CEEJAC QUARTERLY MEETING

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Co-Chair, Mark Mitchell, MD

Ground Rules: Sarah Huang, Director, Office of Equity & Environmental Justice

Roll Call: Mark Mitchell, MD

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.

CEEJAC Members

5 minutes

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

- **Terry Adams,** Stamford

- **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

- **Xochitl Garcia**, New Haven

- **Brandon McGee,** Deputy Commissioner, Department of Housing

- **Yaw Darko,** CT Land Conservation Council

CEEJAC Members

- **Theresa Hopkins-Staten**, President Eversource Energy Foundation, VP Corporate Citizenship and Equity

- **Robert Hotaling,** Deputy Commissioner, CT Department Economic and Community Development

- **Karen Kitsis**, Deputy Commissioner CT Department of Transportation

- **Sharon Lewis**, Executive Director, CT Coalition for Environmental Justice (CCEJ)

- **Lori Mathieu**, Public Health Branch Chief, CT Department of Public Health for **Commissioner Manisha Juthani**

- **Cierra Patrick**, Economic Development Manager, 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

Overview of Agenda

Mark Mitchell, MD

Subcommittee Updates – 7 minutes each
Air & Transportation, Waste, Water, Land, Energy

Broadband Briefing – 10 minutes

Update on EJ Screening Tool – 5 minutes

Announcements **– 30 minutes**
- Webinar on Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG)
- Updates on SB 1147
- Scheduling future quarterly meetings for 2024

Air & Transportation

Members: Alex Rodriguez, Chair; Sharon Lewis; Dr. Mark Mitchell; Maisa Tisdale; Xochitl Garcia; Terry Adams

DEEP Staff: Paul Farrell, Acting Bureau Chief, Air Management, Pete Babich, Assistant Director, Air Planning & Standards Division; Jacob Felton, Director Enforcement Division

Update: Alex Rodriguez, Chair

Main Charge: Education about air quality monitoring

Next Meeting – Monday, Oct 30, 2023 1:00-3:00pm

9 Windsor Ave, Windsor, CT 06095

- Tour of DEEP's Air Monitoring Facility
- Overview about air quality monitoring (GMAP)
- Sign up to receive a Purple Air Monitor

Waste Subcommittee

Members: Sharon Lewis (co-chair); Adrienne Farrar Houël (co-chair); Rev. Dr. Albert Bailey Jr.; Yolanda L. Stinson

DEEP Staff: James Albis, Director of Planning, Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance

Updates: *Adrienne Farrar Houël, Co Chair*

Main Charge:

- Understand existing waste systems and technologies
- Identify community concerns regarding adaptation of waste solutions
- Provide recommendations on priorities to consider regarding waste solutions

Next Meeting: Tues., Oct 17 10a-12p

A presentation about CT's Waste System

- How much waste does CT generate? Where does it go? How much is recycled?
- How has the closure of the MIRA Hartford facility affected CT's waste system?

Water Subcommittee

Members: Cierra Patrick (chair); Sharon Lewis; Maisa L. Tisdale

DEEP staff: *Graham Stevens, Bureau Chief, Water Protection & Land Use*

Update: *Cierra Patrick, Chair & Graham Stevens*

Main Charge: Provide property owners with more information about best practices, resources, and contacts around the impacts of water on their home.

- Emphasis on harnessing community knowledge to educate municipalities
- Collaboration and technical assistance of maintenance of state-owned, city-owned, privately-owned resources

Next Meeting: TBD

Project Update (Graham Stevens)

Land Subcommittee

Members: Yaw Darko, Chair; Terry Adams, Leticia Colon de Mejias, Alex Rodriguez, Sharon Lewis; Maisa L. Tisdale

DEEP Staff– Danica Doroski, Ph.D, Urban Forester; Lindsey Suhr, Director Land Acquisition and Management

Updates: Yaw Darko, Chair

Main Charge: Identify a public participation process that includes community stakeholders in the development of grant funding programs.

Next Meeting: Friday October 13, 2023 1:00-3:00 pm

Presentation about Urban Forestry
- What is urban forestry and why is it important?
- Inflation Reduction Act and sub-granting program

Discussion of proposed topics for engagement

Energy Subcommittee

Members: Sharon Lewis (co-chair); Dr. Rev. Albert Bailey (co-chair); Leticia Colon de Mejias (co-chair); Adrienne Farrar Houël, Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Yolanda L. Stinson

DEEP Staff*: Hank Webster, Deputy Commissioner of Energy; Ashley Benitez-Ou, Office of Climate Planning*

Updates: Sharon Lewis, Co-chair

Main Charge: Identify and address barriers to energy justice. Identify the problems and provide a recommendation to make sure communities can access programs and funding.

Upcoming Meeting Topics:

- Overview of Energy Programs
- How Heat Pumps Work
- Efficient Infrastructures for Homes
- Utility Companies: how to see a difference in your bills

Next Meeting: TBD

Broadband Briefing

Kevin Pisacich

Director Office of Communication and Broadband
Bureau of Energy and Technology Policy

- Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program

Lauren Thompson

Digital Equity Program Manager
Connecticut Commission for Educational Technology

- State Digital Equity (DE) Planning Grant

/ Access and Adoption

Broadband **access** typically refers to the availability of a <u>physical connection</u> that offers sufficient speeds, latency, and other performance metrics for reliable service.
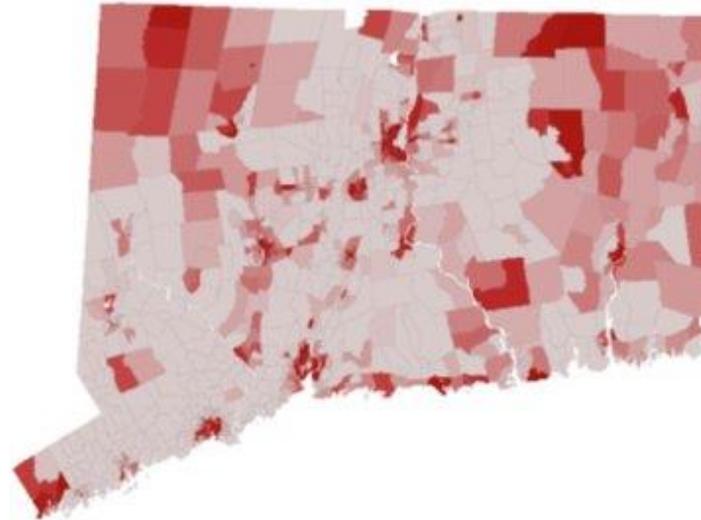
Broadband **adoption** involves factors such as affordability, availability of a compatible device, and the digital skills that impact a user's <u>ability to benefit</u> from that access.

/ Broadband Infrastructure Grants Programs

ConneCTed Communities Grant Program
(ARPA CPF)

Purpose:
For low-income/multi-family curb-to-home and business broadband infrastructure buildout and underserved area broadband infrastructure grants.

Grant Funds:
$40.8M

Timeline:
Application period estimated to open Q3/Q4
Projects must be completed by the end of 2026

Broadband Equity, Access, & Deployment (BEAD) Program
(IIJA)

Purpose:
For the buildout of infrastructure to **all unserved and underserved locations**, followed by community anchors and digital equity efforts.

Grant Funds:
$144M

Timeline:
Initial Proposal Public Comment Period – Fall 2023
Initial Proposal Due – December 27, 2023

/ Target Populations

BEAD Program

"Underrepresented Communities"

- Low-income households
- Aging individuals**
- Incarcerated individuals
- Veterans
- Persons of color
- Indigenous and Native American persons
- Members of ethnic and religious minorities
- Women
- LGBTQI+ persons
- Persons with disabilities
- Persons with limited English proficiency
- Persons who live in rural areas, and
- Persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality

Digital Equity Program

"Covered Populations"

- Individuals who live in covered households*
- Aging individuals**
- Incarcerated individuals, other than individuals who are incarcerated in a Federal correctional facility
- Veterans
- Individuals with disabilities
- Individuals with a language barrier, including individuals who—
    - Are English learners; and
    - Have low levels of literacy
- Individuals who are members of a racial or ethnic minority group
- Individuals who primarily reside in a rural area***

/ Opportunity for Community Organizations
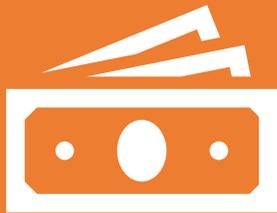
Generally, **Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs)** are nonprofit or governmental community support organizations that <u>facilitate greater use of broadband service by vulnerable populations</u>, including:

- Schools
- Libraries
- Health clinics, hospitals, & other medical providers
- Public safety entities
- Institutions of higher education
- Public housing organizations
- **Other community support organizations**

CAIs with relevant programming may be eligible for **funding**:

- Connect to 1 Gigabit symmetrical service plans
- Other financial support for digital equity initiatives

/ Digital Equity Status and Next Steps

Outreach and Research

Agency engagement: Indexed existing programs and strategic plans

Partner Survey: Used to develop a "digital equity asset map" of existing programs statewide

Resident Survey: 5,000+ responses addressing barriers to access, devices, and support

Focus Groups: Targeted small-group discussions with members of covered populations

Listening Session: Enlisting subject-matter experts on plan components

Next Steps

Drafting five-year plan addressing Internet, devices, skills, and support

Likely $17M Award

Considering efficiencies at state, regional, local levels

Leverage existing programs and relationships

Relevance to other priorities (education, workforce, housing, healthcare, etc.)

/Scheduled Events

Quarterly Virtual Roundtable Discussions & Regional Community Forums

- Receive the latest program updates

- Participate in critical discussions

- Ask questions and offer feedback

Important Milestones

- BEAD Initial Proposal Public Comment Period

- DE Public Comment Period

- BEAD Challenge Process

- Grant Applications

Community Organization Survey

SCAN ME
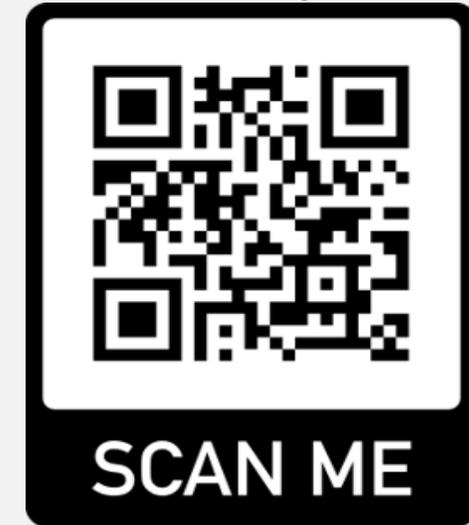
Contact us:
DEEP.Broadband@ct.gov

Update EJ Screen Mapping Tool

Lisette Stone, Environmental Analyst II, Office of Equity and Environmental Justice

Current Scope

- Public Comment Period Ended July 31, 2023

- UConn/CIRCA incorporated Public Comments and Recommendations from other agencies

- Uconn/CIRCA launched Version 2.0 and can be accessed via: [Connecticut Environmental Justice Screening Tool (uconn.edu)](uconn.edu)

Next Steps

- Uconn/CIRCA and DEEP are working on transitioning the tool to DEEP

- DEEP will ensure that the tool is sustainably maintained as Environmental Justice Communities continue to be re-defined in consideration of social, environmental and economic factors, adjusted for in real time.

Announcements
30 minutes

1. Webinar on Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) Program – Dr. Mark Mitchell
2. SB 1147 Update- Annie Decker
3. Scheduling of meetings – proposal to change time – Sarah Huang
4. EJ Office Hours- every third Wednesday 12-1 PM – Sarah Huang
5. CEEJAC Members Announcements

Public Comment

20 minutes
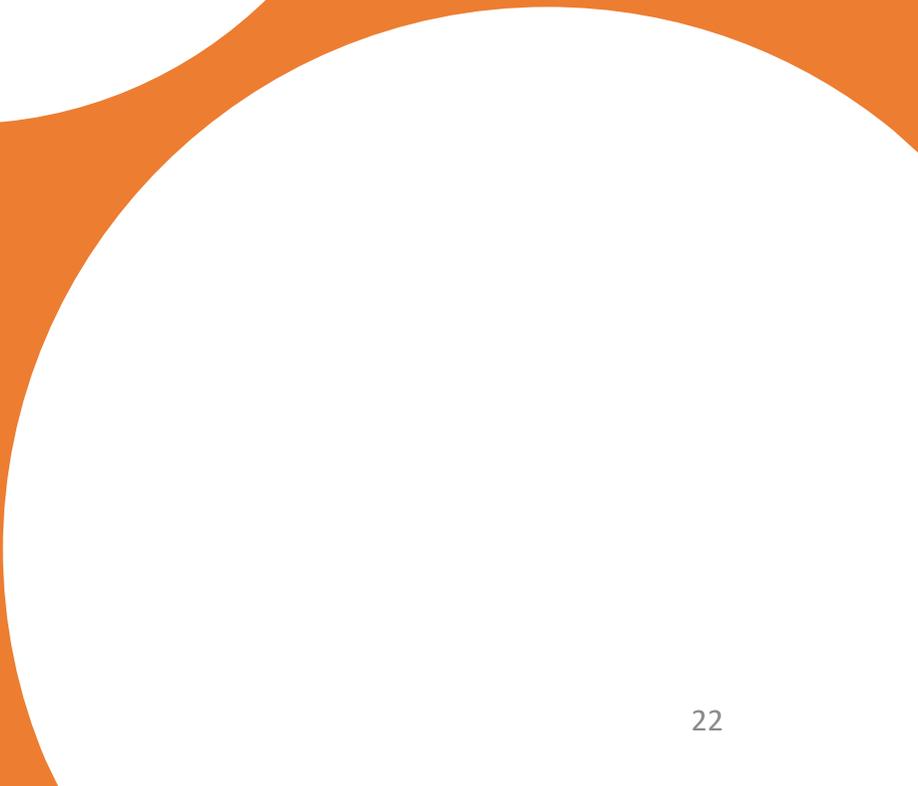
CEEJAC Quarterly Meeting Schedule 2023:

NEW DATE & TIME!
- Monday, Dec 11, 2023
- 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Thank you!

Connecticut Equity and Environmental Justice Advisory Council (CEEJAC)