

**Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3)
Equity and Environmental Justice + Resilient Infrastructure
& Nature-based Solutions
MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Date: November 17, 2022

Meeting Time: 4:30 - 6:00 PM

Zoom Recording: [EEJ + Resilient Infrastructure & Nature-based Solutions Working Group](#)

ATTENDANCE: GC3 Working Group Members in bold

Name:
Alanis Allen
Michelle Andrzejewski
Dominic Antonio
Marina Astitha
Kristin Barendregt-Ludwig, <i>Co-chair</i>
Ashley Benitez
Beth Bernard
Amy Blaymore-Paterson
George Bradner, <i>Co-chair</i>
Mary Buchanan
Alicea Charamut
Leticia Colon
Louanne Cooley
Sarah Crosby
Lee Cruz, <i>Co-chair</i>
David Dickson
Kathy Fay
Reginald Fortcolin
Rebecca French
Bryan Garcia
Amber Garrard
Nicole Govert
Kevin Grigg, <i>Co-chair</i>
Paul Hearn
Mike Hogan
Alycia Jenkins
Doris Johnson
Chris Kelly
Eduardo Marin
Katharine Morris
Juliemar Ortiz
Malaquias Peña
Allison Pilcher
Emily Pysh, <i>Co-chair</i>
Megan Raymond
Alexander Rodriguez
Denise Savageau

Hailey Simpson
Meghan Sloan
D. Stanley Lord
Max Teirstein
Brian Thompson
Maisa Tisdale, <i>Co-chair</i>
Melinda Tuhus
Sarah Watson
Aicha Woods
Joanna Wozniak-Brown

AGENDA & NOTES

Welcome: Ashley Benitez Ou, DEEP Liaison and Rebecca French, Director, Office of Climate Planning

Ground Rules:

- Meeting is recorded and a link will be posted
- Announcement that the chat is public record, but may be used for questions and comments by working group members
- Working group members are asked to post their names and affiliation in the chat
- Reminder that the discussion portion is reserved for working group members
- Announcement that non-working group members should mute and turn video off until public comment
- Shared additional working group participation guidance and ground rules, which was informed by the EEJ working group
- Public comment guidance was also shared

Welcome and Introductions:

- Introductions by the Equity and Environmental Justice working group co-chairs, Kristin Barendregt-Ludwig and Lee Cruz
- Rebecca French presents charge for Equity and Environmental Justice working group
 - Completed: identifying members to serve on other GC3 working groups
 - In progress: Reviewing and providing comments on each working group presentation (throughout November)
 - In progress: Present to GC3 on EEJ findings (early December)
 - There are no new strategies being presented to GC3, rather the focus is on evaluating and monitoring

Review of 4 Core Concepts of Equity: *Kristin Barendregt-Ludwig, Yale Center for Environmental Justice*

- Kristin notes that she will present on concepts of equity, though there are many other definitions
- Provides definition for equity and notes how equity and climate change intersect
- 4 Core Concepts of Equity:
 - Distributive: Placing the most vulnerable communities at the forefront of any potential benefits a policy might create, ensuring that the distribution of the benefits and burdens of climate change mitigation and adaptation are equitably distributed
 - Ex. Prioritizing underserved farmers for priority funding
 - Procedural: Planning in partnership with low-income communities and BIPOC communities (“Nothing about us without us”)
 - Ex. Communities are engaged in a meaningful way to provide feedback
 - Contextual: Assessing the vulnerabilities of communities across Connecticut to climate change, due to the legacy of racial and income inequality and other factors
 - Ex. Hiring people from communities to engage in programming in their communities
 - Corrective: Providing communities with clear processes to hold the state accountable to its commitments to pursue equity
 - Ex. GC3 process should ensure that communities have mechanisms for holding public leaders accountable

Review of Public Participation Guidance: *Alex Rodriguez, Environmental Justice Specialist, Save the Sound*

- Presentation will expand on procedural equity points raised by Kristin
- 4 Principles for Public Participation:
 - Transparent and Accountable Decision Making
 - Communities need a clear definition of the problem and guidance in navigating systems of power
 - Developed a 9-point checklist aligned with this principle, which provides guidance from data usage, to working with community leaders, to media guidance
 - Accessible and Inclusive Decision Making
 - Consideration of this principle can look like greater attention to scheduling public hearings so that communities can readily participate
 - 5 points in the checklist are devoted to this principle
 - Checklist points include fair notice, interpretation services, meeting schedules, selection of congregation locations, and the inclusion of technology that makes in-person meetings more accessible
 - Equal Partnerships, Co-Production, and Self-Determination

- 3 checklist points around ensuring meaningful community participation in meetings by limiting power dynamics and ensuring that next step actions and follow-ups are documented
 - Respect, Efficacy, and Non-Exploitation
 - 5 checklist points to guide relationships, follow ups, and resource identification

CT Environmental Justice Communities as Defined by Statute, 22a-20a: *Edith Pestana, Environmental Justice Admin, DEEP and Ashley Benitez, Climate Planning, DEEP*

- CGS DEEP State Policy Ch. 439: 22a-20a
 - Defines environmental justice communities
 - Economically distressed (DECD criteria)
 - Defines specific affected facilities
 - Requires permit applicants to engage with the public
 - May provide an opportunity to negotiate a community benefit agreement to reduce or mitigate pollution

Resilient Infrastructure and Nature-based Solutions Working Group Presentations:

- GC3 working group meetings focused on education, in accordance with the change on monitoring and implementation
- Benefits of Stormwater Mitigation: *Kevin Griggs*
 - Whitehouse issued statement on nature-based solutions, which demonstrates how important and timely this topic is
 - Stormwater management has several benefits related to water quality and can help create resiliency related to increase precipitation
 - Many health benefits related to stormwater green infrastructure, included air quality, increased access to green space, and heat mitigation
 - Funding for these projects often comes from stormwater utilities, which can be a mechanism for equitable distribution by balancing fees with potential impact and allowing for wholistic consideration of locations
- Benefits of Living Shorelines: *Sarah Watson*
 - Natural flood mitigation that reduces coastal erosion and mitigates coastal flooding
 - Many EJ communities are threatened from coastal flooding, though living shorelines can increase resilience and long-term mitigation of flooding benefits
 - Also benefits ecology, in addition to human health
- New Haven Case Study: *Emily Pysh*
 - New Haven is experiencing increased sea level, rainfall frequency and intensity, and major storm events
 - To increase resiliency, the city has implemented storm sewer improvements
 - Installed 286 bioswales

- Meriden Case Study: *George Bradner*
 - Area was intended for industrial use and thus lacked intentional planning
 - Stream will be trenched so that it can take on more water
 - Culverts will be added to take on some of the excess water and the stream will have more room to expand with land on either side
 - Meriden flood prone areas are the most distressed areas of the city
 - The project will reduce the floodplain significantly while also improving ecology and habitat and improving economic opportunity and recreation areas

Discussion: *Facilitated by EEJ Co-Chairs; Full comments can be found on the Zoom recording and/or audio transcripts*

- *What successful applications of the equity and environmental justice lens did you hear in the presentation today?*
 - Can more clarification be provided on where public participation has been involved in the Meriden and New Haven projects?
 - Public input informed Meriden project and drove the design from resolution to improvement
 - New Haven case study was also prompted by communities raising the alarm
 - Land use decisions made upstream have the potential to undermine investments made cities
 - We need better policy decisions across the board to ensure this does not happen
 - More opportunity to engage communities directly and ensure the 4 justice concepts are incorporated in plans prior to the money being spent
 - There is an MOU in place that governs permit process for development in flood plains and we should look at our existing policies to see where change needs to occur to prevent some of the problems we see now
- *What are the rural environmental justice issues the Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry working group should consider as they apply the equity lens going forward?*
- *How might we break down the perceived siloes of urban versus rural environmental justice communities? What are the opportunities for cross-fertilization?*
 - Community already conflates health officials with those working on climate initiatives because it is a logical connection to make. We should continue hammering this connection home and looking for areas to collaborate

Public Comments: *For full comments please see the Zoom recording and/or audio transcript*

Written Comments attached below.

Adjourn and Next Steps:

Resources:

[EEJ Public Guidance Excerpt](#)
[Distressed Municipalities List](#)
[DEEP Environmental Justice Communities](#)

Chat Record:

00:33:46 Kristin Barendregt-Ludwig: Hello everyone! Kristin Barendregt-Ludwig, Program Manager at the Yale Center for Environmental Justice and EEJ Working Group Co-Chair

00:33:52 Louanne Cooley: Hello, Louanne Cooley from UConn CIRCA, member of Resilient Infrastructure group

00:33:59 Rebecca French, Climate Planning CT DEEP: Hi! Rebecca French, Director of the Office of Climate Planning. I am joined by all of the staff for the Office of Climate Planning: Ashley Benitez-Ou, Sarah Watson and Alanis Allen.

00:34:00 Kevin Grigg: Good afternoon; Kevin Grigg, CEO of Fuss & O'Neill. Happy (almost) Thanksgiving.

00:34:07 Marina Astitha: Hello all, happy to be involved in this important conversation. Marina Astitha, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Univ of Connecticut

00:34:18 Beth Bernard: Beth Bernard, Education Director from CT Forest & Park Association

00:34:22 Joanna Wozniak-Brown: Joanna Wozniak-Brown, CT OPM, Resilient Infrastructure workgroup member

00:34:28 Amy Blaymore Paterson, CLCC: Hello, Amy Blaymore Paterson, Executive Director, Connecticut Land Conservation Council

00:34:32 Emily Pysh (CTDOT): Hello! Emily Pysh, CT Dept. of Transportation, Sustainability & Resiliency

00:34:33 Alicea Charamut: Alicea Charamut, Rivers Alliance of CT. I apologize, my camera decided not to work for this meeting.

00:34:38 Christopher Kelly: Chris Kelly, Save the Sound

00:34:48 Amber Garrard: Amber Garrard, Yale Office of Sustainability

00:35:20 Mary Buchanan: Hello! Mary Buchanan, Community Resilience Planner at CIRCA

00:36:08 Nicole Govert: Nicole Govert, Sustainable CT, Resilient Infrastructure working group member. Hello!

00:37:08 Megan Raymond: Hi all - Megan B. Raymond, SLR, Resilient Infrastructure/NB Solutions working group member.

00:37:19 Brian Thompson CT DEEP: Brian Thompson, Director of Land and Water Resources, DEEP

00:39:12 Denise Savageau: Denise Savageau, member of GC3 EJ work group and the Resilient Infrastructure and Nature-based Solutions work groups. Chair, CT Council on Soil and Water Conservation

00:39:49 Ashley Benitez, Climate Planning CTDEEP: Ashley G. Benitez, Environmental Analyst, Office of Climate Planning CTDEEP.

00:40:30 Meghan Sloan: Meghan Sloan, Planning Director, MetroCOG

00:40:37 Maisa Tisdale: Maisa Tisdale, The Mary & Eliza Freeman Center for History and Community

00:42:44 Rebecca French, Climate Planning CT DEEP: Thank you for continuing to introduce yourselves in the chat. You can also rename yourself by hovering over your name in the

Participants list and clicking the ... after than you should see an option to "rename" and can type in your affiliation.

00:43:53 Alycia Jenkins: Alycia Jenkins, Sierra Club CT, Campaign Organizer

00:45:02 Mike Hogan CTDOT: Mike Hogan, CTDOT, Principal Engineer, Hydraulics & Drainage/Soils & Foundations

00:57:39 Rebecca French, Climate Planning CT DEEP: Tonight's Agenda:

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/climatechange/GC3/GC3-2022-agendas-and-minutes/GC3-EEJ-Resilient-Infrastructure-and-Nature-based-Solutions-Agenda-111722.pdf>

00:58:07 Rebecca French, Climate Planning CT DEEP: You can find the detailed guidance Alex summarized here: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/climatechange/GC3/GC3-2022-agendas-and-minutes/EEJ-Public-Guidance-Excerpt.pdf>

01:03:29 Ashley Benitez, Climate Planning CTDEEP:

<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Environmental-Justice/Environmental-Justice-Communities#DECD>

01:04:08 Ashley Benitez, Climate Planning CTDEEP:

<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Environmental-Justice/Environmental-Justice-Affecting-Facilities>

01:07:42 Ashley Benitez, Climate Planning CTDEEP: <https://toolkit.climate.gov/>

01:08:48 Mary Buchanan (CIRCA, she/her): Here is information on the CIRCA CCVI: <https://resilientconnecticut.uconn.edu/ccvi/>

01:09:08 Louanne Cooley- UConn CIRCA: Link to CIRCA technical tools: <https://resilientconnecticut.uconn.edu/resources/>

01:09:15 Alanis Allen, DEEP Office of Climate Planning: Centering Equity Guide:

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/climatechange/GC3/GC3-2022-agendas-and-minutes/Centering-Equity-in-Climate-Change-Resilience-PlanningA-Guide-for-Connecticut-Municipalities672022.pdf>

01:09:15 Mary Buchanan (CIRCA, she/her): That link is for the first version of the CCVI, which is only for New Haven and Fairfield Counties, but as Ashley mentioned we are currently working on expanding it statewide!

01:09:18 Sarah Watson, DEEP Office of Climate Planning (she/her): <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/climatechange/GC3/GC3-2022-agendas-and-minutes/Centering-Equity-in-Climate-Change-Resilience-PlanningA-Guide-for-Connecticut-Municipalities672022.pdf>

01:09:49 Ashley Benitez, Climate Planning CTDEEP: Thank you for sharing those resources, everyone!

01:10:32 Mary Buchanan (CIRCA, she/her): Here's the link to the mapping tool Joanna mentioned, which is a project of CIRCA and DEEP: <https://connecticut-environmental-justice.circa.uconn.edu/>

01:12:45 Joanna Wozniak-Brown: Sorry Rebecca! and thanks Marina! :)

01:12:51 Katharine Morris s: are schools considered affecting facilities?

01:13:00 Rebecca French, Climate Planning CT DEEP: No worries. Great discussion. So important!

01:13:37 Katharine Morris s: or rather, can they be on the basis of air pollution

01:17:12 Rebecca French, Climate Planning CT DEEP: @katharine, I would have to ask Edith on that one. I think this EJ statute is usually applied to facilities that do impact air quality and are regulated for those emissions, such as power plants

01:17:50 Rebecca French, Climate Planning CT DEEP: actually we have this info. on our website: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Environmental-Justice/Environmental-Justice-Affecting-Facilities>

01:18:48 Rebecca French, Climate Planning CT DEEP: EJ affecting facilities: (A) electric generating facility with a capacity of more than 10 megawatts;

(B) sludge or solid waste incinerator or combustor;

(C) sewage treatment plant with a capacity of more than 50 million gallons per day;

(D) intermediate processing center, volume reduction facility or multitown recycling facility with a combined monthly volume in excess of 25 tons;

(E) new or expanded landfill, including, but not limited to, a landfill that contains ash, construction and demolition debris or solid waste;

(F) medical waste incinerator; or

(G) major source of air pollution, as defined by the federal Clean Air Act

01:20:52 Rebecca French, Climate Planning CT DEEP: BRIC = Building Resilient Infrastructure in Communities - this is a Federal Emergency Management Agency grant program to reduce or prevent damage from natural hazards

01:23:02 Rebecca French, Climate Planning CT DEEP: Those cement structures with holes in this picture are the "reef balls"

01:23:31 Brian Thompson CT DEEP: The Stratford project and other CT examples of living shorelines can be found in the Projects tab <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Coastal-Resources/Coastal-Management/Living-Shorelines>

01:26:24 Rebecca French, Climate Planning CT DEEP: Picture on the top is the street near the train station in New Haven. This kind of flooding is a regular occurrence here

01:27:06 Rebecca French, Climate Planning CT DEEP: ACOE - Army Corps of Engineerins

01:27:12 Rebecca French, Climate Planning CT DEEP: Engineers

01:28:14 Ashley Benitez, Climate Planning CTDEEP:

<https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/building-resilient-infrastructure-communities>

01:32:15 Kristin Barendregt-Ludwig: Does anyone have the link to the website where we can find these presentations? It would be great to include it in the chat.

01:32:45 Ashley Benitez, Climate Planning CTDEEP: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Climate-Change/GC3/Working-Group-Meetings-2022>

01:33:12 Rebecca French, Climate Planning CT DEEP: All presentations and meeting minutes are always posted on this site within one week of the working group meeting

01:33:25 Ashley Benitez, Climate Planning CTDEEP: You can find the slides under the Resilient Infrastructure & Nature-based Solutions working group meetings.

01:34:14 Katharine Morris s: what are the environmental risks associated with increased levels of "fill"

01:34:29 Katharine Morris s: what types of "fill" are ecologically appropriate for coastal shorelines

01:36:42 Rebecca French, Climate Planning CT DEEP: we are going directly into discussion after this presentation. If you would like to provide public comment, please send a direct message to Ashley Benitez to sign up.

01:37:20 Rebecca French, Climate Planning CT DEEP: Ground rules for the discussion and public comment can be found attached to the agenda here: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/climatechange/GC3/GC3-2022-agendas-and-minutes/GC3-EEJ-Resilient-Infrastructure-and-Nature-based-Solutions-Agenda-111722.pdf>

01:37:53 Ashley Benitez, Climate Planning CTDEEP: Follow the ground rules for respectful discussion attached to the agenda and keep this list in your mind.

Focused, no-fault problem-solving.

Step forward, step back.

Open, honest, safe space.

Listen with open minds, believe in everyone's best intentions.

Action-oriented. Decide what we want, when we want it, and plan for its happening.

Collaboration!

Start, proceed, and end on time, honor the agenda.

01:38:04 Ashley Benitez, Climate Planning CTDEEP: Discussion questions for today's working group meeting:

- What successful applications of the equity and environmental justice lens did you hear in the presentation today?

- How can we encourage the integration of equity and environmental justice concerns and considerations in resilient infrastructure and nature-based solutions decisions and designs?

01:38:47 Rebecca French, Climate Planning CT DEEP: Please come on camera working group members for the discussion.

01:39:49 Amy Blaymore Paterson, CLCC: Great questions, Maisa!

01:40:14 Ashley Benitez, Climate Planning CTDEEP: We would love to hear your suggestions for looking ahead to 2023 in terms EEJ + Resilient Infrastructure & Nature-based Solutions. Also feel free to post them here. Thank you!

01:41:48 Leticia Colon: I am leaving information on our very EJ outcomes here: <https://efficiencyforall.org/wordpress/2022/03/01/efa-2021-workforce-development-outcomes/>

01:42:13 Ashley Benitez, Climate Planning CTDEEP: Thank you, Leticia!

01:42:33 Leticia Colon: Here is info on Health and Energy nexus

01:42:35 Leticia Colon: <https://efficiencyforall.org/wordpress/2021/03/01/addressing-health-and-affordability-challenges-for-low-income-families/>

01:43:17 Leticia Colon: Here at the 4 equity lens as they relate to energy and climate change <https://efficiencyforall.org/wordpress/2020/02/25/governors-council-on-climate-change-gc3-equity-lens/>

01:44:22 Leticia Colon: What efforts have been made to intentionally engage the 33 EJ communities in the work directly. For example, is anyone providing direct education climate and resilience planning for EJ communities in CT?

01:46:39 Leticia Colon: +++++ on What Maisa said... also in relation to applying the 4 DEI lens. They must be applied during planning - vs after the money is spent and plan has been laid.. In order to use the equity lens we must ensure the people writing the plans at CIRCA, DEEP, and Green Bank

understand the needs of the EJ communities. The needs are broad and include the right to know, to be prepared and to weigh on how the state and quasi spend the investments to ensure At risk communities have a chance to be at the planning table to gain access to respucres.

01:47:11 Katharine Morris s: Example: of Poor Land Use Decision: Building Bassick High School in a FEMA flood zone next to at least 2 affecting facilities -- a 129\$ million dollar investment = MAJOR EJ ISSUE

01:47:45 Leticia Colon: Like every time we ignore the least of us- in favor of giving more to those who have more power already.

01:48:20 Louanne Cooley- UConn CIRCA: New Britain's recent adoption of the second in the state stormwater authority they are calling the "Clean Water Fund" was an excellent example of the creation of a public utility in an EJ community that involved community in the process and decision making and in the use of the funding collected for stormwater management.

01:48:31 Melinda Tuhus: I am also concerned about the prospect of building the new Bassick High School in a very vulnerable site.

01:49:13 Reginald Fortcolin: same

01:49:55 Leticia Colon: Earlier- there were no DEI lens or equity lens... so WHAT Are we doing to Follow the Exc order- what metrics are you using ?

01:50:42 Alicea Charamut: Louanne Cooley - I didn't realize that the NB adoption of the SU was official. Good news!

01:51:51 Leticia Colon: These are the communities that WE should be working in and are not working in.. They are already burdened and do not have time to beg us to help them on issue they have been disconnected from entirely . <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Environmental-Justice/Environmental-Justice-Communities>

01:52:18 Leticia Colon: More key data on Equity and Climate Action <https://efficiencyforall.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/GC3-EQUITY-Lens-CT-2.25.2020-.pdf>

01:52:42 Louanne Cooley- UConn CIRCA: Yes! New Britian's stormwater utility is functional since summer. Hear a presentation on Tuesday at CT Assoc. of Flood managers meeting by NB officials.

01:53:06 Joanna Wozniak-Brown: I think a key goal for 2023 is for developing metrics for monitoring and evaluation of climate actions (both mitigation and adaptation)

01:53:38 Ashley Benitez, Climate Planning CTDEEP: We have to break for public comment.

01:54:12 Katharine Morris s: Public Comment: Bridgeport is a DECD distressed municipality, an environmental justice community, a vulnerable community. Similar to New Haven Long Whorf and Meriden, the South End of Bridgeport is particularly vulnerable to coastal flooding from the Long Island Sound and sea level rise and thus disasters from the ever intensifying climate crisis. Regarding Climate Resilient Infrastructure and Nature Based Solutions: Resilient Bridgeport has not been completely implemented due to fund thus leaving this vulnerable, distressed EJ community subject to disproportionate climate risk. Bassick High School is proposed to be built in the South End of Bridgeport WITHOUT public comment which makes it an EJ issue in of its self. Moreover, there are clear public health risks associated with proximity to affecting facilities. Putting Building Bassick High School in a FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area AE, in walking and breathing distance of two *designated* affecting facilities as well as two hydrogen fuel cells (part 1)

01:54:33 Louanne Cooley- UConn CIRCA: NB stressed community education and inclusion, process transprancy and why stormwater management benefits the community and how funding will be spent.

01:54:53 Leticia Colon: +++ Joanne Brown - metrics should include - how many People of color have solar, or job on solar, or a job in EE. Because Jobs save lives and make housing affordable.

01:56:04 Leticia Colon: What is equity? Equity starts by recognizing that there are disparities and inequities in living conditions. Some communities lack resources, lack political power, lack access to higher education, or have poor health outcomes. These examples place low-income communities and many communities of color at greater risk while limiting their capacity to adapt. Equity based Planning takes these disparities into account - This has not INTENTIONALLY taken EJ communities into account.

01:56:14 Rebecca French, Climate Planning CT DEEP: Public comments can be added in the chat as well or submitted in writing to deep.climatechange@ct.gov within one week of the meeting and will be included with the meeting minutes.

01:57:28 Leticia Colon: +++ KAT - yes investing money in placing schools in a flood zone is the opposite of DEI efforts. It places those at RISK, directly in harms way. Thank you for raising that up as an issue.

01:58:25 Nicole Govert: Sustainable CT, along with the Nature Conservancy, offer a No Cost Assistant Program called Community Resilience Planning (CRB). Any town registered with SCT (129 so far) can participate in this program. TNC leads a program within a town where members of the town including municipal leaders can gather and identify strengths as well as vulnerabilities/risks in the town. The Nature Conservancy will then compile a complete report of the findings of the program..<https://sustainablect.org/no-cost-assistance-programs/the-nature-conservancy>

01:58:35 Katharine Morris s: Public Comment continued: all of which (four energy plants) run on fossil fuels and pollute the air, all without conducting the CEPA State Environmental Impact Assessment and City Environmental Impact Study, thus making the Seaside Park and the Long Island Sound vulnerable to excessive stormwater, a clear case of environmental racism. This is all being funded by the State of Connecticut as per DAS school grants. DEEP is still reviewing the final application and I urge the Department to actively choose the move in alignment with claimed EJ priorities and stop this from happening. Save Bassick Better. They students, teachers, and residents deserve better. (part 2)

01:59:29 Eduardo Marin: ^^^

01:59:58 Amy Blaymore Paterson, CLCC: Well said, Denise! Thank you!

02:00:39 Katharine Morris s: reposting: Public comments can be added in the chat as well or submitted in writing to deep.climatechange@ct.gov within one week of the meeting and will be included with the meeting minutes

02:00:52 Katharine Morris s: my public comment is written above in two parts. thank you.

02:01:14 Leticia Colon: Also regarding Education as human right to know...the right to know is an EQUITY LENS, and while it seems this group is ok with education on EV's. I do not see loud support /equal to resilience and safety planning for serious impacts or even causes of climate change. THOSE at risk communities have the RIGHT to KNOW and to be prepared. Thank you for the presentation. May we next have collaboration. YES DEEP thank you for doing your work, and community leaders who are here unpaid- thank you for showing up and speaking up. Great work.

02:01:18 Lee Cruz: Thank you everyone.

02:01:40 Doris Johnson: Good night and thank you!

Allen, Alanis

From: Alex Rodriguez <alexrodriguez@savethesound.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2022 6:15 PM
To: DEEP ClimateChange
Subject: GC3 EEJ WG + Resilient Infrastructure WG Public Comment 11/17/22

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Good evening CT DEEP,

I am writing to you on behalf of the regional environmental organization Save the Sound. Save the Sound leads environmental action through advancing climate policy, saving endangered lands, protecting Long Island Sound and its rivers, and restoring ecosystems.

We are writing to you regarding the proposal to rebuild Bridgeport's Bassick High School in the South End neighborhood, near Broad St and 80 University Ave, replacing a demolished University of Bridgeport building. We have concerns regarding the proposal and ask that a member of your team address these concerns so that we may coordinate education on the proposal to the South End community with trusted leaders.

1. The new high school would be built in a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designated Special Flood Hazard Area, an area vulnerable to rising sea levels and future hurricanes;
2. Neither the City Environmental Impact Study (EIS) nor the State Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) has been conducted;
3. There has been little effort from the City of Bridgeport and the State of Connecticut to boost public notice regarding this proposal and document public input; and
4. Should final sign off on the rebuilding of the school occur, students, faculty, and nearby residents would be vulnerable to multiple major air polluting, fossil fuel energy facilities including Bridgeport's Harbor Station 5 (PSEG), Bridgeport Energy LLC (Cogentrix), and two NuPower hydrogen fuel cells.

It is critical for the city coordinate with the state in providing opportunities for public participation, especially considering the ongoing delays and increasing uncertainty around the fate of Resilient Bridgeport. A thorough environmental review and proactive public outreach are needed to ensure this project will proceed safely and equitably.

This is a proposal that will affect the livelihoods of the South End community. We raise these concerns because we strive to ensure everyone benefits from a safe and healthy environment.

Respectfully,

Alex Rodriguez (he/him/his)
Environmental Justice Specialist
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