
**Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3)
EQUITY & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE WORKING GROUP
MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Date: 9-8-20

Meeting Time: 5-6:30 pm ET

Meeting Location: Zoom Link:

<https://ctdeep.zoom.us/j/92739027350>

ATTENDANCE

Working Group Member	Title	Organization	Present
Marianne Engelman-Lado	Professor	Yale School of Public Health, Yale School of the Environment, VT Law School	X
Alexander Rodriguez	Organizer	CT League of Conservation Voters	X
Lee Cruz	Director of Community Outreach	Community Foundation for a Greater New Haven	X
Denise Savage au		CT Council on Soil & Water Conservation	X
Saranda Alka	Intern	CT League of Conservation Voters	X
Laura Cahn	Chair	New Haven Environmental Advisory Council	X
Rebecca French	Director of Office of Climate Planning	CT DEEP	X
Stephanye R. Clarke	Program Officer	Community Foundation of Eastern CT	X
Diane Hoffman	Convener	Hamden Alliance for Trees	X
Jamie Flynn	Staff Attorney	CT DEEP: Energy Bureau	X
Sena Wazer	Co-Director	Sunrise CT	X
Mark Mitchell	Professor	George Mason University	X

Associated Staff	Title	Organization	Present
Edith Pestana	Administrator	CT DEEP: EJ Program	X
Max Teirstein	Intern	CT DEEP: EJ Program	X

AGENDA & NOTES

Welcome and Announcements

Agenda Item(s)

Facilitated by Marianne Engelman-Lado, Yale & VT Law School

1. Update on GC3 Process

Facilitated by Rebecca French

- September 22nd to October 31st is new Public Comment Period
 - Delayed to allow for more time for working groups
 - 2-3 hr virtual “Public Forums”
 - First half for overview presentation of working group reports
 - Second hour reserved for concurrent breakout discussions
 - 4-5 breakout rooms for each forum, depending on number of participants
 - People will be able to choose to switch breakout rooms after first 30 mins
 - Progress on Mitigation Strategies Presentation on September 23rd
 - EEJ Presentation/forum on **Tuesday October 13th, 4:30-6:30**
 - Engagement materials (flyers, etc.) for this event will be created within next few days
 - Panel conversation on community perspectives on climate change?
 - Invite members of the GC3 to discuss the personal dimensions to climate impacts as a way of kicking off the public forums
 - Standardize vocabulary around climate change, equipping participants with the knowledge to digest the detailed information in the presentations
 - Monday, September 21st or the Thursday before that, TBD

Public Comment

- Alex Rodriguez, *CLCV*
 - How will information be made available? Will it be made available in multiple languages, and for people who are deaf? How can Spanish speakers or others in the LEP population participate?
 - **Edith Pestana:** language translation resources available to all departments and there is also an accessibility coordinator assigned.
- Lee Cruz, *Community Foundation for a Greater New Haven*
 - In promotional materials, instead of mentioning COVID-19, important to emphasize instead “the circumstances” since social media discussion could be sidelined by mention of the pandemic
- Marianne Engelman-Lado, *Yale and VT Law School*
 - Promotional materials are one thing, but how do we integrate the multi-language dimension directly into the meeting itself?

2. Discussion of Draft Written Reports of Subcommittees

Facilitated by Marianne Engelman-Lado, Yale & VT Law School

• Mitigation

Sena Wazer, Sunrise CT, and Denise Savageau, CT Council on Soil & Water Conservation

- Transportation subcommittee was especially successful in integrating EEJ concerns from the top
 - Other subcommittees need to start off with the EEJ considerations as well
- Economic perspective often elides externalities
- [via chat] feel free to email me if you have any other questions/comments/concerns/etc. (sena.wazer@gmail.com)
- Equity, EJ & Adaptation

Dr. Mark Mitchell, George Mason University

 - Need for hyperlocal adaptation planning
 - Community members need to lead the development of the adaptation plan

Denise Savageau, CT Council on Soil & Water Conservation

- [via chat] Interesting piece on scale of renewables and costs of distributed generation. Especially interesting for our cities. <https://ilsr.org/report-is-bigger-best/>
- [via chat] Let's not forget the natural and working lands and science. This work compliments EEJ in dealing with both mitigation and adaptation. Often if it is good for the environment, it is good for people. Part of this is insisting on environmental economic analysis that includes externalities.

Rebecca French, CT DEEP

- [via chat] Another idea along those lines would be to incorporate more EJ and climate justice courses and professors in our state university system. Also potential to integrate into the mission of the land grant university extension system. In Connecticut, these programs have been largely focused on environmental conservation and environmental quality, not environmental health.