

**Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3)
Science & Technology
MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Date: November 9, 2022

Meeting Time: 2:30 - 4:00 PM

Zoom Recording: [Science & Technology Working Group Meeting Recording](#)

ATTENDANCE: GC3 Working Group Members in bold

Alanis Allen
Mark Ashton
Ashley Benitez
Laura Bozzi
Diego Cerrai
Diane E.
Chris Elphick
Mary-Beth Hart
Michael Malmrose
Susan Masino
David Murphy
Huan Ngo
James O'Donnell, Chair
Yaprak Onat
Anji Seth
Mark Urban
David Wagner

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, which was informed by the EEJ working group

Welcome and Introductions:

Chair: *Jim O'Donnell*

- Working group members introduce themselves

Liaison Updates:

- Mark Ashton provides update from Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry working group meeting

- Notes funding release announcements to fund climate smart initiatives
- Notes deadline for applications will occur in January
- Laura Bozzi provides update from Public Health and Safety working group meeting
 - Highlights presentation on urban heat islands, disaster planning, and the intersection between food access and security and climate change
 - Notes interest in collaborating with Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry working group to address food security aims
- Jim O'Donnell provides update from Resilient Infrastructure and Nature-based Solutions
 - Mark Urban, the liaison was unable to attend the meeting
 - Jim notes presentations on reef balls and nature-based solutions along the coastline, which have proven very effective
- Ashley Benitez Ou gives brief update on Equity and Environmental Justice working group
 - Notifies group members about joint working group meetings with EEJ that are upcoming within the next few weeks
- Anji Seth provides update from Mitigation Strategies working group meeting
 - Highlights Comprehensive Energy Strategy presentation and the need for community input in shaping the CES
 - Notes CTDOT plan for EV charging station, which is separate from the initiative launched through federal funding

Working Group Discussion: *For full comments please see the Zoom recording and/or audio transcript*

- Jim presents most pressing scientific concerns that have been raised by each liaison:
 - Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry:
 - Data about forests and agricultural land
 - Development of monitoring programs
 - Better understanding of the intersection of forests and health
 - Mitigation Strategies:
 - Quantifying value of mitigation and adaptation associated with agricultural and forestry practices
 - Resilient Infrastructure and Nature-based Solutions:
 - Need for monitoring and assessment of intervention options
 - Public Health and Safety:
 - Quantifying health benefits of mitigation
 - Equity and Environmental Justice:
 - Ensure the S%T working group is reflective of diversity in Connecticut
- Department of Agriculture Grant Funding:
 - Mark Ashton is unsure how the review process will be undertaken
 - Notes that monitoring should be included in the funding opportunity, but there is uncertainty whether it is a requirement

- Suggestion to propose monitoring as a component of proposals
 - David Wagner notes there are many kinds of monitoring and over-managing can create challenges
- Carbon budget and mitigation:
 - Detailed information about Connecticut's emissions, but agricultural activities are not included in the carbon budget conversations
 - Susan Masino highlights soil, which has important interactions with carbon
 - Her main point is that the mitigation scope goes beyond agriculture and forestry, and it is important to keep that in mind
- Within the resiliency context the group highlights the need for metrics for assessing structures:
 - Need to develop metrics first and could use those metrics for monitoring and evaluation of initiatives
 - Consistent metrics could look like lenses applied throughout the process, like using health as a metric
 - Consensus among group that health is an important metric and should be given more consideration
- Discussion about how to recruit more working group members from the scientific community that reflect the diversity of Connecticut
 - This is a priority going forward, as the GC3 process for this year is wrapping up
- Monitoring:
 - GC3 is interdisciplinary and could help create monitoring guidelines that other states could also adopt
 - This is an opportunity for Connecticut to lead in this arena
 - Opportunity for public education on science and the importance of strong scientific guidelines
 - Could be an opportunity to create a checklist

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

None

Written Public Comments: *Submitted in writing following the working group meeting*

Diane Hoffman, 11/13/22: 190 Wilmot Rd. Hamden, CT 06514

Dear Science and Technology Working Group Members,

I attended your most recent meeting. I appreciated many of the comments that were made, especially those by Susan Masino.

I was concerned with one comment made by James O'Donnell regarding trees and heat in urban settings. I believe he commented that trees might not be essential to dealing with the heat problem suggesting that painting rooftops might do a better job. Did I misunderstand?

I understand that painting rooftops and pavement with white or other reflective paint will help lower temperatures, but that action will not provide any of the other benefits trees provide including fighting climate change, supporting biodiversity, mitigating flooding and soil erosion, building soil, creating oxygen, cleaning our air, etc. all of which provide significant health, and economic savings especially for vulnerable communities living in those locations. I think painting roofs and pavement is a fine additional step, but should not be used as the go to solution.

I sincerely hope the essential benefits of trees are kept at top of mind and that trees are recognized as critical natural resources, serving as the backbone of our natural infrastructure and essential for life in our natural world of which we are a part.

Thank you!

Adjourn and Next Steps:

Resources:

[Public Health and Safety Working Group Meeting Minutes, 10/31](#)

[DEEP Comprehensive Energy Strategy](#)

[DOAg Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry Grant Overview](#)

[DEEP Climate Resilience Fund](#)

Chat Record:

00:12:50 Chris Elphick: Chris Elphick, UConn
00:13:10 james O'Donnell: Jim O'Donnell
00:13:13 Susan Masino: Susan Masino, Trinity College
00:13:20 David Wagner: Hi all. David Wagner from UConn.
00:15:47 Laura Bozzi: Laura Bozzi, Yale Center on Climate Change and Health
00:16:18 Yaprak Onat: Yaprak Onat, CIRCA
00:18:12 Huan Ngo: Sorry, my mic was not connected for this session
00:22:19 Laura Bozzi: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/climatechange/GC3/GC3-2022-agendas-and-minutes/GC3-Public-Health-and-Safety-Minutes-103122.pdf>
00:29:22 Ashley Benitez, Climate Planning CT-DEEP:
<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Energy/Comprehensive-Energy-Plan/Comprehensive-Energy-Strategy>
00:29:53 Ashley Benitez, Climate Planning CT-DEEP: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/energy/CES/2022CES/Notice-of-Written-Comment-Opportunity--Written-Comment-SummaryRelated-to-Session-4FINAL.pdf>
00:30:52 Ashley Benitez, Climate Planning CT-DEEP:
<https://portal.ct.gov/DOAG/ADaRC/ADaRC/Grants/Climate-Smart-Agriculture-and-Forestry-Grant>
00:37:59 Ashley Benitez, Climate Planning CT-DEEP: Welcome. We're currently in the discussion section of the meeting. Reviewing Climate Smart Ag. & Forestry.
00:46:12 Chris Elphick: Does this capture what we're getting at for 1 and 2: Need a clear process for (a) assessing (e.g., via monitoring of predetermined metrics) whether changes in actions lead to reduction of risks, and then (b) adjusting (adapting) actions if it is not.
00:49:15 Diego Cerrai: We have a lot of results, published in several recent papers, about grid resilience, and the effectiveness of resilience improvements
00:51:58 Susan Masino: technical or quantitative expertise possibly as a topic

00:54:00 Ashley Benitez, Climate Planning CT-DEEP: FEMA BRIC program applications now should include incorporate nature-based solutions.

00:54:32 Mark Urban: I unfortunately need to run to another meeting. I'll catch up with meeting notes later.

01:00:59 Anji Seth: I must leave at 3:30. I want to add to my report on the GC3 Mitigation WG Meeting this week: One more presentation by Adrienne Farrar Houel (Greater Bridgeport Community Enterprises) has led with state and local partners a successful DOE Technical Assistance Award. One of 24 across the country. They are now in the process of writing their Scope of Work including Energy efficiency (reducing energy burden on low income populations), clean energy planning, transport, economic development and workforce development. They are looking now for a Community Engagement Coordinator. Please contact Adrienne <houel@greenteambpt.com>

01:10:11 Ashley Benitez, Climate Planning CT-DEEP:
<https://portal.ct.gov/connecticutclimateaction/executive-order/deep-climate-resilience-fund>

01:11:15 Mark Ashton: I strongly agree with Chris.

01:14:23 Ashley Benitez, Climate Planning CT-DEEP:
<https://yaleclimateconnections.org/2022/09/connecticut-public-schools-must-now-teach-about-climate-change/>