
**Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3)
Equity and Environmental Justice
MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Date: 12/9/2021

Meeting Time: 3:30-5 p.m.

Meeting Location: Zoom

RECORDING

<https://zoom.us/rec/play/yUorF4iChsKaRPGckyLiQ5JCmxfHXYMV-4qDtJezhcQeF23Xj85oG2HaCZ696LC7jzsxBRW6XVnvexOo.l5CHbsdfgcQh-0AC?autoplay=true>

ATTENDANCE

Name	Present
Mark Mitchell, Chair, Equity and Environmental Justice & Adaptation Subcommittee	X
Lee Cruz, Chair, Equity and Environmental Justice Working Group	X
Rebecca French	X
Evan Dantos	X
Caroline Driscoll	X
Bruce Fitzback	X
Meghan Portfolio	X
Brenda Watson	X
Nathan Frohling	X
Cary Lynch	X
Alexander Rodriguez	X
Douglas Hausladen	X
Matt Plourd	X
Joseph Canino	X
Shubhada Kambli	X
Leticia Colon de Mejias	X
David Murphy	X
Mike Morrissey	X
Patricia Taylor	X
Laura Tessier	X

Equity and Environmental Justice

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Sena Wazer	X
Andrew Droney	X
Laura Bozzi	X
Paul Hearn	X
Peter Hearn	X
Simran Kaur Ladhad	X
Randall Anway	X
Lynne Bonnett	X
Stephanie Bahramian	X
Starley Arias	X
Emily Slotnick	X
Ian Reilly	X
Maryam Elahi	X
Molly Johnson	X
Kristin Barendregt-Ludwig	X
Emma Zehner	X
Denise Savageau	X

Associated Staff	Present
Edith Pestana	X
Alanis Allen	X
Doris Johnson	X

AGENDA & NOTES

Welcome and Announcements

Lee Cruz outlines agenda and introduces Dr. Mark Mitchell.

1. Introduction to CT Community-Level Resilience Assessment and Prioritization Plan

Dr. Mark Mitchell, Associate Professor, Climate Change, Energy and Environmental Health Equity, George Mason University

Dr. Mitchell updates group on progress on Equity and Environmental Justice working group recommendations, including progress on state environmental justice mapping tool.

Adaptation subgroup also recommended developing a resource to guide municipalities in how to best include those who are most impacted by climate change in planning processes. Over summer 2021, Dr. Mitchell and Yale Public Health student Ian Reilly did research, didn't find many documents on how to include low-income people, people of color, those with disabilities, those with preexisting health conditions. Dr. Mitchell and Ian produced preliminary document with guidance for municipalities in CT.

The goal of meeting is to get input on the document. Audience of the document is planners at the local or regional level planning climate change adaptation, and goal is to let them know what resources there are in their communities or in CT to identify populations at risk.

Dr. Mitchell gives overview of document structure: purpose of document and how to use, steps to planning for resiliency, the scope, how to identify exposures. The document concludes with appendices that includes a list of groups that may be vulnerable.

2. Feedback Overview to Date

Ian Reilly, Research Assistant, Yale Center for Environmental Justice

Ian introduces new team members (Kristin Barendregt-Ludwig, Molly Johnson, Emma Zehner)

Ian provides overview of feedback to date: What is the intended use of this document? How do we integrate this plan into existing plans and resources (e.g.: hazard mitigation plans, plans of conservation and development, SustainableCT)? Other suggestions: define key terms, more significantly introduce environmental and climate justice, expand appendices, include additional resources

Ian (Ian.Reilly@yale.edu) says team will be doing more one-on-one interviews with anyone interested.

3. Working Group Feedback

Ian Reilly, Kristin Barendregt-Ludwig, Molly Johnson, Yale Center for Environmental Justice; Dr. Mitchell

Molly Johnson highlights comments from Leticia Colon de Mejias in the chat: "Resources www.greenecowarriors.org and www.encyclopediaforall.org. We are the group that lifted the barriers to Energy Efficiency In LMI communities in CT - That process, data, and information can be found on our website, along with NGSS materials for youth and families."

Lee Cruz says public officials should understand importance of establishing relationships and identifying key groups. A lot of times there is an assumed relationship, but many members of vulnerable

communities are very busy and carry many stressors about being low-income. Need initial outreach from planning departments to build relationship with trusted messengers. When the time comes to ask for feedback, the community believes that when they offer information it will be taken seriously.

Laura Bozzi explains that at local level, there is not a lot of support for doing quantitative analysis to identify vulnerable populations, but shouldn't stop because don't have perfect information. Could local planners use CIRCA tools/maps? Or document reference list of local level reports? Allow towns to move quickly into community engagement. There is so much community knowledge about impacts that are happening. Make sure that that is used as an important data source.

Molly Johnson reads Edith Pestana's comment in the chat: "is the intent for municipalities to use this tool, and if so then perhaps presenting the Councils of Government might be a good idea?"

Dr. Mitchell explains that this is not a standalone document or comprehensive planning document. Goal is to supplement other tools. How should this be incorporated with other documents? Should legislation make training on identification of at-risk populations required?

Leticia expresses that she has felt disengaged and disenfranchised from the working group, and asks if the document has a section on how to educate community on climate change. Leticia also comments that the document seems to be written for experts, wondering if anybody from the community was involved in developing the tool, or if there are tear away fact sheets that simplify it.

Ian says the document outlines an oversight team in charge of organizing and overseeing process, and a Community Assessment and Prioritization Team composed of individuals for each group identified as vulnerable in appendices.

Dr. Mitchell says document is designed for government agencies on how to engage the community and include populations most at risk in the planning process. Also needs to be separate funding and documents for community to build their own priorities.

Lee Cruz discusses transition team process for current New Haven mayor. The team worked on identifying people who are good facilitators trusted by community. Community foundations in Hartford, New Haven, Fairfield have started planning more with the community on issues of equity. Is there funding foundations could provide to pay for these expert facilitators who can partner with towns?

Dr. Mitchell says towns need to find folks trusted by the community, know how to speak the language, reach people not normally reached, and find funding to find these people. Idea of document is to be a cookbook for towns to say this is how you engage people who most need certain services.

Breakout Groups for Appendices Feedback

Participants discuss appendices (Populations of Concern, Environmentally Exposed Populations, Vulnerable Institutions, Vulnerable Infrastructure) in breakout rooms and then return to main room.

Lee Cruz says New Haven has neighborhood specialists, suggests they could focus on basement assessments in terms of high volatile compounds, where there might be emergency flooding

Dr. Mitchell says NYC emergency preparedness has a team that works with special populations so that they know some of the cultural concerns, how to reach them, they try to educate, provide the resources to those folks so that they can provide them to their communities.

Feedback on How the Draft May be Used

Ian Reilly asks how draft may be used moving forward: incorporating into existing or new planning processes? Municipal level planning, regional level, state level? how might this inspire 2022 legislation?

Rebecca French explains that only place climate planning (just sea level rise) required in CT is in plans of conservation and development and hazard mitigation plans. Other grant opportunities may fund resilience plans (e.g. Long Island Sound Futures Fund).

Leticia says Department of Social Services and Infoline need to be informed of climate change, cooling, putting in window units which causes mold in homes, have to be removed in winter, elderly and disabled can't remove units, blackouts, the combined heat rise index

Lee Cruz talks about Yale Urban Resources Initiative. Work with people to plant trees, creates shade, provides an opportunity to share information and talk about climate realities they are facing. Lee also says that community gardens are another aggregator of people. Or a place like Gather New Haven, where staff can both share and gather information from people gardening in their community.

Dr. Mitchell says that community is in the best position to know where the shade is needed the most, where they are outdoors most, where they are waiting for the bus.

Kirstin Barendregt-Ludwig highlights a comment in the chat from Doris Johnson: What are the funding mechanisms of this? How are we able to support that work to go forward?

Dr. Mitchell says thinks we should be going to the legislature next year. Maybe now is the time to advocate for funding for resiliency and maybe have something like requiring community engagement. Dr. Mitchell discusses timeline, explaining that group wants comments by mid-January, and asks if there is specific legislation that DEEP is putting forward that would be relevant to document.

Rebecca French says that document can be shared on DEEP website, can be a resource and says many things get introduced in the legislative session, would be surprised if nothing related

Next Steps and Adjourn

Public Comment

Denise Savageau

- Need to talk about acute vs. chronic impacts of climate change and how food security will impact our most vulnerable, supply chain challenges

Patricia Taylor

- Need to include water insecurity for rural and urban communities, whether due to flood infrastructure, power outages, or heat effects.
- Put appendixes 5 and 6 before the appendixes about properties and institutions

Randall Anway

- Architect from Old Lyme, important to think about spaces (schools, etc.) that may be converted

during emergencies, hazardous material handling in emergency situations. Document should include more on green and blue infrastructure.

- Important to link to the building code and other planning and design processes.
- AIA Connecticut has some committees that work on building codes, zoning codes, etc.

Rebecca French explains that additional comments about document can be sent to Ian Reilly, and general comments to DEEP@CT.gov.

Chat Record

0:29:03 Ian Reilly: Everyone please find a full version of the draft in which you can add your comments:

00:29:05 Ian Reilly:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/12qEoR8uPqIXryCWHrwdN9MLEHD4F3Guf2HkVwbHgfiM/edit?usp=sharing>

00:29:32 Alanis Allen: Send written comments to DEEP.ClimateChange@ct.gov

00:33:02 Kristin Barendregt-Ludwig: For those who just joined you can find a full version of the draft in which you can add your comments here:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/12qEoR8uPqIXryCWHrwdN9MLEHD4F3Guf2HkVwbHgfiM/edit?usp=sharing>

00:43:10 Kristin Barendregt-Ludwig: For those who just joined you can find a full version of the draft in which you can add your comments here:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/12qEoR8uPqIXryCWHrwdN9MLEHD4F3Guf2HkVwbHgfiM/edit?usp=sharing>

00:44:14 Molly Johnson: Ian's email: ian.reilly@yale.edu

00:44:54 Leticia Colon: Resources www.greenecowarriors.org and www.encyclopediaforall.org
We are the group that lifted the barriers to Energy Efficiency In LMI communities in CT - That process, data, and information can be found on our website, along with NGSS materials for youth and families. I would like to interviewed as someone who was on this committee. Thank you.

00:47:25 Doris Johnson: Thank you Leticia

00:52:27 Kristin Barendregt-Ludwig: For those who just joined you can find a full version of the draft in which you can add your comments here:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/12qEoR8uPqIXryCWHrwdN9MLEHD4F3Guf2HkVwbHgfiM/edit?usp=sharing>

00:52:39 Edith Pestana: is the intent for municipalities to use this tool? if so then perhaps presenting the Councils of

00:52:53 Edith Pestana: Government might be a good idea

00:54:29 Leticia Colon: Does the tool - indicate ways leaders can Educate and Engage with the groups mentioned who have not been informed on climate change- EJ- Health impacts- and may not know how to act or even that the problem is related to human action and energy usage- or how we can tackle the problem?

00:54:43 David Murphy: Hi All, I'm here from CIRCA. I will bring comments about vulnerability mapping back to the team.

00:57:59 Leticia Colon: Thanks Ian- I might bring forward the fact that most people read at a 4th grade level, and this document is very dense. Will there be material that communities can access and read? Climate change is happening now- and folks still don't even understand the what, why, and how. Wondering why we would not act on engagement

01:07:41 lynne bonnett: I can't seem to get in a room.

01:27:37 Leticia Colon: FYI - Publicly noting- I am a building expert- NEJAC member- contractor, and awarded educator- I am here and I am not from Yale or any place that some folks may respect- but my work speaks volumes- I am disabled, a woman of color, and grew up Low income- I may be able to help shed some light on this that could save lives and Save Dinero - Have a blessed day NOTES from break out - people to protect - Energy efficiency workers - who are in attics in the heat of day- and outside as well

schools and daycares with out real AC- home daycares- elderly care takers- and elderly that live at home but don't have AC- Also regarding resilience-

Flood zones- this is happening now- Bloomfield, HTFD- I have customers - who have NO heat now because the floods ruined the heating systems which is in the basement. It should inform DSS- who is installing window units- and not thinking about increased loads- black outs- or mold that those create- We should also have DEEP or GC3 educate the LOB chairs of each committees .

01:31:40 Leticia Colon: The cost of energy will increase as we increase EV's and Heat pumps- UNLESS we also increase community solar. Have a good day- My research can be located here www.encyclopediaforall.org where entire plans are located https://youtu.be/l_7MUIDb2E0 . Stay well - We need community solar or we are leaving everyone in a bad spot. YES trees are awesome - but people need to know what is coming, and what they can do to act now to draw down our demands - People can't make informed decisions without information. Also the Green Bank is receiving 100 million dollars a year- maybe some of that can help increase community solar- or help flooding repairs- or plant trees- for if we push electrification prior to demand reduction and education - we will have black outs- and massive community disruptions. Have a blessed evening.

01:32:21 Ian Reilly: Ian.Reilly@yale.edu

01:33:09 Doris Johnson: Funding

01:34:10 Edith Pestana: Funding for local planning- I agree

01:34:49 Edith Pestana: you also need to consider brining in landlords, property managing companies and realtors

01:35:49 Ian Reilly: ian.reilly@yale.edu

01:36:17 Edith Pestana: is there a time frame for finalization?

01:37:10 Ian Reilly:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/12qEoR8uPqIXryCWHrwdN9MLEHD4F3Guf2HkVwbHgfiM/edit?usp=sharing>

01:37:13 Lee Cruz: Housing Authorities, often the largest landlords in larger cities.

01:42:55 Rebecca French: Please send a message to Alanis Allen

01:50:14 Laura Bozzi: We discussed this in my breakout group, but just to emphasize again, it would be good to ask GC3 contacts from DPH and DEMHS to review the document and provide feedback (if you haven't already)

01:50:52 Kristin Barendregt-Ludwig: Thank you Laura! We will be sure to include them in our outreach list.

01:51:51 lynne bonnett: include energy task forces in local towns, cooling centers, power providers, support fuel cells independent of the grid.

01:53:00 Edith Pestana: thank all for participating!

01:53:07 Molly Johnson: Thank you all!

01:53:13 Doris Johnson: Thank you

01:53:19 Emma Zehner: Thanks everyone!