

Connecticut Equity and Environmental Justice Advisory Council

Wednesday, December 14, 2022



Ground rules

During the discussion, all participants should:

1. Listen respectfully, without interrupting.
2. Listen actively and with an ear to understanding others' views.
3. Only have one conversation at a time.
4. Be mindful to give others and opportunity to speak.
5. Focus on the task at hand rather than the position.
6. Avoid off-topic conversations.
7. Criticize ideas, not individuals.
8. Commit to learning, not debating.
9. Avoid blame, speculation, and inflammatory language.
10. Avoid assumptions about any member of the workgroup.

Agenda

Quarterly Meeting

1. Welcome from CEEJAC Co-Chairs – DEEP Commissioner Katie S. Dykes and Co-Chair Dr. Mark Mitchell, MD, MPH

2. Roll Call – Dr. Mark Mitchell, MD, MPH

3. Discussion Subcommittee Meetings To Date

Water: Combined Sewer Overflow Challenges Presentation on November 29

Waste: Extended Producer Responsibility Packaging Presentation on December 5

4. Next Steps

5. Announcements

6. Public Comment

CEEJAC Members

ROLL CALL

- **Dr. Mark Mitchell, MD, MPH**, Associate Professor, Climate Change, Energy, and Environmental Health Equity at George Mason University
- **Commissioner Katie Dykes**, CT DEEP
- **Liany E. Arroyo**, MPH, CPH, Director Health of Human Services, City of Hartford
- **Dr. Albert Bailey Jr.**, Pastor, Shiloh Baptist Church- Hartford
- **Leticia Colon de Mejias**, Windsor, Energy Efficiency Solutions and Green Eco Warriors
- **Adrienne Farrar Houel**, Greater Bridgeport Community Enterprises, Inc., Bridgeport
- **Gerry Garcia**, Community Development Assistant Administrator, CT Department of Economic and Community Development
- **Deputy Commissioner Shante Hanks**, CT Department of Housing
- **Theresa Hopkins-Staten**, President Eversource Energy Foundation, VP Corporate Citizenship and Equity

CEEJAC Members

- **Commissioner Manisha Juthani**, CT Department of Public Health
- **Kimberly Lesay**, Bureau Chief Policy and Planning, CT Department of Transportation
- **Sharon Lewis**, Executive Director, CT Coalition for Environmental Justice (CCEJ)
- **Taylor Mayes**, Black Environmental Activist Movement (BEAM), Hamden
- **Cierra Patrick**, Economic Development Specialist, City of Groton
- **Alex Rodriguez**, Climate Advocate, Save the Sound
- **Yolanda Stinson**, Organizer, Bridgeport
- **Maisa Tisdale**, The Mary and Eliza Freeman Center for History and Community, Bridgeport

Waste Subcommittee Discussion

Extended Producer Responsibility Packaging
Presentation on December 5, 2022 (Members: Sharon
Lewis (co-chair); Adrienne Farrar Houël (co-chair);
Rev. Dr. Albert Bailey Jr.; Yolanda L. Stinson)

Report out & discussion: *Sharon Lewis and Adrienne
Farrar Houël*

Waste Subcommittee Discussion

Report Out:

1. What is EPR? • Requiring manufacturers to be responsible for end-of-life management of the products they put on the market
2. Why Packaging EPR? • Save \$50 million in taxpayer dollars; reduce MSW up to 190k TPY
3. How does Packaging EPR affect consumers/residents?
 - Won't affect method of recycling for residents (i.e., curbside, transfer station, multifamily housing drop-off location)
4. How would Packaging EPR program work? • Manufacturers form a stewardship organization that submits a plan to DEEP on how the program will be financed and operated

Waste Subcommittee Discussion

5. Other Benefits of Packaging EPR:

- Limit the need for new waste-to-energy capacity
- Improve opportunities and funding for recycling education
- Improve transparency in the recycling system

6. Addressing concerns

- Up-to-date studies that show consumer price impacts not attributable to packaging EPR programs
- Guardrails around chemical recycling

7. Discussion on Packaging EPR •What is best way to engage with residents on a complex program like this?

Water Subcommittee Discussion

Combined Sewer Overflow Challenges Presentation on
November 29 (Members: Cierra Patrick (co-chair);
Sharon Lewis; Maisa L. Tisdale)

Report out: *Graham Stevens, Bureau Chief, Water
Protection & Land Use*

Discussion: *Cierra Patrick*

Water Subcommittee Discussion

Report out:

1. Why are CSOs relevant to CEEJAC? • Located in older urban communities
2. Defining Key Terms: What are CSOs?
3. What causes CSOs? • Excess water in combined sewers – typically during rain
4. Where are CSOs? • Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, Norwich • Look for signs
5. How do we get rid of CSOs? • We discussed challenges with sewer separation and removal of private inflow • Why isn't everyone provided backflow preventers in CSO communities? • Costs to address these historic systems
6. How do we know when CSOs are active? • DEEP website, Twitter
7. Discussion on CSOs • What is best way to engage with the Community on plans to address CSOs and status of projects?

Next Steps in 2023

Subcommittee meetings for
2023 (see next slide)

CEEJAC Quarterly Meeting Schedule
2023: March 22; June 21; September 20;
December 13; time: 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Potential information session on CT EJ
Legislation



Next steps on subcommittees

Waste subcommittee

Initial topic: Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility

CEEJAC co-chairs: Adrienne Farrar Houël; Sharon Lewis

Other CEEJAC members: Rev. Dr. Albert Bailey Jr.; Yolanda L. Stinson

First subcommittee meeting: December 5, 2022

Lead DEEP staffer: James Albis

Other potential topics: Bottle bill changes, redemption center grants

Water subcommittee

Initial topic: Combined sewage overflows

Co-chair: Cierra Patrick

Other members: Sharon Lewis; Maisa L. Tisdale

First subcommittee meeting: November 29, 2022

Lead DEEP staffer(s): Graham Stevens

Other potential topics: Community-based watershed planning and water quality improvements

Next steps on subcommittees

Land subcommittee

Proposed initial topic: Forestry

CEEJAC co-chair: Maisa L. Tisdale

Other CEEJAC members: Liany E. Arroyo; Leticia Colon de Mejias; Sharon Lewis; Cierra Patrick; Alex Rodriguez

Other potential topics: Public participation; Urban Green Community Garden Grant Program (one time) and Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition (OSWA) Grant Program

Lead DEEP staffer(s): EJ Program Edith Pestana and Doris Johnson; other staff as appropriate to each topic

Energy and Technology subcommittee

Proposed initial topics: Cost of clean energy in EJ communities; grid independence

CEEJAC co-chairs: TBD

CEEJAC members: Rev. Dr. Albert Bailey Jr.; Leticia Colon de Mejias; Gerry Garcia; Theresa Hopkins-Staten; Adrienne Farrar Houël; Sharon Lewis; Yolanda L. Stinson

Lead DEEP staffer: Vicki Hackett

Next steps on subcommittees

Air and Transportation subcommittee

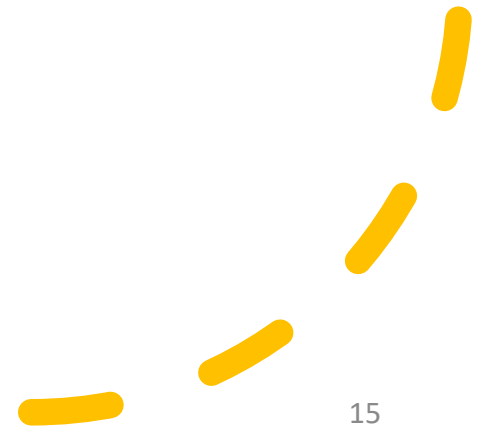
Initial topics: Connecticut and EPA rules on vehicle emissions and electrification; transportation grant and incentive programs focused on electrification (CHEAPR, MHD, school buses, e-bikes and infrastructure); and community-based AQ monitoring efforts

CEEJAC co-chair: Alex Rodriguez

Other CEEJAC members: Liany E. Arroyo; Sharon Lewis; Dr. Mark Mitchell; Maisa Tisdale

Lead DEEP staffers: Tracy Babbidge and Paul Farrell

Announcements



Public Comment



Thank you!

Connecticut Equity and
Environmental Justice Advisory
Council (CEEJAC)

Wednesday
December 14, 2022

