
**Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3)
GC3 Public Review Period Wrap-up
MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Date: October 19, 2020

Meeting Time: 4:30-6:00pm

Meeting Location: Zoom

[Meeting Recording](#)

ATTENDANCE

Attendee	Title	Organization	Present
Phone Participant 1			√
Adelaine McCloe			√
Ali Ghiorse			√
Allen Kratz			√
Amanda Clark			√
Amy McLean			√
Amy Velasquez			√
Anji Seth			√
Bernard Pelletier			√
Brian Thompson			√
Bryan Garcia			√
Charles Leigus			√
Charles Rothenberger			√
Chris Donnelly			√
Chris Martin			√
Claire Coleman			√
Colleen Murphy-Dunning			√
David Michel			√
David Sutherland			√
Diane Hoffman			√
Dino Pascua			√
Edith Pestana			√
Eluned Li			√
Evan Dantos			√
Evan Griswold			√
Gioia Connell			√
Hugh hdbirdsall@aol.com			√
Jeff Howard			√
Joanna Wozniak-Brown			√
Joseph MacDougald			√
Kai Starn			√
Kate Donatelli			√
Kathy Fay			√
Katie Ebinger			√
Katie Lund			√
Katie O'Brien-Clayton			√
Kevin Grigg			√
Laura Hayes			√
Lauren Bailey			√
Lilian Ruiz			√
Lisa Candels			√
Lisa Hayden			√
Lisa Noriega			√

GC3 Public Review Period Wrap-up

October 19, 2020

Lori Mathieu			√
Maha ge			√
martin mador			√
Mary L. Sanders			√
Mary Pelletier			√
Mary-beth Hart			√
Maryam Elahi			√
Melissa Kops			√
Mike Li			√
Monica Zhang			√
Nora Rizzo			√
Patricia Taylor			√
Patrick Comins			√
Paul Hearn			√
pete Arrestad			√
Rachel Hiskes			√
Rachel McLoughlin			√
Raymond Hinchcliffe			√
Rebecca French			√
Rick Jacobson			√
Rick Love			√
Ruth Canovi			√
Ryan Levandowski			√
Sam Lehr			√
Sharon Bender			√
Stephen Cowell			√
Steven Wallett			√
Susan Hibbard			√
Susan Peterson			√
Tamara Muruetagoiena			√
Tanya Dwyer			√
Todd Berman			√
Tyler Anderson			√
Wayne Cobleigh			√
William Cavers			√

AGENDA & NOTES

Welcome and Announcements

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

Rebecca French began by reviewing the agenda, which includes a presentation, followed by two breakout sessions: 1) Mitigation 2) Adaptation and resilience, a pilot of a new online tool called “Google JamBoard”, and at the end there will be time for hearing public comments.

Rebecca French provided a brief overview of the Governor’s Council on Climate Change (GC3). Overview and summary can be found [here](#). The GC3 process has been ongoing since December of 2019 and is in a period of public review from September 22nd to October 21st. 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.

- Read the working group reports, available [here](#)
- The working group reports are comprehensive and one suggestion is to pick a topic based on the working group name and to then watch the public forum recording
- The presentations can serve as an executive summary and will guide your reading of the reports

The GC3 is continuing until the end of 2021. Phase 1 involves initial recommendations to the governor by January 15, 2021. The recommendations will include an evaluation of the progress towards the implementation of mitigation strategies in the 2018 GC3 report and updated recommendations for adapting to and improving the state’s resilience to the effects of climate change.

Phase 2 is a final report and recommendations, which will conclude on December 31 2021. There will be a focus on robust public participation and engagement process, targeting feedback from environmental justice communities. An annual update to the recommendations for mitigation strategies. The development of a strategic statewide Adaptation and Resilience Plan.

Rebecca French offered several conversation prompts to discuss during the break out sessions.

Mitigation Break Out

If you could only make one recommendation to Governor Lamont related to mitigation of carbon emissions what would it be and why?

- Connecticut has made a commitment to a 45% reduction in emissions by 2030
- The 2030 target puts us on the path to reach the 2050 target which is an 80% reduction in emissions
- Additional questions to ask in the mitigation break out session are listed on presenter slides

Adaptation and Resilience Objective Break Out

If you could make one recommendation to Governor Lamont related to adapting to the impacts of climate change what would it be and why?

- It is important to think from this adaptation and resilience perspective because Connecticut's climate has already changed and will continue to change
- Additional questions to ask in the adaptation and resilience break out session are listed on presenter slides

Participants of the public forum were then moved into separate break out session rooms to discuss the two break out topics.

Public Comment

Lisa Candels:

I'm the clinical supervisor of a home visiting program serving pregnant women and their families. There are many immigrant families coming from southern countries, due to extreme poverty, impacted by the climate crisis. I feel that the climate crisis is a huge public health issue that needs to be addressed with as much seriousness and concern as the focus on the current pandemic. The pandemic is showing us how fast humans can adapt and we need to bring that mindset to the issue of the climate crisis.

Diane Hoffman:

I would like to see the public utility regulatory authority and the Connecticut Siting Council involved in this process. They are incredibly powerful it's important that they be much more accessible and accountable to the people. I think really good things are happening with PURA and that is the right direction to be going in. They are much more responsive under the new chairperson. I would also like to see the Connecticut Siting Council, because in my town, Hamden, we generally feel like it doesn't matter what we do, we have no power. It would be really good to have a human face on that group and really feel like what the community is saying and the concerns and objections and evidence that we're providing on a given project is seriously considered. Because the impression we have is that it doesn't matter how good our presentations are, it's kind of like a done deal. I would just like to see those two organizations or bodies be a part of this process.

Hugh Birdsall:

Public education and carbon sequestration are two things that have been missing from these forums. We don't have time to focus on reforestation in Connecticut for carbon sequestration. Instead, we must focus our attention on the tropics and pay them for reforestation. It's going to cost a lot but it will be worth it and we only have 10 years.

Patrick Comins:

Directed at the Science and Technology working group. A key recommendation is that we need to work with our federal elected officials and federal agency officials to come up with innovative approaches to both mitigation and adaptation. We need a Manhattan style project investment in this issue if we are going to help address it.

Allen Kratz:

I appreciate that fact that we had this opportunity to test out the Jamboard tool. I'm impressed that Connecticut is pursuing different ways of engaging the public during this prolonged period of pandemic and is helping to prevent us from needing to have onsite meetings. The Jamboard tool is

fascinating. There are a few tweaks that can be made but it can be used. The Massachusetts Municipal Vulnerability Program put out a guide to doing virtual meetings today that I posted in the chat. I just want to validate and appreciate what you've done in Connecticut in that sense.

Gioia Connell:

It is pretty clear that reevaluating implementing stretch codes in a way that ensures equity across the state is going to be really critical in order to reach the 34% reduction in the carbon emissions from the governor's executive order.

Rebecca French adjourned the meeting.

NOTE: Slides and presentations are available on GC3 web page: www.ct.gov/deep/gc3

Chat Record

16:38:29 From Amy Velasquez : Does anyone else's screen look weird?
 16:43:29 From Patricia Taylor : I am sorry we didn't have the opportunity to view a presentation by the Public Health and Safety working group.
 16:47:13 From Jeff Howard : Written feedback on working group reports can be emailed to deep.climatechange@ct.gov.
 16:47:58 From Jeff Howard : Public forums: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Climate-Change/GC3/Public-Forums>
 16:48:51 From Jeff Howard : Working group reports: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Climate-Change/GC3/GC3-Working-group-reports>
 16:56:46 From Allen Kratz : I may have missed this at the beginning this evening: will the slide decks from the past sessions be posted on the website? Or are they there already?
 16:58:56 From Patrick Comins : All while putting an increasing demand on our electricity generation sector in order to make enough electricity for EVs. Add to that the closing of Millstone makes it pretty daunting.
 16:59:53 From Mary-beth Hart : Thanks everyone, the Jamboard is now full
 17:01:50 From Kathy Fay : will the prompt questions be available to see while we are in breakout?
 17:01:57 From Mary-beth Hart to Kathy Fay(Privately) : Yes they will be available in the break outs
 17:02:44 From Jeff Howard : I captured the questions for the Mitigation breakout and will display them.
 17:02:52 From Amy Velasquez : Can anyone get on that listserv or is it just for Working Group members?
 17:02:56 From Joanna Wozniak-Brown : The full factsheets are available here: <https://circa.uconn.edu/2020/10/08/ct-climate-fact-sheets/>
 17:03:17 From Jeff Howard : Which listserv, Amy?
 17:03:49 From Amy Velasquez : Rebecca mentioned the Governors Council on Climate Change listserv
 17:05:07 From Jeff Howard : I think she merely meant an e-mail list.
 17:05:27 From Jeff Howard : I'm sure everyone who registered for this forum will be added to the list.
 17:05:43 From Amy Velasquez : Thank you
 17:06:36 From Gioia Connell : Yes thank you, please do add to a listsrv

17:09:35 From Rebecca French : To Join the GC3 Listserv:
<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Climate-Change/Climate-Change-Listserv>

17:56:22 From Hugh hdbirdsall@aol.com : My public comment: I think that two major ideas are missing from many of the discussions I have heard. Carbon Sequestration and Education. These two are absolutely if we are to survive.

17:56:36 From Hugh hdbirdsall@aol.com : necessary

17:58:38 From Patrick Comins : I would like to make a comment

18:00:16 From Allen Kratz : Have returned from Jamboard session. Very impressed with this tool. I appreciate having had the opportunity to test that tool, particularly because the effects of the pandemic are likely to prevent on-site meetings in the near future.

18:02:02 From Gioia Connell : Stretch codes were brought up in the last session. Reevaluating implementing stretch codes in a way that is equitable is critical to reaching the 34% Reduction in Building Emissions from the Governor's Executive Order.

18:02:08 From Diane Hoffman : I believe the PURA and Ct Siting Council should be included in the GC3 process.

18:03:24 From Patrick Comins : Thank you.

18:03:30 From Eluned Li : Thanks so much, everyone!

18:03:37 From Anji Seth : thank you!

18:03:39 From Diane Hoffman : thank you!

18:03:47 From Gioia Connell : ^^ Placing distributive justice at the center of siting is indeed important as well! Thanks for letting the quick last minute pop in!

18:03:51 From Charles Rothenberger : Thanks!