potential, and that no one should be disadvantaged from achieving this potential because of income, race, ethnicity, or other social determinants
- Connecticut is a state of great wealth but also great wealth disparities

#### Report Overview

- The first part of the report provides an update on the recommendations that were made in the 2011 report while the second part provides an overview of the health impact domains:

Extreme Heat, Air Quality, Vector-borne Diseases, Extreme Events, Water-borne Illnesses, Nutrition, Food Security, and Food Safety, Mental Health and Well-being

- This report prioritizes specific recommendations about the 7 domains, while cross cutting topics such as community resilience will be focused on in the 2021 report

*Laura Bozzi, Yale center on Climate Change and Health*

#### Domain 1: Extreme Heat

- Heat related illnesses occur when the body is not able to properly cool itself
- Hotter nighttime temperatures are especially dangerous to health because cool nights are typically an opportunity for the body to cool down
- Heat illness is preventable and that is where the sub-working group recommendations come in
- Certain groups are more vulnerable to extreme heat than others. Some groups, such as older adults, younger children, people with illnesses, and pregnant women, have bodies that adapt less well to heat
- In addition, groups with fewer resources are at greater risk due to lower quality housing or lack of housing
- These categories sometimes overlap, creating a compounding affect
- The recommendations are built around the vulnerable groups

#### Sub working group Recommendations

- Developing guidance for schools, daycares, and youth sports to prevent heat related illness and death
- Develop legislation to require employers to develop and maintain written plans to address heat exposure for applicable outdoor/indoor workers
- Establish standards for local heating air quality response plans and to support cities and towns to develop and carry those out
- Enact a suite of policies to protect low income residents and renters, particularly those in government supported housing, for indoor heat exposure

#### Domain 2: Air quality

The team focused on the main types of pollution sensitive to climate change that negatively affect human health

- Ground Level Ozone or Smog
  - Increases with increased heat, pollen, and wildfire smoke
  - Causes reparatory symptoms
  - There is an important intersection because the hottest days often coincide with ozone alerts, posing a major health risk to vulnerable groups
- Indoor Air Quality
  - Climate impacts indoor air quality when storms or heavy rainfall damage buildings and can cause indoor mold
  - Groups particularly vulnerable to indoor air quality include: the elderly, children, and those with conditions like asthma and other respiratory conditions

#### Sub working group Recommendations

- Increase monitoring of outdoor allergens, particularly mold and different types of pollen
- Evaluate how climate change will affect air quality conditions
- Evaluate ozone alert education efforts to find out whether they are effective or reaching different members of the public

*Jocelyn Mullins, Department of Public Health*

#### Domaine 3: Vector-borne Diseases

- Vector-borne diseases describes illnesses transmitted by arthropod vectors, including mosquitoes, ticks, and fleas
- Since 2000 the number of vector-borne diseases has more than doubled in the United States
- The geographic range and the seasonal length that these diseases occur is expanding with climate change because even small changes in temperature and rainfall can have impacts on vector-borne disease transmission
- People who live in substandard housing who have poor access to healthcare as well as people who work outdoors in certain areas, are at increased risk of these diseases

#### Sub working group Recommendations

- Strengthen monitoring and surveillance of vector populations and associated vector-borne diseases

*Diane Mas, Fuss O'Neill, Inc.*

#### Domain 4: Extreme events

- Health impacts (direct and indirect) result from extreme events including heavy rainfall, extreme heat, floods, droughts, and include mental and physical impacts
- Vulnerable populations to extreme events depend on both geography and demographic profile

#### Recommendations

- The group developed 9 recommendations overall but highlighted 1 in the presentation: Establish state and regional access and functional needs emergency preparedness and response coordinators
- Coordination to ensure safe and equitable access to both communication and evacuation services and medical care during natural disasters is critical to the promotion of health equity in Connecticut

#### Domain 5: Water-borne Illnesses

- Exposure to pathogens, chemicals, and cyanotoxins increase, with subsequent health impacts
- Vulnerable populations include those served by wastewater treatment and water systems and those who live, work, and play around fresh or marine water
- Within these populations, health impacts depend on individual characteristics, socioeconomic characteristics, occupation, and geographic location

#### Recommendations

- The group developed 7 recommendations but highlighted 1 in the presentation: Assess the vulnerability of public recreational freshwater and marine beaches to impacts from climate change and prioritize adaptation options to reduce vulnerability
- Beaches provide cooling options during high heat events and are important economic revenue

*Michael Puglisi, University of Connecticut*

#### Domain 6: Nutrition, Food Security, and Food Safety

- Climate change is likely to affect global, regional, and local food security by disrupting food availability, decreasing access to food, and making food utilization more difficult
- Food safety describes the conditions and measures necessary for food production, processing, storage, and distribution in order to ensure a safe, sound, wholesome product that is fit for human consumption and is may be significantly impacted by climate change

#### Recommendations

- Develop state and regional food security action plans to mitigate the risk of climate change and extreme weather events on the food system

*Caroline Dumont, Yale University*

#### Domain 7: Mental Health and Well-being

- The promotion of mental health and well-being improves our overall collective ability to cope, recover, and adapt to climate stressors
- Mental health impacts arise from direct impacts, such as extreme events like flooding, storms, and heat waves or as disruptions within the human systems and natural systems in which we live, such as food insecurity, economic stressors, and livelihood

#### Recommendations

- Establish best practices for disaster case managers for addressing needs of mental health populations in disaster response
- Procurement of sustained funding for accessible, equitable, and appropriate mental health services, mainly for disaster recovery

*Lori Mathieu, Department of Public Health*

- The actual draft report is over 100 pages, is very detailed, and includes many recommendations, so the presentations have just worked to highlight some of those details and recommendations

### **Presentation: Financing and Funding Adaptation and Resilience Working Group Report**

*Bryan Garcia, Connecticut Green Bank*

- Connecticut currently does not have a dedicated state grant or loan program for resilience projects or programs, while neighboring states like Rhode Island and Massachusetts are dedicating bond fund towards launching resilience planning programs
- The Financing and Funding Adaptation and Resilience work group was charged with identifying sources of funding and ensuring that they promote equity and environmental justice, prioritizing the protection of vulnerable communities disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change
- Funding refers to grants while financing refers to loans that have to be paid back with interest

#### Findings: Barriers

- The group identified a number of barriers to financing and funding, including the disproportionate impact on vulnerable communities as well as the need to invest in pre-disaster mitigation improvement and adherence to building codes

#### Findings: Insurance

- The insured value of coastal property in Connecticut encompasses a significant amount of assets vulnerable to the climate (more details on presenter slides)

#### Findings: Nature-based Solutions

- We need to explore how we can preserve and conserve or restore our natural resources through green infrastructure which protects human infrastructure by absorbing and reducing storm and flood surge

#### Equitable Financing and Funding

- Climate funding and financing mechanisms must recognize how vulnerable communities are disproportionately impacted by climate change
- Ensuring that resources like technical assistance and public and private investment are sufficient and available to vulnerable communities will enable them to live, learn, and work in resilient communities

#### Community Lifelines

- The goals and objectives of FEMA's Strategic Plan promote using mitigation to reduce risk to lifelines before disaster and to quickly stabilize a community after disaster by preventing cascading impacts. Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program (BRIC) mitigation grants go toward projects which help improve these systems.

#### Strategy 1: Build the governance structure to allow for effective and efficient financing and funding

- State funded and initiated infrastructure and building projects should meet climate adaptation and resilience standards
- Ensuring that publicly supported projects in vulnerable communities are better protected from the impacts of climate

#### Strategy 2: Generate revenue sources to pay for resilience projects and programs

- Establish 'resilience fees' to provide revenue sources for resilience and adaptation funds

#### Strategy 3: Supply grants and loans to fund resilience projects and programs

- Provide general obligation bond funds for projects including matching funds to make Connecticut projects more competitive for federal funding, like the BRIC program

#### Strategy 4: Investigate the use of tax credit programs to invest in community resilience

#### Strategy 5: Engage the foundation and philanthropic community as a funding and financing partner (recommendations are listed on presenter slides)

### Question and Answer

Rebecca French moderated a question and answer session with the meeting attendees.

*Question about increasing the gas tax to generate local matches for public transportation and biking.*

Answer: We did talk about a carbon fee as one option for financing and funding. Gas tax is one option but there are other options about where that could come from. The Progress on Mitigation Strategies working group discusses the transportation and climate initiative which is a cap and trade program that could also generate revenue that could be reinvested.

*Question about financing for revitalization, particularly in floodplains.*

Answer: Curt Johnson responded, there is already a regulation, recently installed, in Connecticut mandating that towns install nature based green infrastructure to absorb storm water. Towns are in serious need of a technical increase and programmatic support. They also need to be allowed to pass voluntary stormwater authorities to move projects forward.

*How will you prioritize funding in a way that benefits low income communities and communities of color that have suffered from decades of disinvestment, unintentional structural racism, a red line discrimination segregation, and many other injustices?*

Answer: Bryan Garcia responded: We are trying to drive more investment in vulnerable communities. The Equity and Environmental Justice working group is working on engaging with the community to try and understand their perspective of what is needed when circumstances arise and where to best direct funding.

David Sutherland: One model we are looking at is the state's open space matching grants program.

## **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.

Breakout sessions officially concluded at 6:00 pm but the rooms were left open to accommodate additional conversation.

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

## **Chat Record**

16:10:34 From Linda Yannone : Please shut off OXFORD, shut off, BRIDGEPORT, do not allow KILLINGLY and surely shut off CRICKET VALLEY in Dutchess County, NY, adjoining Kent, Sherman & New Fairfield. It is a CRISIS.

16:13:03 From Gannon Long : Hi Brenda is waiting to get in still

16:13:19 From Gannon Long : DEEP folks if you can please let her in. THnaks.

16:14:28 From Amy Velasquez : Are the other presentations posted somewhere?

16:15:52 From Joanna Wozniak-Brown : Hi Amy, they are here:

<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Climate-Change/GC3/Public-Forums>

16:23:32 From Rebecca French : Thank you for rejoining us after the earlier disruption.

16:25:29 From Rebecca French : You can find all of the Working Group draft reports here:

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

16:28:40 From Curt Johnson : It's great you have identified extreme heat and other areas of health threat. I do not see anything about the public health threats related to flooding. Inland and coastal flooding due to increased extreme rain downbursts and coastal flooding are identified as major physical threats facing CT and NE according to the most recent national climate assessment. Vulnerable communities are often in these flood prone areas. Nature based solutions are important. Please include.

16:31:18 From Anthony Allen : I'll second that, Curt, particularly in areas where overflows of combined storm and sewer systems are becoming more likely as heavy rain events become more likely due to climate change. These overflows dump huge amounts of raw sewage and other pollutants into waterways used for recreation, fishing, and/or water supplies.

16:31:54 From Christian Wolf : Can a host give me permission to record?

16:31:55 From Curt Johnson : Healthy homes should include combo of energy efficiency (included) AND split system heat pump system installation. These split systems save electricity and

incoude built in AC at its most cost-effective. Indoor air quality/ventilation can also be improved with split systems. Focusing this effort on low/mod income is critical. Mold abatement and asbestors/lead cost effective abatement needs to be part of healthy homes.

16:32:01 From Rebecca French : If you have not selected a break out room via the survey earlier sent to your email address, please send a private chat to Mary-beth Hart with your selection.

PHS Extreme Heat/Air Quality

PHS Vector-borne Diseases

PHS Extreme Events/Water-borne Illnesses

PHS Mental Health and Well-being/Nutrition, Food Security, and Food Safety

Financing & Funding Recommendations

16:33:30 From Laura Cahn : Air Quality - What about the huge amounts of pesticides being sprayed all over us by lawn companies?

16:33:43 From Rebecca French : Five Options for break out sessions: 1) PHS Extreme Heat/Air Quality

2) PHS Vector-borne Diseases

3) PHS Extreme Events/Water-borne Illnesses

4) PHS Mental Health and Well-being/Nutrition, Food Security, and Food Safety

5) Financing & Funding

16:34:03 From Amy Velasquez : Unfortunately pesticides are not a climate change issue.

16:35:21 From Curt Johnson : Thanks, Anthony. Agreed. Actually enforcing DEEP's municipal stormwater permit (MS4) would decrease flooding by seveal billion gallons per year over the nextfive years, along every flood prone river in the State. Let's enforce our existing DEEP regs!

16:37:14 From Anthony Allen : You could argue that they are related, Amy, given that new insects and plant diseases are coming to the Northeast due in part to climate change. The short-term response to these invasive species and threats to native plants and crops is almost always pesticides and/or other chemicals. It's not the most direct connection, but I think it is connected!

16:37:22 From Adrienne Houel : we're going to talk about flooding now, I think....

16:38:01 From denise savageau : Healthy wetland ecosystems decrease the prevalence vector borne diseases especially related to mosquitoes. The wetland subgroup report discusses this as a cross-over issue.

16:38:24 From Amy Velasquez : Good point Anthony.

16:40:08 From Kathy Fay : Although pesticides themselves may not be a climate change issue, the increased stormwater is, and it can bring those pesticides into water bodies and other locations that have no pesticide notices posted. This stormwater/pesticide connection does become a climate/health issue that should be addressed

16:40:45 From denise savageau : The highlighted issue on extreme events is critical. I worked in our local Emergency Operation Center and this needs to be addressed.

16:41:31 From Rebecca French : Nature-based solutions have been a cross-cutting theme across multiple GC3 working groups, both the Public Health and Financing reports include nature-based solutions and they were also recommendations in the Working and Natural Lands Working Group reports.

16:42:04 From Curt Johnson : Great to have much better natural disaster communications,especially for vulnerable neighbohoods. But how about preventing flooding to vulnerable, flood exposed areas using nature based solutions and enforcing existing regualtions to capture and get back in the ground stormwater? Again, enforce MS4 regulations.

16:42:05 From Ben Martin : building a new fracked gas plant in Killingly would make inequality and water quality worse

16:42:22 From Anthony Allen : Thanks Rebecca, looking forward to reviewing all reports!

16:42:38 From Ben Martin : DEEP & GC3 has the power to stop that plant

- 16:42:42 From Gannon Long : Hey everyone, The Low Income Energy Advisory Board met today. They have a carryover surplus around \$14M for weatherization. Now's the time to invest in contractors that are doing this work to scale up hiring and do more remediation & efficiency measures in more low income homes more quickly.
- 16:42:47 From Denise Savageau : Assuming WBI also includes HAB in public water supplies.
- 16:42:56 From Gannon Long : Thank you Anthony for making those points, so important
- 16:43:11 From Amy Velasquez : What's HAB?
- 16:43:36 From Gannon Long : there is also left over money for energy assistance, through federal LIHEAP \$, that we can be spending on weatherization/ efficiency. DSS currently allocates that money.
- 16:43:38 From Curt Johnson : Great idea on beach inventory. Check out Sound Health Explorer: for lots and lots of great data on pathogens data and opportunities to improve beach health. Also need to look at EQUITABLE ACCESS.
- 16:43:48 From Diane Mas : HAB = harmful algal bloom
- 16:44:17 From Amy Velasquez : Thanks
- 16:44:24 From Rebecca French : Nature-based solutions are mimicking nature to address climate impacts such as flooding or heat. They can include rain gardens, planting trees, or restoring natural shorelines.
- 16:45:17 From Curt Johnson : <https://soundhealthexplorer.org/>
- 16:46:36 From Rebecca French : If you are just joining us please select one of the five break out session options where there will be an opportunity to have a more in-depth discussion in the following areas:
- 1) PHS Extreme Heat/Air Quality
  - 2) PHS Vector-borne Diseases
  - 3) PHS Extreme Events/Water-borne Illnesses
  - 4) PHS Mental Health and Well-being/Nutrition, Food Security, and Food Safety
  - 5) Financing & Funding
- 16:47:15 From Suzi Ruhl : has consideration been given to applying brownfields to healthfields as a means to address food insecurity?
- 16:49:05 From Anthony Allen : All food-related concerns tie into the cross-cutting theme of localization. There needs to be a real conversation about food apartheid and the systems that uphold it. Look to existing leaders in food sovereignty movements for guidance here.
- 16:49:25 From Rebecca French : Thank you for all the great comments questions in the chat. The chat will be saved and shared with all of the working group members. Please take this opportunity to share your feedback with all of them.
- 16:49:59 From Rebecca French : Written comments will be accepted on these working groups and all reports via email at [deep.climatechange@ct.gov](mailto:deep.climatechange@ct.gov)
- 16:50:02 From Skye Wheeler : Thank you so much for the link to the draft reports - I see them. It's not clear to me how we provide input, can you clarify again? Apologies I think I may have missed a note on this earlier. Thanks.
- 16:50:23 From Curt Johnson : To the health team: the Save the Sound team would be happy to present a 10 minute overview of the deep data set on beach and beach access through the Sound Health Explorer. No need to re-invent the wheel. It won't get you everything, but it is a super important data foundation that exists. [soundhealthexplorer.com](http://soundhealthexplorer.com)
- 16:50:55 From Joanna Wozniak-Brown : Hi Suzi, brownfields were not discussed in great detail in the Public Health & Safety report; however, they are included in a recommendation in the Infrastructure and Land Use working group report. I was a member of both groups.
- 16:51:33 From Laura Cahn : Food Safety - NPR report this afternoon on pesticides on food: <https://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2020/10/07/epa-trump-pesticides>
- 16:52:25 From Mary Pelletier : Was research regarding access to nature for urban residents included in the draft report?

- 16:52:28 From Robert LaFrance : Following up on the comments on Nature-based solutions - here is a video that Audubon pulled together. Worth a watch:
- 16:52:51 From Suzi Ruhl : Thanks, Joanna. There are great examples where B2H captures both the remediation and redevelopment objectives, addressing essential needs and services.
- 16:53:31 From Huan Ngo : PHS Extreme Events/Water-borne Illnesses, please
- 16:53:57 From Robert LaFrance :

<https://www.audubon.org/conservation/coastal-resilience>

- 16:55:17 From Wayne Cobleigh : Research by Yale and others on how the mind works too fast on decisions about climate risks and the need to let fast thinking hack your mind
- 16:55:28 From Wayne Cobleigh : <https://www.pbs.org/show/hacking-your-mind/>
- 16:55:47 From Diane Keefe : Can you put the comment web site in the chat pls
- 16:56:08 From Linda Yannone : I had horrible asthma, during summer in W. CT. Terrible air quality in Sherman.
- 16:56:30 From Rebecca French : Please email written comments to [deep.climatechange@ct.gov](mailto:deep.climatechange@ct.gov)
- 16:56:46 From Skye Wheeler : Here's the portal <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Climate-Change/GC3/Public-Forums>
- 16:56:52 From Linda Yannone : 5 miles from CRICKET VALLEY
- 16:57:44 From Wayne Cobleigh : correction NOT letting fast thinking hack your mind by thinking slower
- 16:58:16 From Linda Yannone : Stop funding building of these power plants, INSURANCE AGENCIES.
- 16:58:42 From Kimberly Stoner : Stop insuring the new power plants, too!
- 17:01:53 From Kimberly Stoner : I have written to the State Treasurer saying that he needs to stop investing state funds in fossil fuel companies. They will be increasingly risky as we proceed, as we should, in replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy.
- 17:02:22 From Robert Nixon : What about investments in fossil fuel projects by CT based Insurance companies . It promotes climate destruction.
- 17:02:50 From Lynn Johnson : Bryan just referred to a break out group on funding, but i didn't see a reference to one earlier.
- 17:02:56 From Kimberly Stoner : Also CT insurance companies insuring fossil fuel projects!
- 17:03:02 From Samantha Dynowski : Agree that Connecticut is where insurance could take on the climate crisis. Yet our insurance companies are investing \$247 billion in fossil fuels and insuring fossil fuel projects. <https://www.insureourfuture.us/ct-insurance-report>
- 17:03:53 From Rebecca French : ALL ATTENDEES: Please send a chat to Mary-beth with your choice of break out session AGAIN...even if you sent her a chat earlier or replied to the survey. Five Options:1) PHS Extreme Heat/Air Quality  
2) PHS Vector-borne Diseases  
3) PHS Extreme Events/Water-borne Illnesses  
4) PHS Mental Health and Well-being/Nutrition, Food Security, and Food Safety  
5) Financing & Funding
- 17:04:48 From Kris Kuhn : Agree that insuring fossil fuel projects must be addressed. This cannot be overstated.
- 17:05:15 From Rebecca French : We had a technical glitch and lost the break out session assignments. Please send her your choice asap. It is ok if you pick something different than you selected earlier.

- 17:05:45 From Suzi Ruhl : food security and mental health
- 17:06:04 From Samantha Dynowski : Lots that CT insurers can and should be doing including:
- 17:06:08 From Samantha Dynowski : Require that insurance companies:  
Immediately cease insuring new coal projects and coal companies, unless they are engaged in a rapid transition process away from coal to clean energy of no more than two years.  
Immediately cease insuring new oil or gas expansion projects.  
Commit to phasing out insurance for oil and gas companies in line with a 1.5°C pathway.  
Divest all assets from coal companies and oil and gas companies that are not in line with a 1.5°C pathway, including assets managed for third parties.  
Bring stewardship activities, membership of trade associations and public positions as a shareholder and corporate citizen more broadly in line with a 1.5°C pathway in a transparent way.  
This must include forceful advocacy for a green and just recovery from COVID-19.
- 17:06:17 From James Finch : Funding and Financing
- 17:07:07 From Alec Shub to Mary-beth Hart (Privately) : Hi Mary-beth, I'm taking notes for 5) Financing and funding
- 17:07:08 From Lynn Johnson : I tried to find Mary Beth to send a request, but she is now buried somewhere in the list of attendees. Please send us a link to her
- 17:07:31 From Curt Johnson : Here is presentation on nature based solutions to finance group: [https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/climatechange/GC3/GC3-2020-agendas-and-minutes/GC3\\_Financing\\_slides\\_061920.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/climatechange/GC3/GC3-2020-agendas-and-minutes/GC3_Financing_slides_061920.pdf)
- 17:07:32 From Mary Pelletier : On-going prioritization funding climate resilience research and preparedness on coastal communities - rather than recognizing the need to invest in preparing inland communities for population shifts is fundamentally problematic.
- 17:07:38 From denise savageau : FEMA's model relies on municipalities and/or nonprofits to be the applicants and bear the risk if the subapplicant (homeowner) fails in the project. This needs to be addressed.
- 17:08:22 From Angel Serrano : CT Insurance companies should stop underwriting the very fossil fuel projects that are contributing to Climate Change
- 17:08:30 From Curt Johnson : thanks Bryan for pointing out importance to hold a separate public forum on nature based solutions during this public input phase.
- 17:08:37 From Joanna Wozniak-Brown : Lynn, in the chat box, there is a drop-down near "To:". You can click the drop-down and select Mary-beth from the list.
- 17:08:51 From Suzi Ruhl : Did you explore the application of NEPA to consider equity and environmental justice in federal projects, programming and funding?
- 17:09:22 From Rebecca French : We encourage you to check out the new FEMA BRIC program. \$500 million available to implement resilience projects.  
<https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/building-resilient-infrastructure-communities>
- 17:09:23 From Diane Lauricella : Bryan's slides not advancing on my laptop...anyone else having this problem?
- 17:09:31 From Samantha Dynowski : How about a fee on insurance companies that insure climate destroying fossil fuel projects?
- 17:10:19 From Rebecca French : <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/lifelines>
- 17:10:33 From David Blatt : Tying resilience fees to resilience projects is noble and logically unassailable, but the legislature has routinely plundered special funds.
- 17:10:40 From Lynn Johnson : Thanks Curt for a list of nature Based Solutions. i downloaded it!
- 17:11:10 From Kimberly Stoner : What about investing state pension funds in resilience!

- 17:12:09 From Lynn Johnson : Bryan thank you for this excellent presentation. Hope to see you in the breakout room.
- 17:12:11 From Leticia de : I agree with this comments "On-going prioritization funding climate resilience research and preparedness on coastal communities - rather than recognizing the need to invest in preparing inland communities for population shifts is fundamentally problematic." coastl communities
- 17:12:26 From Mary-beth Hart to Alec Shub (Privately) : Hi Alec please take notes and record in the water borne grpi
- 17:12:37 From Leticia de : coastal communities also often have additional resources of their own
- 17:12:37 From Steven Wallett : [https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/climatechange/GC3/GC3-working-group-reports/GC3\\_Public\\_health\\_safety\\_draft\\_report\\_public\\_comment\\_092120.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/climatechange/GC3/GC3-working-group-reports/GC3_Public_health_safety_draft_report_public_comment_092120.pdf)
- 17:12:37 From Diane Keefe : Why is their no recommendation to increase the gas tax to generate local matches or improve resources for public transportation and bicycling facilities in our cities. The state of PA collects 58 cents per gallon. we only charge 38 cents. If we redirerct all the proceeds to low income communities it will be progressive not regressive.
- 17:13:14 From Lynn Johnson : Mary Beth, please put me in the Finance Group.
- 17:13:35 From Curt Johnson : Note that thee is an addendum to the finance/funding committee report that identifies the large funding need; importance for evaluating petroleum based taxes coodinaed with the TCI effot and considering Maryland's "flush tax" for water resilience projects There is a large built up need. While Bryan is right, there are over 400 nature based/flood adaptation efforts identified, these projects ARE ALMOST ALLNOT FUNIDED, EVEN TO THE ENGINEERING EFFORT.
- 17:13:36 From Anthony Allen : Was there an assessment of the potential of environmental impact bonds as a funding opportunity for nature-based resilience projects?
- 17:14:10 From Ben Martin : given that there is a lot in today's documentation about water quality sis GC3 recommending DEEP reject the wastewater perm it for NTE
- 17:14:15 From Aaron goode : need state to authorize stormwater utilities and user fees at local level
- 17:14:31 From Anthony Allen : YES Aaron, great point
- 17:15:00 From Suzi Ruhl : did you address the issue of access to resources distinct from the availability of resources? vulnerable communities often lack the capacity to apply for existing funding.
- 17:15:46 From Mary-beth Hart to Alec Shub (Privately) : Rebecca will cover, she said you can switch :)
- 17:16:00 From Samantha Dynowski : How will you prioritize funding in a way the benefit low-income communities and communities of color that have suffered from decades of intentional structural racism, disinvestment, red lining, discrimination, segregation, and many other injustices.
- 17:16:04 From James Finch : Standard and Poor's issues an annual report on municipal green bonds and resiliency
- 17:17:10 From Samantha Dynowski : NY's landmark climate law requires at least 35% of benefit go to vulnerable communities. Funding and financing in CT should follow suit.
- 17:17:28 From Anne Hulick : Are there innovative ways to engage healthcare systems to engage and work on these issues and incentivize them to do so?
- 17:17:49 From Alec Shub to Mary-beth Hart (Privately) : Fine with me!
- 17:18:27 From Rachel Hiskes : Greenlining as directing resilience and sustainability projects towards low resource communities is a great term
- 17:18:56 From Lynn Johnson : Thanks Joanna, I found Mary Beths link!

17:19:16 From Diane Keefe : I can't join the break out due to a schedule conflict but a carbon tax hasn't gotten traction nationally because it's complicated to understand but people already know what a gas tax is. It's already in place. If the Governor takes a lead in explaining that gas is like cigarettes. It's in everyone's interest that we discourage it's use and that the proceeds will go to climate vulnerable communities.

17:20:51 From Amy Velasquez : Only problem with the gas tax is it already has a history of being hijacked from its original intent.

17:21:11 From Amy Paterson : David is referencing CT DEEP Open Space & Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program and the Urban Green and Community Garden Grant Program. You can google both and readily access the information.

17:21:31 From Mary Pelletier : Please note there needs to be funding for revitalization of ecosystem resilience along urban riparian corridors, and public parkland,

17:21:32 From Suzi Ruhl : Also the HUD-DOT-EPA Partnership for Sustainable Communities offers funding models.