
Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3)
EQUITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SUBGROUP
BREAK OUT SESSION NOTES

Meeting Date: October 13, 2020

Meeting Time: 5:00 pm

Meeting Location: ZOOM

ATTENDANCE

List of participants

- Alex Rodriguez
- Lee Cruz
- Rebecca French
- Susan Peterson
- Guy West
- D. Lauricella
- Alison Baranovic
- Catherine Diviney
- Conor Koziatek
- David Murphy
- Diane Hoffman
- Lindsay Larson
- Pamela Roach
- Pete Aarrestad
- Susan Hibbard
- Steven Walleth
- Hugh Birdsall
- Samuel Tubman

AGENDA & NOTES

Welcome and Announcements

Agenda Item(s)

Facilitated by Name, Organization

- Reported items

Next steps:

- Highlight next steps and action items

Public comments

Hugh Birdsall, Reforest the Tropics, Educator

- Are there recommendations for climate change education? There needs to be environmental education universally across CT?
 - **Lee Cruz:**
 - Different ways to reach out to the public
 - Including using education to facilitate outreach
 - Recommend that environmental education should be implemented across the board
 - There are many young voices who are interested in environmental studies, as well as organizations that deal specifically with these young citizens
 - Joel Tollman: Common Ground School, Addys Castillo Citywide Youth Coalition, Sunrise

Guy West:

- What is the most common excuse, or barrier to implementing environmental education into curriculums?
 - **Hugh Birdsall:** Administrations are often isolating and do not allow for outside voices in their decision making processes
- **Catherine Diviney**
 - Using school systems and information networks to supplement outreach to family households
 - Giving flyers to school districts to give to families
- **Alex Rodriguez:** How would this kind of curriculum be implemented in your town/districts school system?
- **Susan Hibbard:** The issues are too political, which makes the addition of such a curriculum a partisan issue.

D. Lauricella:

- Recommends the creation of a EJ Defense Fund to combat legal and financial barriers

Rebecca French:

- Does anyone know of good models for how to use public dollars for compensation (gift cards, food at meetings) and child care to ease barriers for public participation?

- **D. Lauricella:** There needs to be very clear and extensive efforts to communicate the resources available to citizens to help facilitate their ability to participate in the public notice process
- **Susan Peterson:** We also need environmental education for adults including elders.
 - Diane Hoffman: I have found that education for adults has worked very well, Hamden Alliance for Trees
- **D. Lauricella:** Making sure that demographics are being considered when distributing materials. Providing documents in languages that are spoken in specific areas and towns
 - Accessibility to materials is a major barrier to outreach
 - **Lee Cruz:** The state is limited to what they can use automated translation on, but non-profits/ngos are not. There are some community organizations and websites that provide google translated versions of documents or materials

Saved Chat from Breakout Session

17:42:52 From valeryn fernandez : Hi, this is valeryn Fernandez, a transport Hartford ambassador

17:50:00 From Rebecca French : Reminding everyone that you can type comments into the chat for this public participation break out discussion.

17:50:56 From Alex Rodriguez : Rebecca, will the chat automatically be saved once the breakout room is over?

17:51:53 From pete Aarrestad : Click on three dots to right. Therein lies your answer.

17:52:12 From Alex Rodriguez : Thanks Peter

17:55:54 From Diane Hoffman : Lee, can you share the email contacts for any of these people who are writing books for students?

17:55:54 From D. Lauricella : Lee: I am interested in getting an BOE mandated Climate change and EJ Curriculum Bill to CGA for this long session!

17:56:01 From Samuel Tubman : I will be saving the chat Alex.

17:56:17 From Alex Rodriguez : Thanks Sam

17:58:33 From D. Lauricella : Barriers include financial support for books, materials. Can stick to the facts...NOAA has factsd...

17:58:58 From D. Lauricella : Sorry for the typos...

18:03:32 From Diane Hoffman : It seems it should be incorporated into science classes and towns that still have earth day celebrations might be supportive of climate being taught

18:04:11 From Rebecca French : Does anyone know of good models for how to use public dollars for compensation (gift cards, food at meetings) and child care to ease barriers for public participation?

18:09:59 From Catherine Diviney : I'm not climate change as a single topic will draw an audience/interest. I think you need to piggy back.

18:10:19 From Catherine Diviney : I'm not *sure*

18:16:00 From Guy West : My apologies. I have to depart for another ZOOM mtg.

18:20:36 From Rebecca French : Wanted to share with this group that Governor Lamont made comments at a Climate Week NYC event sponsored by the US Climate Alliance that building

a coalition around environmental activism needs to be a top priority for moving the work of addressing climate change forward.

18:21:14 From Rebecca French : What might we do in our public participation process to meet the Governor's call?

18:21:32 From valeryn fernandez : ill be typing

18:22:00 From valeryn fernandez : my wifi connection is horrible. sorry

18:27:38 From Susan Hibbard : I need to drop off. Thanks to all.

18:28:05 From Alex Rodriguez : Thank you for joining, Susan!

18:28:14 From Catherine Diviney : Sometimes I think the need to have even political party representation on Town Commissions is a barrier and leads to vacancies or quorum problems.

18:28:30 From Lee Cruz : Leticia Mejia Colon greenecowarriors.org and barnesandnoble.com/s/Leticia-colon-de-Mejias for children's books. You can reach her at lcolonees@gmail.com

18:29:24 From valeryn fernandez : Well, I just got the job of a Transport Hartford Ambassador a few weeks ago, and I have been working on contacting different organizations and public libraries to promote the 2020 northeast multimodal and transit summit book club on books that talk about the importance of the bike culture and its effects in our environment and society. I have also been shadowing on Transportation and climate initiative meetings so that I can learn more about this.

18:33:22 From D. Lauricella : Hi little one!

18:34:04 From Diane Hoffman : thanks everyone!

18:34:18 From D. Lauricella : Thank you and stay safe!

18:34:21 From Susan Peterson : Thank you!

18:34:24 From Steven Wallett : thank you.

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