

## **Connecticut Equity and Environmental Justice Advisory Council (CEEJAC) 2026 Work Plan**

The Connecticut Equity and Environmental Justice Advisory Council (CEEJAC) works with the Commissioner of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to address historic and current environmental injustices and inequities across the state. The responsibilities of the Council include:

- integrating environmental justice considerations into the programs, policies, and activities of DEEP to improve the health and environment of Environmental Justice Communities, in key areas including, but not limited to, (1) rulemaking, (2) permitting standards and processes, (3) compliance and enforcement, (4) science and data, and (5) equitable program delivery;
- providing mechanisms for Environmental Justice Communities to have a meaningful opportunity to participate in any decision to allow in such communities certain types of facilities which, by the nature of its activity, have the potential to increase environmental and public health stressors and where appropriate, to limit the further placement and expansion of such facilities in these communities;
- developing a model plan for community engagement and stakeholder outreach centered around meaningful participation; and
- strengthening DEEP's partnerships with other governmental agencies, other states, tribal, local governments, and community leaders and organizations regarding environmental justice issues.

CEEJAC operates through five subcommittees: Air & Transportation, Water, Land, Waste, and Energy & Technology. Each subcommittee, in collaboration with DEEP staff, identify annual priorities. The following are the plans for each Subcommittee for the calendar year of 2026.

### **Air & Transportation**

- Rebuild subcommittee membership
- Elevate outreach on clean transportation benefits (e.g. electric school bus, public transit, EV)
- Work with DEEP and Department of Public Health (DPH) on designing a community-based air quality monitoring program
- Set achievable outreach goals around data sharing (e.g. Ozone and PM data, School absenteeism and air quality, difference between enforcement and regulatory standards)
- Collaborate with Energy & Technology and Waste Subcommittees on Healthy Homes initiatives and development of CT's EJ regulations

### **Energy & Technology**

- Cross- Subcommittee collaboration on clean energy
- Conduct education and awareness building around local industry technologies and workforce programs
- Conduct educational workshops about clean energy technologies, benefits, and how to access

- Develop an understanding from state agencies about programs intersecting with energy affordability and quality of life

### **Land**

- Revisit statutory changes that this subcommittee provided input on related to DEEP's Open Space Watershed and Land Acquisition (OSWA) and Urban Green and Community Garden (UGCG) funding program
- Explore Affordable Housing topic including DEEP's work and intersection with urban conservation, Community Land Trusts
- Continue Community Resource Hours to share information on upcoming programs and for participants to ask DEEP program staff questions about potential projects/initiatives.

### **Water**

- Work with DEEP on PA 25-125 Sect 12 Report on Nature-Based Solutions on where there are opportunities to advance NBS within State Agency funding programs.
- Draft a Statement of Consideration for the State Water Plan
- Identify solutions to challenges Watershed Planning Groups face in stakeholder buy in and engagement.
- Explore topics including equitable outdoor access to waterways and resilience planning.

### **Waste**

- Work with DEEP's Environmental Justice Office on drafting the new Cumulative Impacts Regulations by supporting stakeholder engagement activities and providing feedback on regulatory language and concepts.
- Continue development of community resources regarding enforcement, complaints, and inspections.
- Continue work with DEEP's EJ Office to provide stakeholder guidance on tools, such as Good Neighbor Policies and Community Environmental Benefits Agreements.

If you have any questions or are interested in joining a Subcommittee, please reach out to [DEEP.CEEJAC@ct.gov](mailto:DEEP.CEEJAC@ct.gov) and [sign up for our email newsletter](#) about upcoming Council events, meetings, and resources.