

**Governor's Council on Climate Change 2022:**  
**Equity and Environmental Justice Working Group**  
**Summary of Work**

**GC3 meeting December 6, 2022**

This report outlines statistics and presents observation about the work of the Equity and Environmental Justice (EEJ) Working Group in 2022.

The working group met 6 times in 2022. Four of these meetings were together with other working groups to review EEJ work products and provide EEJ feedback to the working groups. The EEJ working group also provided feedback on the DEEP Climate Resilience Fund Grant Program released this year. In addition, we assigned EEJ liaisons to each GC3 working group.

1. We met with the following Groups:
  - a. Climate Smart Agriculture & Forestry
  - b. Mitigation Strategies
  - c. Public Health & Safety
  - d. Resilient Infrastructure & Nature-based Solutions
2. Each meeting included:
  - a. A review of the core concepts of equity
  - b. A review of the public participation guidance
  - c. Presentation by the invited working group and
  - d. A guided discussion centered on EEJ best practices and looking ahead to 2023
3. We believe that the reviews of equity concepts and community participation guidance are important, as orientation for new working group members and as a reminder to all of the lens through which we view the work and ask questions.
4. Attendance varied between 27 and 48 people
  - a. EEJ May meetings: in May and October had 31 and 27 participants respectively
  - b. The meeting with Climate Smart Ag. & Forestry had 36 participants
  - c. With Mitigation Strategies: 41 participants
  - d. Public Health & Safety: 36 participants
  - e. With Resilient Infrastructure & Nature-based Solutions: 48 participants
5. Members of the E&EJ Working groups were engaged submitting questions and comments during the Q&A period and by providing written feedback after the meeting.
6. **Recurring Themes - [Working Group Meetings 2022 \(ct.gov\)](#)**
  - Important steps are being taken by all working groups to integrate equity into implementation. Working Group chairs referenced tools and frameworks to prioritize EJ communities and how they were beginning to use them or plan to use them.

- Addressing opportunities to increase access to program benefits for historically marginalized groups
- Strong understanding of intersecting issues in climate change and how cumulative impacts affect groups more at risk.
  - Nexus of water supply, food security, energy conservation in climate change mitigation/adaptation.
  - An important area of intersection with many topic areas was the need for healthy and affordable housing.
- Great interest in support to strengthen engagement and outreach.
  - Discussions focused on approaches to incorporate community input in project plans.
  - A particular interest in citizen science, community level monitoring, participatory mapping, learning from resilience strategies communities have already developed.
  - Strong interest in educating residents and community groups on climate change issues and impacts.
  - A strong interest in more support from the EEJ working group in supporting other working groups to strengthen engagement and outreach
- Leverage/alignment - Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)
  - EEJ Considerations of the IIJA and IRA
- Applying the equity lens and other equity tools and frameworks is essentially context specific. The meetings did not allow for a full picture of the work each working group was already doing to prioritize EJ communities or to determine where there were missed opportunities to integrate equity. We look forward to developing approaches that will support this.
  - Open questions: What are the current tools to support EEJ work? Are new tools needed?

## 7. Additional Comments

- There is a need for developing approaches that will support more context-specific review of programs working groups in the early stages of discussion. This can improve the process of providing substantive and relevant feedback and therefore increase opportunities to integrating equity and advancing environmental justice.

Respectfully submitted,

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