# Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3)
# EJ Mapping Tool
# BREAK OUT SESSION NOTES

**Meeting Date: 10/13/2020**
**Meeting Time: 5:30-**
**6:30**
Zoom

## Attendees

EEJ Public Forum (October 13th, 2020)
Mapping Tool Breakout Session
Notetaker: Arielle King, Law Student assisting with GC3 until December

**Attendees:**
- Karen Stevenson (New London Sustainability Committee member with Sustainable CT & graphic designer)
- Edith Pestana (EJ Program Administrator at CT DEEP)
- Lori Demaine (Center for Sustainable Energy; created an equity and outreach program)
- Lynne Bonnett (New Haven resident interested in maps)
- Huan Ngo (scientist/teacher in New Haven & member of PH&S and Science&Tech working groups)
- Aleksandra Moch (Greenwich; focus on air quality and transportation)
- Ali Ghiorse (interested community member; member of town Sustainability Committee)
- Margrit Morley (Unitarian Universalists church in Woodbury attendee & community member)
- Kara Marshall (Eversource employee; interested in learning more about data resources)
- Max Teirstein (Yale student who assisted in developing the mapping tool this spring and summer)
- Samantha Dynowski (Sierra Club CT)
- K'SerSey Htoo (Intern at Transport Hartford)
- Beth Bernard (CT Forests and Parks association Education Director)

## AGENDA & NOTES

**Recommendations to Consider for Mapping Tool (captured from larger forum and breakout session):**
- Tool should include:
  - o Location of air monitoring stations and easy public view of the air quality results, including sharing air quality indicators through multiple venues, including weather reports on television, radio, and community news online, like PATCH
  - o Existing vegetation (trees) and lack thereof by neighborhood
  - o Location of parks and forests
  - o Natural and community resources integrated throughout
  - o Possible lead concentrations? [Marianne explained potential barriers to accuracy]
- Ensuring information is fully and easily accessible to the public through the website to assist with meaningful community engagement
- Make it interactive so people can look at their own neighborhoods easily

**Other important factors to consider for the tool (from breakout session attendees):**
- (AM) Proximity to highways and other major roadways
  - o Mobility and access to clean air, limited noise pollution, etc.
  - o There are studies in Europe that recommend not constructing schools or apartments within 500 ft of highways
    - ▪ New York State is proposing a bill banning school construction within a 500 ft radius of major roadways for this reason
- (MM) Access to public transportation
- (SD) Number of sites for permitted air and water discharges to show cumulative impacts
- (SD) Asthma hospitalizations
- (SD) Utility shut offs
- (SD) Evictions
- (SD) Location of superfund sites

- (AM) Water quality of streams and rivers (tied to water discharges)
  - Impaired vs non-impaired waterways
- (AM) Groundwater pollution
- (SD) Permit applications
- (AM) Housing density
- (HN) Pathogen and infectious disease (viruses, bacteria, etc) inventory which will result from flooding
- (HN) Vectors for vector-born diseases
- (AM) Hospital capacity; access to healthcare to address whether communities are medically underserved
- (AM) High school drop-out rates
- (KM) Building code violations

**Potential concerns/challenges associated with this mapping tool:**
- (AM) May have a negative effect in deterring new residents; communities may suffer from prospective residents overlooking certain areas based on what they find on the mapping tool
  - It may also make it easier for factories to target EJ communities
- Using language that may further isolate EJ communities (too much scientific language, not providing translation services)
- (LB) EJ communities now knowing the extent of the challenges they face without having the ability to relocate
  - Conversely it provides opportunities for EJ communities to become informed and take action armed with data
- (KM) Privacy; protecting people's privacy while ensuring that we are providing as much granular info as possible
- (AM) Potential harm to college admission; colleges may not want to accept students from certain areas based on what they see [discussion followed to alleviate this concern]

**Other Considerations**
- (AM) Data should be updated annually or biannually
  - Limitations should be explained
- (Ks) Clarity and accuracy of information is key
- (SD) Explain the intention behind this tool and hold individual/groups accountable

**Questions:**
- [From the full group chat] Are maps really all that is needed? Interpretation and integration seems to me to be essential.
- LB: Point source polluters—whether point sources will be included in the map with emission levels and exact locations to indicate higher concentrations in certain communities?
- LD: How will you be centering EJ communities in the mapping tool?
- SD: How will the mapping tool assist towards equitable climate action? Specifically the intersection of climate and environmental health
- What indicators of risk go into an index in order to compare risks for equity purposes?
- (KS) Is two years often enough to update information?
  - This may hinder municipalities' ability to adapt

**How much should we push in this report that this mapping tool is intended to lessen impacts of climate change/ environmental injustice on EJ communities?**
- (MT) It'd give the tool more teeth if it was mandated, or if it was integrated into policy
- (KS) We should also make communities aware of what's happening
  - Public forums or informational sessions

**Public/Private Partnership Considerations**
- (LB) Would the current EPA be a willing partner?
- (HN) Private industry (insurance, real estate, etc) might use this tool for more harm than good

      ○   Are there anti-discrimination laws and policies to protect EJ communities from predatory deals or increased rates as a result of this data?

**Other things to consider:**
- It's hard to find emission levels from direct sources on the current EPA website; this tool should be more accessible and user-friendly for the public, even if it's just reiterating material already established and published

Chat Record

17:11:44      From Gannon Long : 10/21 at 11:59 PM
17:12:09      From Andrew Lopez : nice thanks
17:15:16      From Anthony Cherolis : You can email comments and input to deep.climatechange@ct.gov
17:17:08      From Anthony Cherolis : Relative to the transportation section in the Mitigation report (pgs 77 through 117, includes appendix, 40 pages total), we summarized here for a previous public forum and put a lot of focus on equity and environmental justice considerations - https://www.ctprf.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Transportation_Section_Breakout_Discussion_Slides_09_23_2020.pdf
17:19:18      From Karen Stevenson : yes, please!
17:19:53      From FRogard Ryan : Yes, please.
17:21:32      From Lisa Hayden : Yes, that would be great - thanks!
17:21:40      From Kathleen Fay : yes please for the (remote0 public participation details
17:22:00      From Patricia Taylor : Mapping tools should include air monitoring stations and easy public view of the air quality results, including sharing air quality indicators through multiple venues, including weather reports on television, radio, and community news online, like PATCH.
17:23:22      From Andrew Lopez : Love the air quality comment
17:23:35      From Robin Stein : Mapping should include existing vegetation (trees) or lack thereof by neighborhood.
17:23:40      From Diane Hoffman : Mapping tool should also show where parks, and forests are located
17:23:53      From Andrew Lopez : Totally
17:24:08      From Patrick Comins : The mapping of natural and community resources should be integrated
17:25:10      From Marianne Engelman Lado : Yes:  thanks for the comments on mapping!
17:25:31      From Kathleen Fay : Yes, Patrice Taylor is right. Data from the EPA air quality monitoring stations shouold definitely be available live as well as brought into the ma;ping tool.
17:25:33      From Karen Stevenson : Is there somewhere to find the existing mapping tools available out there?
17:26:17      From Kevin Grigg : CIRCA is a good place to start.
17:26:40      From Andrew Lopez : http://www.cteco.uconn.edu/
17:27:26      From Max Teirstein : @Karen as an intern with DEEP's EJ program I compiled all the available mapping tools here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TpcF12seKDvopg2zxbPCKKEeoqpoARDf-WRL1PA4_P4/edit?usp=sharing
17:27:34      From Karen Stevenson : thank you all!!
17:27:52      From Alex Rodriguez : Well done, Sena and Brenda!
17:28:09      From Alex Rodriguez : 100% agree
17:28:21      From Hugh hdbirdsall@aol.com : Is  climate change and environmental justice education in public schools part of the recommendations?
17:29:02      From Kathleen Fay : DataHaven is a good resource for local data mapping
17:29:16      From james odonnell : Climate Education in schools should be part of the Sci recommendations - I'll check.
17:29:28      From Patricia Taylor : Air monitoring stations should also be located near sources of air pollution, including incinerators and industrial manufacturing facilities that are disproportionately

located in vulnerable communities.  There need to be more air quality monitors in this state, and they need to measure fine particle emissions as well as GHGs.

17:29:38        From Marianne Engelman Lado : Yes, we have a document that we sent out with a list of the existing tools.  I'll look for it and put it in the chat.

17:29:48        From Edith Pestana : Yes Data Haven has participated

17:30:38        From Max Teirstein : Posting the document of existing tools again here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TpcF12seKDvopg2zxbPCKKEeoqpoARDf-WRL1PA4_P4/edit?usp=sharing

17:31:00        From Marianne Engelman Lado : Thanks Max!

17:32:38        From Eric Hammerling : We really appreciated the input of the EEJ Working Group on the Forests Report (e.g., the need to plant and maintain trees in EJ communities to combat heat island, air pollution, and other impacts) as well as the rest of the reports from the Working & Natural Lands Working Group. Thank you!

17:33:14        From Alex Rodriguez : Fully agree with Dr. Mitchell on the need for funding EJ groups and groups who prioritize EJ advocacy

17:33:19        From james odonnell : Are maps really all that is needed? Interpretation and integration seems to me to be essential.

17:34:20        From Anthony Cherolis : @Alex - I've been confused by how little EJ organizing and advocacy exists in Connecticut

17:34:44        From Kevin McCarthy : James O'Donnell, yes. Perhaps focus groups reviewing the maps would help.

17:35:28        From Denise Savageau : For mitigation EEJ, need to look at distributed generation and not focus on centralized renewables.  We need to open this  up to our cities.

17:35:36        From Marianne Engelman Lado : James O'Donnell - great question.  Important visual representation that all can see, creating common ground in understanding where to focus.  Thanks!

17:51:28        From Margrit Morley : Access to public transportation

18:15:45        From Margrit Morley : Great discussion.  Thank you for all of your work.

  **NOTE:**  *Identify if slides or presentations are available on GC3 web page: www.ct.gov/deep/gc3*