

*The following is the transcript of the chat window for the **July 15, 2020 meeting of the Governor's Council on Climate Change.***

00:55:41 Rebecca French: If everyone not speaking could take off their video for the moment to help with connectivity issues, that might help call quality.

01:00:15 Jon Slifka: sorry for my tardiness. I was having internet issues.

01:13:26 Anthony Cherolis: A - Expensive failure

01:15:37 Denise Savageau: We have examples here in CT about Superstorm Sandy including in Greenwich, CT where I worked in the Emergency Operation Center. Communication is key and was a failure. Happy to share what happened and how it should be addressed.

01:18:23 Todd Berman: Denise Savageau, Please track the (under development) recommendations of the Utility Infrastructure work group. We have some that speak to the issue you highlight.

01:19:33 Gannon Long: Thank you Dr. Mitchell, that was outstanding.

01:19:39 Michael Harris: Thank you!

01:19:49 Denise Savageau: Thanks Tod. Definitely access during emergencies is part of the issue but there are also so much more.

01:19:49 Bernard Pelletier: Thank you Dr. Mitchell!

01:19:52 Kate Brennan: Thank you - great presentation!

01:20:03 Shanté Hanks: Thank you Mark. Very informative.

01:20:11 Lee Cruz: Thank you Dr. Mitchell.

01:20:13 FRogard Ryan: Thank you! Great presentation.

01:20:22 Aicha Woods: Thank you Dr. Mitchell

01:20:34 George Bradner: Can we get a copy of this?

01:20:35 Anthony Cherolis: What are the nearest term equity environmental changes that Dr. Mitchell would propose? Something we can do in the next 6 months.

01:20:35 Susan Peterson:Very enlightening! Thank you so much, Dr. Mitchell!

01:20:37 Miriah Kelly: Dr. Mitchell, what kind of information or knowledge do you think we still need to be effective in the work you described?

01:20:42 Eric Hammerling: Excellent content, Mark. Thank you for your insights and leadership!

01:20:58 Lori Brown: Very clear and compelling. Thank you.

01:21:04 Curt Johnson: Mark - Would you develop a blueprint of funding needed for your recommendation? As new funding/finance chair it would be most helpful.

01:21:06 Alex Rodriguez: Great presentation, Dr. Mitchell. Love the pitch for funding for EJ orgs

01:21:06 Kathy Fay: Thank you so much!

01:21:12 Craig Peters: Thank You-, Dr Mitchell

01:21:18 Anji Seth: thank you Dr Mitchell.

01:21:33 Sena Wazer: Thank you Dr. Mitchell!

01:21:35 Chelsea Gazillo: Thank you, Dr. Mitchell!! Great presentation!

01:21:54 Miriah Kelly: Thank you!

01:22:30 Samantha Dynowski: Thank you Dr. Mitchell!

01:26:38 Gannon Long: Wow.

01:26:54 Curt Johnson: The actual spill was at least 2.1 million gallons into the Mill River.

01:28:16 Denise Savageau: Subsistence fishing is an EJ issue all over CT and not a problem just during spills.

01:30:02 Denise Savageau: Please send link the Remote Engagement doc. Thanks,

01:30:59 James Albis: Here is the link to the public participation documents Lee was referring to:

01:31:00 James Albis: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Climate-Change/GC3/Draft-Public-Participation-Documents>

01:32:17 James Albis: Also, a few of you have asked about today's slides - they will be made available, along with meeting minutes and the recording from today's meeting, at this website:

01:32:17 James Albis: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Climate-Change/GC3/Meetings-and-Notices-2019-2015>

01:35:58 Lee Cruz: Link to article about the sew spill:
https://www.newhavenindependent.org/index.php/archives/entry/sewer_breakswage_into_mill_river/
The disproportional burden born by communities of color is real.

01:38:29 Anthony Cherolis: Re: COVID and EJ - We're doing studies, but it took a month to get walk-up testing in Hartford, a city where 30

01:38:38 Anthony Cherolis: % of households don't have a car.

01:40:36 Gannon Long: yes we hear you

01:44:17 Bill Finch: thanks for mentioning municipalities. they are collectively much larger than state government, they have a bigger carbon footprint, and they can act quickly

01:46:20 Denise Savageau: Distributed generation should have same resources dedicated to it as grid-scale. This will help with EJ and resolve conflicts with NWL

01:47:20 Anthony Cherolis: We noted recently that the CT DOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board's members (including the interfacing CT DOT staff) are all white and all over age 40, when a majority of those walking and biking in our state (especially our cities) are non-white. Can we get serious about immediately increasing diverse representation on commissions / boards to reflect the state demographics. The decisions being made by state agencies and boards / commission that impact the daily life of low income households is disconnected and often way off base.

01:51:51 Gannon Long: Hartford needs to plant about 1000 trees a year just to replace the old trees we're losing. Would be great to see the state support that effort in CT cities. Heat island effect is real.

01:52:36 Rick Jacobson: Eric, An outstanding job. And apologies to everyone for the communications tech problems.....

01:53:27 Eric Hammerling: Sorry, I wasn't really prepared to pinch hit, but the notes were very helpful, Rick!

01:53:33 Michael Harris: Consider the availability of shade as a social and environmental justice issue.

01:53:39 Anthony Cherolis: ***** In the state wide Oct 2019 CT's Transportation Future Survey, we found that 65% of respondents supported a moratorium or steep fee on the development of suburban and rural farmland, woodlands, and open space. Only 15% were opposed. Is that going to be a recommendation in the Natural and Working Lands report section?

01:53:49 kip Kolesinskas: Reduction of conversion rates of farm and forest land were critical strategies for the ag/soils and forest groups

01:53:49 Anthony Cherolis: http://www.ctprf.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/CT_Transportation_Future_Survey_Results_2019_Dec_update.pdf

01:54:09 Anthony Cherolis: (see slide 13)

01:54:52 Orlando Velazco: If you're having audio issues, you can also call-in. (301) 715-8592

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01:58:41 Anthony Cherolis: Another big environmental / equity issue is that MDC has been proposing a fully grey infrastructure approach to reducing stormwater contamination reduction in the metro Hartford region. That's a \$2 billion project that includes almost zero green infrastructure. Green infrastructure would fund tree planting, rain capture/reuse, and widespread depaving projects. This is particularly important in cities with heat island effects during global warming. The proposed MDC grey infrastructure (giant contaminated storage tunnels) actually increases ghg emissions due to the much larger quantity of water that will be processed. CT DEEP is a reviewer and approver of the stormwater contamination reduction plans in the state and could require a significant portion of green infrastructure be included in the plan.

01:58:47 Denise Savageau: Does water-born illness include HAB

02:01:35 Anthony Cherolis: We know, right now, that green infrastructure has both environmental and equity co-benefits. We also know that \$2 billion (for reducing storm water contamination) is a huge funding source that must include community health and ghg emission reduction consideration, immediately and over the length of that long term plan.

02:03:25 Curt Johnson: Anthony raises a very good point. Our clean water fund is designed to service very large capital intensive grey infrastructure projects. It is poorly designed to handle distributed, community based green infrastructure projects. The result - an almost guarantee that big grey based projects will be funded over green. Even if green is allowed, the rules and complexities of our clean water fund (combination of loan/grant, need for bond council, our priority project ranking system) all work nicely to support grey outcomes. Is that what we want?

02:03:44 Anthony Cherolis: *****Silver Lining? --- Since the Lonestar tick causes an allergy that reduces the consumption of red meat and pork, would that be a greenhouse gas emissions reduction benefit? My dad got bit and has the allergy, he stopped eating meat and his health got better. Lost weight and lower cholesterol levels too. :)

02:06:05 kip Kolesinskas: There is a huge potential for reuse and restoration of green infrastructure as strategies

02:08:05 Anthony Cherolis: @Curt & Kip - Other cities and regions have been intentional about evaluating and including ghg reduction, community health co-benefits, and climate change resilience when responding to similar storm water contamination challenges. We don't need to reinvent the wheel, but we do need to change the process, and quickly, to do more than prioritize grey infrastructure.

02:09:27 Denise Savageau: Need NWL and Land Use Adaptation to discuss some overlapping policies eg inland wetlands

02:12:01 Mary Pelletier: As a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) the MDC Long Term Control Project, the "Clean Water Project", I advocated for green infrastructure projects at each monthly meeting (Sept 2005 - Dec 2014). In addition, I advocated for the formation of an MDC CAC Green Infrastructure sub-committee. Park Watershed has subsequently worked with North Central Conservation District to install 3 bioretention basins. Our voices will be stronger when we work together to recognize how the broad spectrum of green infrastructure features can be designed, implemented and maintained, which begins with available funding for inland cities, as well as coastal communities.

02:12:06 kip Kolesinskas: There were so many excellent recommendations in the 2011 strategies (unfortunately not much progress) we need to make sure they are not lost!

02:14:13 Curt Johnson: If we actually give planning and funding support for the green infrastructure required by MS4 permit to our 121 MS4 communities, and authorized stormwater utilities, we would be treating, restoring, and decreasing flood impacts about a dozen times as much stormwater as was released by the Deepwater Horizon spill each and every year - within 5 years. Will DEEP enforce and supply the support the communities need?

02:19:03 Marianne Engelman Lado: Given the discussion of the relationship between systemic racism, environmental exposure, and where we need to go as a state and nation to address

racial disparities in the environmental context, I thought you might be interested in this Call to Action: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1psNFacIb21iLTyXZvqJP_DYWgBREvgKl1GjrlcCeHQM/edit.

02:19:38 Lauren Bailey: If we are going to get serious about reducing transportation emissions and having an equitable transit system, please invest in bus transit instead of focusing on the reductions in rail use

02:19:41 Susan Miller: Stopping the development of the NTE Killingly Power Plant would help to prevent methane production and its impacts on the climate and EJ concerns in the local area.

02:19:51 Samantha Dynowski: You are right Governor, the health of our environment is critically important for human health. The 650 MW Killingly plant will release up to 2.2 tons of carbon into the air annually. DEEP can and must stop it. The pipeline certification should be rejected because it violates our clean water standards.

02:19:58 Anthony Cherolis: Stop Killingly. No new fossil fuel power plants!

02:20:13 Mary Pelletier: Designing walkable communities could help minimize the need for commuter services, including hefty transportation budgets.

02:20:19 Anthony Cherolis: And why the heck is Connecticut still funding interstate expansion projects on I-84 and I-95?

02:21:34 Anthony Cherolis: CT DOT worked with legislators to include several interstate expansion projects in the 2020 bonding bill that was passed right before the pandemic shut down the legislative session.

02:21:50 Peter Millman: I would like to make a public comment. Peter Millman, PACE and ECGA

02:21:54 Anthony Cherolis: Anti-strategic in the extreme in the face of a climate emergency.

02:23:45 Phil Huerter: Let's install for the trains, buses, & shuttles 'Bio-Clean' HEPA and In-Duct UV filters to sterilize the air quality, offering the highest safety measures, including plexiglass/Lexan dividers between seats. This is the time to convert our entire fleet to Electric. Let us begin with all Town school buses and convert power trains to Electric, as toxic Diesel Exhaust Emissions are very taxing on the immune system. We must protect our children and future

02:25:39 Phil Huerter: (Clean Ventilation and Propulsion systems) **We can utilize software to orchestrate most efficient multi-modal Transit for all citizens/ verified 'Bio-Clean'.

02:25:46 Anthony Cherolis: To attendees at this meeting - There is a CT CHEAPR EV rebate board meeting on Friday, July 17th. We hope to be considering the addition of e-bike rebates to the state's EV rebate program. This is both an equity and lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions reduction improvement upon the existing car-centric rebate program. There is a letter of support that you can sign here --- <https://centerlatino.wufoo.com/forms/signon-for-equitable-ebicycle-rebates-in-ct/>

02:25:49 Anthony Cherolis: *****

02:26:27 Leticia Colon: GC3 should ensure we focus on creating a healthy home barrier removal fund, this would be similar to the crumbling foundation fund. over 30% of CT housing has one or more indoor health hazard. LMI communities can not get loans to fix the issues, and cant pay the loans if they

receive them. Allocating funds to help LMI remove indoor health hazards will allow us to properly address energy loss through proven upgrades such as air-sealing and insulation. Building energy use for heating and cooling and electricity usage is the top carbon emitter. We can't serve 30% of our state at this time. We must address cost effective testing and count the full benefits of addressing housing for health issues and efficiency.

02:27:11 Anthony Cherolis: Great proposal Leticia, on the housing and equity side.

02:27:33 Leticia Colon: <https://efficiencyforall.org/wordpress/2020/04/30/a-goal-is-just-a-wish-without-a-plan/>

02:28:11 Edith Pestana: Leticia's recommendations will be included in the mitigation subcommittee recommendations.

02:28:34 Leticia Colon: find a 15 minute video on how we can address equity and climate in CT https://youtu.be/l_7MUIDb2E0

02:29:13 Leticia Colon: Here is a plan and explanations on our CT plans and how they connect or should connect. <https://efficiencyforall.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/2020-People-and-the-Planet-a-Plan-to-lower-carbon-emission-2.pdf>

02:30:02 Samantha Dynowski: Further reading ... Details on why DEEP must reject the Killingly pipeline certification: https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/CT%20-%20Killingly%20Legal%20Comments%20-%2006222020.pdf?_ga=2.88365851.1272425538.1594643946-1247028036.1588080540

02:31:20 Mark Mitchell: If you would like more information on systemic racism in climate change, here is a list of readings to educate yourself

02:32:16 Mark Mitchell:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/12fCtMxD_XMMehJd5fPZcZ5qqq3FviT40/view?usp=sharing

02:32:18 Mary Pelletier: I would like to make a public comment to highlight the need to identify pilot project areas throughout the state where GC3 recommendations can be fulfilled within synthesized clusters.

02:33:33 Kathy Fay: After this meeting please make chat comments available as well as the recording and slides!

02:34:22 Leticia Colon: Additionally, there are entire populations that do not have valid or culturally appropriate engaging information on climate and energy. These communities need and deserve access to this information as it is already affecting them. The state must take formal action to ensure all CT residents are informed on the links between our energy choices and our health and future. There are local nonprofits which effectively engage communities of color, schools, churches, and LMI and fund should be allocated to those organizations to support their work in engaging LMI communities on climate and energy. Instead of giving large sums of money to the same groups who have not effectively engaged LMI populations in this topic and effort. Energy Saved is the Cleanest Energy and should be viewed as a low cost/high return option to reducing the strain on our energy grid while lowering carbon emissions, and reducing air and water pollution.

02:34:30 Anthony Cherolis: [pro-tip: private chats show up in the meeting chat log if that gets shared]

02:34:38 kip Kolesinskas: I would make to make a comment about current sprawl threats as relates to the topic

02:36:42 Leticia Colon: Here is the GC3 Equity PPT if anyone wants to know what GC3 is looking at to ensure we use an equity lens. <https://efficiencyforall.org/wordpress/2020/02/25/governors-council-on-climate-change-gc3-equity-lens/>

02:40:35 Melissa Kops: Please address embodied carbon in infrastructure and adaptation and transportation. Concrete accounts for 7% of Global GHG, and there are currently available concrete technologies that reduce the embodied carbon of concrete. The state has the opportunity to lead on reducing the GHG emissions related to materials and construction.

02:41:04 Anthony Cherolis: The Transportation Working Group has several sections that address the transit-oriented development and conservation items. I'd love to see a steep fee or moratorium on farmland, woodland, and open space development.

02:41:05 Denise Savageau: I want to stress that Soils is not just about agriculture. Soils are a carbon sink in forests, inland and tidal wetlands and other urban landscapes. The CT Council on Soil and Water Conservation has a committee on soil health.

02:41:35 Kathy Fay: Local focus and nimbleness are essential to developing solutions in conjunction with EJ communities. Green Stormwater Infrastructure, Distributed Generation, Overcoming Home Energy Efficiency Barriers, Community Choice Aggregation are all elements of heightened local action

02:41:44 Mary Pelletier: thanks!

02:41:46 Huân Ngô: Thank you