



Environmental Health and Drinking Water Branch

Public Health and Safety Working Group Meeting

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October 31, 2022

Agenda



- Food Security and Climate Change
 - Review Existing Work
 - Report to the Connecticut Governor's Council on Climate Change: Public Health and Safety Working Group
 - GC3 Governor's Council on Climate Change Phase 1 Report
 - Subcommittee Membership
 - 10/24 Meeting Update

Food Security and Climate Change

- *Report to the Connecticut Governor's Council on Climate Change: Public Health and Safety Working Group, November 2020.*
- One measure within the Nutrition, Food Security, and Food Safety section
 - PHS-31: Develop state and regional food security action plans to mitigate the risk of climate change and extreme weather events on the food system.
 - PHS-31 Actions:
 - Connect New England state agencies and key stakeholders and organizations across Connecticut communities **to develop state and regional food security action plans** with the goal of increasing regional food production and strengthening regional food distribution, especially during times of crisis.
 - Draw on the experiences and examples of the New England regions' food plans, including Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Vermont.
 - Connecticut's food security action plan will promote a resilient local food supply by:
 - 1) setting minimum targets for production and distribution by food category and location (including urban farming production) that can be coordinated with other New England states to achieve the overall goals for New England food systems, and
 - 2) working with other New England states to develop and implement policies, procedures, and plans to ensure that the regional food supply is sufficient to weather global or national food supply chain disruptions caused by climate change and global pandemics

Food Security and Climate Change

- *Taking Action on Climate Change and Building a More Resilient Connecticut for All: GC3 Governor's Council on Climate Change, Phase 1 Report*
 - How is food referenced in the report?
 - **Progress and Mitigation Strategies:** 15. Promote responsible and just materials management. Consider implementing the recommendations of the Connecticut Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management (CCSMM)vii to address both the climate impacts of waste generation and environmental justice concerns. A strategy to address these issues could include the following: g. Develop and implement food rescue and recovery programs. (pg. 37)
 - **Working and Natural Lands:** 45. Build a sustainable and equitable food system through support for urban agriculture and strengthening state grant programs. (pg. 46)
 - **Public Health & Safety:** 51. Develop a coordination framework for public health and safety priorities with a focus on the intersection of health equity and climate impacts, including addressing heat-related exposure, response and illnesses; ozone and allergen monitoring and impacts; food security; and needs of mental health populations in disaster response. (pg. 47)
 - Other themes: equity, prioritizing community lifelines, basic necessities

Food Security and Climate Change Subcommittee

- Subcommittee Goals
 - Define the group's mission – must remain focused on relationship to climate change
 - Focus on measure PHS-31 from the PH&S 2020 Report to the Connecticut Governor's Council on Climate Change
 - Research food plans of other states
 - Primarily other NE states [in our region] and CDC BRACE grant recipients
 - Discuss membership
- First meeting held on 10/24
 - Attendees: DC Aaron (DPH); Lori Mathieu (DPH), Christine Hahn (DPH), Bridget Teevan (DPH), Laura Bozzi (YCCCH), Martha Page (Independent consultant), Katharine 'Kat' Morris (Governor's Advisor at DEEP)
 - Discussion highlights: Defining group's mission; state food plans; tapping into the Climate Smart GC3 group; urban farming; local food and agriculture