



## Connecticut Equity and Environmental Justice Advisory Council (CEEJAC)

### Waste Subcommittee

December 2, 2025 | 4:00 – 5:00 PM

Watch Meeting Recording:

<https://ctdeep.zoom.us/rec/share/xh6iF5VC286TvaO6qv1Try8whX7F4w7L6CMAWtoaZHfAHLFMe0xJVAtdyOyUtWHi.P5hkmhIELYDgd3Nm>

### Description

Join Connecticut Equity and Environmental Justice Advisory Council (CEEJAC) Waste Subcommittee for a public meeting with Health Directors from New Haven and Stratford. This is a follow-up session to June's meeting with DEEP's Waste Enforcement Division where we learned about how DEEP's Waste Division manages complaints from the public, conducts inspections, and how enforcement works. During this session, we'll hear from Local Health Departments about how they manage concerns related to waste management, air quality, idling diesel trucks, waste to energy plants, and water pollution.

Please join us for this much requested session! Please reach out to [DEEP.CEEJAC.@ct.gov](mailto:DEEP.CEEJAC.@ct.gov) if you have any questions.

This is a public meeting and will be recorded and posted on the [Connecticut Equity and Environmental Justice Advisory Council](#) website.

### Meeting Agenda

<b>Welcome from Co-Chairs and Group Introductions</b>	4:00 – 4:10 PM 10 mins
<b>Brief Overview of CEEJAC and Waste Subcommittee</b>	4:10 – 4:15 PM 5 mins
<b>Learning from Local Health Departments</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maritza Bond, MPH <i>Director of Health, New Haven Health Department</i></li><li>• Andrea Boissevain, MPH <i>Director of Health, Stratford Health Department</i></li></ul>	4:15 – 4:35 PM 20 mins
<b>Discussion and Q&amp;A</b>	4:35 – 4:55 PM 20 mins
<b>Action Steps</b>	4:55 – 5:00 PM 5 mins

### Meeting Notes

- I. Welcome from Waste Co-Chair, Diane Lauricella
- II. Brief Overview of CEEJAC and Waste Subcommittee  
Importance of partnering with local health departments and enforcement staff in the city to hear about what issues arise, and how best to address them. The goal is for us to learn how to create evidence to bolster cases of concern in your community.

III. Maritza Bond, Director of Health at New Haven Health Department

**Introduction:** Appreciate being a municipal representative on CEEJAC. Have worked in every corner of the state – lots of differences and similarities in what towns face. Have been in this role in New Haven for 6 years: health homes and lead reduction, food protection, school health, vector control, overdose prevention, language access. We serve as agents of the state and enforce state codes of health. Environmental health and complaint response is essential to what we do. Our team addresses conditions that affect health like public health nuisance, air quality control, pests, stagnant water. We monitor compliance and coordinate with other municipal and state agencies.

**Clarifying Local Health Jurisdiction:** environmental health concerns cover a lot of different agencies. Issues related to diesel trucks are enforced by local police and regulated by DEEP under state idling regulations. Waste handling, trash operations are targeted to the city's solid waste division. For Air quality concerns, we don't regulate air emissions but we are reporting smoke, air duct emissions to CT DEEP. We partner and monitor air quality and provide notifications to residents. Example: wildfires in Canada, we wanted to make sure to notify the public and protect the public from air quality concerns. For waste management, we respond when there is a public health nuisance like rodent infestation, odors affecting neighboring properties. For water pollution and discharges, we refer people to CT DEEP. But we are testing the water to ensure the safety for swimming. We worked closely with Save the Sound to test the water near Mill River to ensure safety for fishing.

**Responding to Complaints:** 19-13b2 statute is mandatory investigation. When we receive complaints like trash, sewage backups, refuse odors – the complaints can come from "See Click Fix" system by phone or email that gets logged into a dashboard. You can see who it gets assigned to, who responded, and what is the outcome.

- See Click Fix is the best method because you get notifications throughout the process. There are some complex cases that require DEEP, Building Department or EPA, law enforcement and requires more coordinated efforts to close a case. Enforcement cases focus more on education and abatement rather than going to full enforcement and cases.

We have multi-agency collaboration – housing, zoning, environmental health, public health. Residents are the individuals on the ground and can keep an eye on the community. We have limited time as inspectors, so we need you to report those concerns. You can stay anonymous throughout the process.

**Resources:**

- Sign up for our newsletter: [nhvhealth.org/stay-updated](http://nhvhealth.org/stay-updated)
- Follow us on social media: @nhvpublichealth

- Email questions or concerns: [environmentalhealth@newhavenct.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:environmentalhealth@newhavenct.onmicrosoft.com)
- Brian Wnek, MPH, REHS/RS  
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#### **IV. Andrea Boissevain, Health Director for City of Stratford**

**Introduction:** Worked in environmental consulting in risk assessment. I worked on the Raymark Superfund Site in City of Stratford since 1991. I never thought that I would be the health director here, but became director in 2010. First, I worked in Emergency Preparedness.

**Tell Me About your Complaint:** We will take complaints in any form: phone call, text, email, letter, referral. Sometimes another department will forward a complaint that they received and give it to me. We assign an inspector. We trust, verify, and clarify. We want to know what is happening, how often, is there an odor?

- We allow anonymous complaints, but we might ask more questions to clarify the complaint and to also follow up on issues particularly when they aren't a quick fix.

**Examples:** Murphy Road Recycling known as All American Waste

They have HQ in Enfield, CT and have facilities across the state. They have property in Stratford since 2008. It was a mess and they wanted a Solid Waste Volume Reduction Plant in 2017. It was for scrap metal, scrap tires, comingled recyclables – it's a 10 year permit from DEEP's Solid Waste Division. The complaints that we received were about Dust from Pallet Shredding Operations and Trucks on Site. This is not a residential neighborhood, but there are businesses that are neighbors to this facility. It's an industrial corridor in Stratford, but we were called by neighbors. They didn't have any coverage over their shredder and there was a lot of fugitive dust. They needed engineering design and controls that would reduce the production of dust to begin with and then controls to limit dust from moving to the community. **Research** – I needed to look at who issues the permit, what division, and who can cite violations. This facility had to go through the local Planning and Zoning process.

- Result: Issued a Cease and Desist because it violated a Zoning Permit. There was a new site manager placed at the facility, we worked with them for engineering controls; they ultimately invested over \$1 M in improvements. We really stressed that they should ask out to the complainants to really address the complaint.

Town Ordinance allows for a Air Pollution Ordinance. Different ordinances specify a different type of enforcement like a notice of violation or cease and desist. Local Health is involved in shepherding the complaints and convening stakeholders. We advocate early during the Planning and Zoning process to look at site conceptual models. Air monitoring is more for remedial projects and clean-ups. We are strong advocates for air quality monitoring in the community. We are in the field, but the community really serves as the eyes and ears.

## **V. Questions**

What is the turnaround time for See Click Fix?

Maritza: We respond to it immediately and ensure that it gets updated to the status of the complaint. We assign to our inspectors to address it or sometimes we can ask for more information.

How do you handle noise issues?

Brian: New Haven has a noise ordinance over a decade ago. It's a collaboration between health department, building department, and police. We have noise meters distributed to police departments so they can use them. We want to have an open dialogue with police department so that we're aware of any issues.

Do local health departments/regional health districts measure sure air pollutant concentrations? CT has an ambient air quality standard for dioxins but I cannot find that it is being enforced.

Brian: We work closely with DEEP on air quality issues and standards. We will notify the office in Hartford to talk about the issue. We don't have equipment to do testing so that's why we ask the state. We have a system of monitors throughout the City to measure Air Quality Indexes. Engineering department got a grant for Purple Air Monitors and you can look at the website for that information. We advise citizens about unhealthy air quality standards through Facebook and Social Media. We utilize EPA's Air Quality Index as another metric.

Can you talk a little about proactive actions the health district supports? What types of policy are you supporting that will improve building compliance, hazard, and impact in EJ Neighborhoods?

Brian: We work with the city to get on top of things in our purview. We have an Office of Sustainability

Can you give information on how to contact DEEP re mobile air monitoring-the mobile unit, how to access it (reserve it) and how a neighborhood group access the mobile unit?

Edith: For additional information, please contact Lakisha Stephenson of the Compliance Analysis and Coordination Unit at (860) 424-3729 or [Lakisha.Stephenson@ct.gov](mailto:Lakisha.Stephenson@ct.gov).

I am particularly interested in the nexus of climate change and health and trends about what impacts to health are increasing in our EJ communities?

Andrea: When we have a site, we really advocate that they consider resiliency in their planning. We do our work looking through an environmental equity and health equity lens. Our concern with mosquitoes, we see the West Nile Virus occurring sooner in the year. South End of Stratford has lower socioeconomic status and I make sure to pay attention to trends in certain areas in the city and state. For Planning and Zoning, we make sure to look at the built environment – are there greenways, sidewalks?