
**Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3)
MEETING MINUTES**

**March 9, 2020
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT**

ATTENDANCE

| GC3 Member | Title | Organization | Present |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Katie Dykes | Commissioner | Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) | ✓ |
| Heather Aaron | Deputy Commissioner | Department of Public Health | |
| Patrick Brown | Chief Technology Architect | The Hartford | |
| Claire Coleman | Undersecretary | Office of Policy & Management | |
| Lee Cruz | Director of Community Outreach | The COMMUNITY Foundation for Greater New Haven | ✓ |
| Rebecca French | Director of Resilience | Department of Housing | ✓ |
| Matt Fulda | Executive Director | Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments | ✓ |
| Bryan Garcia | Chief Executive Officer & President | Connecticut Green Bank | ✓ |
| Josh Geballe | Commissioner | Department of Administrative Services | |
| Deb Geyer | VP Environmental Health & Safety and Corporate Sustainability | Stanley Black and Decker | ✓ |
| Marissa Gillett | Chairperson | Public Utilities Regulatory Authority | |
| Kevin Grigg | President & CEO | Fuss & O'Neill | ✓ |
| John Humphries | Executive Director | CT Roundtable on Climate and Jobs | ✓ |
| Bryan Hurlburt | Commissioner | Department of Agriculture | |
| Curt Johnson | Executive Director | Connecticut Fund for the Environment | ✓ |
| George Kral | Town Planner | Town of Guilford | ✓ |
| David Lehman | Commissioner | Department of Economic & Community Development | |
| Andrew Mais | Commissioner | Department of Insurance | |
| Tom Maziarz | Bureau Chief | Department of Transportation | ✓ |

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|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|---|
| James O'Donnell | Executive Director | Connecticut Institute for Resilience & Climate Adaptation | ✓ |
| Frogard Ryan | Executive Director | The Nature Conservancy | ✓ |
| James Rovella | Commissioner | Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection | |
| Brenda Watson | Executive Director | Operation Fuel | ✓ |

| Other Attendees | Title | Organization | Present |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|
| George Bradner | Property and Casualty Director | Insurance Department | ✓ |
| Lori Mathieu | Public Health Section Chief | Department of Public Health | ✓ |
| James Albis | Senior Advisor to Commissioner Katie Dykes | DEEP | ✓ |
| Alicea Charamut | Executive Director | Rivers Alliance of Connecticut | ✓ |
| Mary-beth Hart | Senior Environmental Planner | CT DEEP | ✓ |
| Susan Peterson | Watershed Coordinator | CT DEEP | ✓ |
| Edith Pestana | Environmental Justice Program Coordinator | CT DEEP | ✓ |
| Chris Donnelly | Urban Forestry Coordinator | CT DEEP | ✓ |
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AGENDA & NOTES

Welcome and Announcements

Facilitated by Commissioner Dykes, DEEP

Commissioner Dykes commenced the meeting at 1:05 pm and opened with the following general announcements:

- Due to recent coronavirus concerns, GC3 members should consider changing any working group meetings (and all other meetings in general) from in-person to teleconferencing
- Anyone who wishes to receive announcements regarding the GC3 can sign-up to be on the mailing list by emailing deep.climatechange@ct.gov
- The Commissioner extended her gratitude to members of the council and to the public for supporting the goals and interests of the GC3

The Commissioner gave a brief overview of the agenda, and all GC3 members in attendance introduced themselves.

Working Group Spotlight: Equity and Environmental Justice

Facilitated by Lee Cruz, Director of Community Outreach, The COMMUNITY Foundation for Greater New Haven; Co-Chair of the GC3 Equity and Environmental Justice Working Group

Commissioner Dykes reiterated that Governor Lamont's Executive Order No. 3 directs the GC3 to incorporate equity and environmental justice into all aspects of the Council's work.

Commissioner Dykes stated that all GC3 working groups should consult with the Equity and Environmental Justice (EEJ) working group to ensure their recommendations are incorporating elements of EEJ.

The Commissioner introduced Lee Cruz, Co-Chair of the EEJ Working Group who gave a presentation on the work group's efforts to date.

Mr. Cruz's presentation included the following points:

- The EEJ group had its first meeting February on 25, 2020 approximately 50 members of the community attended.
- In order to finalize a decision on the working group's definition of "equity," the group is working on selecting some of its own members to serve on the other GC3 working groups. This will help them incorporate different perspectives into their definition.
- They are overviews best practices for community outreach in regards to the interests of the GC3, as equity needs to be embedded in all facets of the process.
- The GC3 needs to recognize existing inequities in Connecticut (i.e., who has access to the benefits of renewable energy? Who benefits from changes in the public transportation sector?)
- The EEJ group will post all of its draft recommendations online, not just their final draft, so that the public can access it and reach out to them with any concerns/suggestions before the group moves forward with an official set of recommendations.
- The group has already identified a lot of inequity challenges and has also identified a need to connect with community leaders about these issues.
- The GC3 and working groups need to develop plans that are culturally and linguistically accessible.

- Their goals moving forward include:
 - o Engaging a group of at least 20 diverse members to capture a wide range of knowledge and perspective in their recommendations
 - o Continuing to engage both members in the working group and members of the public
 - o Forming 'Public Participation,' 'Adaptation,' and 'Mitigation' subcommittees
- Lee Cruz suggests an additional pre-final draft meeting for every GC3 working group to hear from audience of residents and other members of the public.
- The EEJ group will be holding a meeting later this month to discuss community involvement if there are any members of other working groups that are interested in attending

Susan Masino, co-chair of the GC3 Science and Technology working group, stated that Lee Cruz had given an excellent summary and talked about the EEJ concepts that the Science and Technology working group is considering

Commissioner Dykes added that GC3 working groups should not wait until they have a final draft to get input on their recommendations from the EEJ working group. Therefore, co-chairs of the various working groups should identify time in their schedule to meet with members from the EEJ group to get feedback.

Working Group Updates

Facilitated by Working Group Co-Chairs, Members, and Staff

- Progress on Mitigation Strategies; John Humphries
- Working and Natural Lands; Eric Hammerling and Alicea Charamut
- Science and Technology; DEEP staff
- Adaptation Planning and Implementation; George Kral and Lori Mathieu
- Financing Adaptation; Rebecca French
- State Asset Vulnerability; DEEP staff

GC3 working group updates provided their progress to date. Each update can be found in the [slide deck](#) posted online.

Table of Contents Discussion

Facilitated by James Albis, Senior Advisor to Commissioner Dykes, DEEP

James Albis presented the draft table of contents for the final GC3 report and highlighted which working group would be responsible for which section. The document is provided at the end of these minutes.

Eric Hammerling, lead for Forestry sub-group of the Working and Natural Lands Working Group, provided suggestions for amending the document.

Mr. Albis stressed that the document is a draft and encouraged additional discussion.

Discussion on Integration Between Working Groups and with Other Efforts

Facilitated by Commissioner Dykes

Each Working Group Slide indicated integration of other Working Groups; EEJ will be integrated into all other Working Groups.

Public comments

Facilitated by Commissioner Dykes

Several members of the public who had signed-up to provide comments were no longer in

Additional public comments were provided remotely through the Zoom chat, including:

- Should anticipated climate-related health impacts, especially for the more vulnerable populations, be considered by the EEJ working group?
- Are school transportation, electric buses and net-zero energy schools part of what the Mitigation working group is focusing on?

Commissioner Dykes responded by stating that working group co-chairs will follow-up to discuss the relevancy of specific issues as they pertain to the work being conducted by specific GC3 working groups.

Next Steps and Adjourn

Additional comments discussed at the meeting included:

- A recommendation that the final report include a discussion of what will occur if we take no action in addition to outcomes if we act on certain implementation suggestions to demonstrate potential positive or negative outcomes.
- Commissioner Dykes suggested future webinar for GC3 members on various topics including climate change studies/warming levels and how that will impact vulnerable populations
- A recommendation that any models produced for the GC3 have a CT-centric focus to demonstrate the impacts specifically in CT and how they will affect CT residents
- A recommendation that GC3 working groups communicate the various CT Councils of Governments to coordinate and facilitate presentation of the data produced by the reports to their regions/networks (governments, residents, businesses, etc.)
- A suggestion to have the GC3 clarify what is meant by the term “resilient” and what it is referring to. For example, is it resilience to weather? Heat?

Commissioner Dykes thanked everyone for attending and participating in the meeting, both in-person and remotely. She expressed her appreciation of the working groups’ efforts to date and that she looks forward to future reports of additional accomplishments at future meetings.

Commissioner Dykes adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:05 pm.