



Climate and Health Equity Coalition

April 16, 2025

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1. Welcome and Icebreaker (10-15 minutes)
2. Symposium Update (5 minutes)
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 - Edith Pestana (DEEP) (10 minutes)
 - Mark Mitchell (CHPCA) (10 minutes)
6. Wrap-up and Next Steps (5 minutes)

Intros + Icebreaker

What is keeping you grounded right now?

What's a small win you've had recently?

What's one thing you've done recently for your well-being?

Symposium Update

- Target date: early September (options: Tues 9/2, Fri 9/5, Mon 9/8, Tue 9/9, Wed 9/10)
- Same overall agenda / timing: i.e., half-day from morning through lunchtime, with Coalition meet-and-greet following lunch
- Location depends on funding logistics; aiming to decide in next 1-2 months

	Plan A: Adanti Student Center at SCSU, with possible virtual option	Plan B: Sterling Memorial Library at Yale, with possible virtual option	Plan C: virtual only
In-person capacity	150	90 (can stretch to 120)	N/A
Car-free options	Buses/shuttles from New Haven Union Station	15-min walk from New Haven State Street Station	N/A
Parking	10-min walk to free garage	5-10min walk to paid parking	N/A

Heat Module

Heat and Air Quality Toolkit

- <https://sph.yale.edu/climate-ct-toolkit>

CT Extreme Heat & Air Quality Preparedness

A Toolkit for Municipal Public Health Departments



The Toolkit for Municipal Extreme Heat & Air Quality Response Planning in Connecticut is a set of resources developed by students and staff at the Yale School of Public Health and the Yale School of the Environment during Fall 2024 and prior semesters, with support from the Yale Center on Climate Change and Health and Connecticut Department of Public Health, and with input from municipal health departments and professionals.

Drawing from nearly 20 extreme heat and/or air quality response plans across the U.S., the toolkit includes a template for local heat and air quality preparedness and response plans, highlights innovative strategies from municipalities in California, Maine, Connecticut, and Colorado, and provides shareable resources that can be adapted by local stakeholders.

TEMPLATE: MUNICIPAL EXTREME HEAT & AIR QUALITY RESPONSE PLAN

Version 1.1: updated January 13, 2025

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Community Spotlights

Edith Pestana, DEEP

- Cumulative Impact work



Environmental Justice

Edith Pestana, MS, MPH, Environmental Justice Program Administrator,
Office of Equity and Environmental Justice

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection ♦ Wednesday April 16, 2025



An Act Concerning Environmental Justice Communities

Connecticut General Statutes § 22a-20a

EJ Community

definition



Affecting Facilities

definition



Public Participation

requirement



CEBA

option



Public Act 08-94, codified 2009

Environmental Justice Communities

1. census block groups, for which **30%** or more of the population consists of low-income persons who are not institutionalized and have an income **below 200%** of the federal poverty level

2. **distressed municipalities**

[Distressed Municipalities \(ct.gov\)](#)



Affecting Facilities

electric generating facilities

with a capacity greater than 10 megawatts

sludge or solid waste incinerators or combustors

sewage treatment plants

with a capacity greater than 50 million gallons per day

intermediate processing centers

volume reduction facilities or multitown recycling facilities

with a combined monthly volume in excess of 25 tons

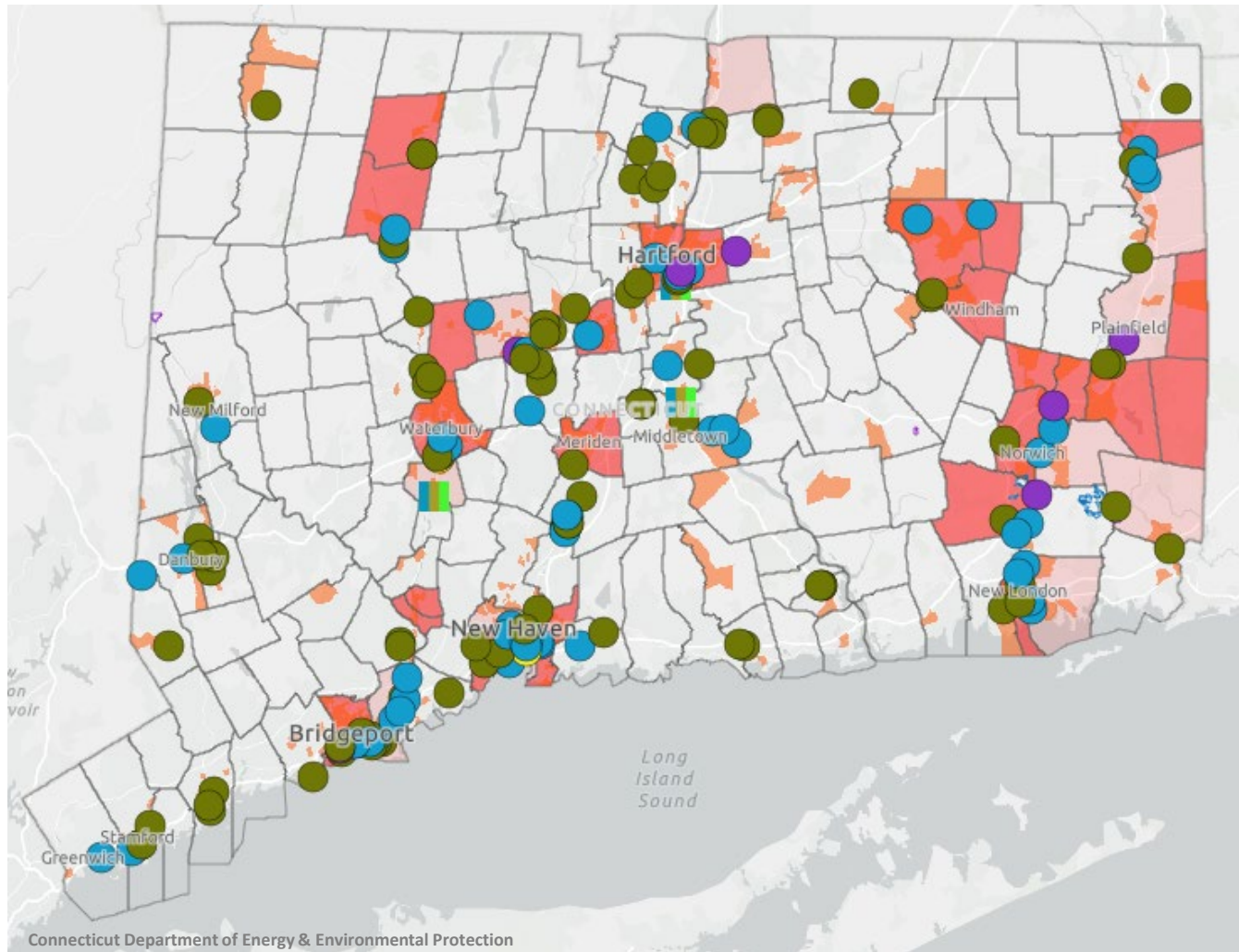
new or expanded **landfills**, including but not limited to, landfills that contain ash, construction and demolition debris, or solid waste

medical waste incinerators

major sources of air pollution

as defined by the Clean Air Act

[Environmental Justice Affecting Facilities Map \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)



EJ Communities & Affecting Facilities Map

Affecting Facilities

- Air
- Waste
- Air, Waste
- Air, Waste, Water
- Waste, Water
- Water

Town



Tribal Lands

- Federally Recognized
- State Recognized

Environmental Justice Block Groups 2023



Environmental Justice Distressed Municipalities 2023

- Distressed Municipality
- Municipality within 5-year Grace Period

PUBLIC ACT 23-202

**Public
Participation**

**Community
Environmental
Benefits Agreement***

*If 5 or more affecting facilities in town

1

2

3

**Cumulative
Impacts
Assessment
*regulations
authorized***

Why Cumulative Impacts?

Health

History

**National
Trend**



Upcoming Cumulative Impact Assessment Regulations (in process)

Identification & measurement of
public health stressors' relative impacts

Tools for stakeholder industries
and sectors

Standards for denying or placing
conditions on permits

Regulatory Concepts



Identification & Measurement of Stressors



Public Health & Environmental Stressors Tool



Cumulative Impacts Assessment



Geographic Points of Comparison



Standards for Denying & Placing Conditions on Permits



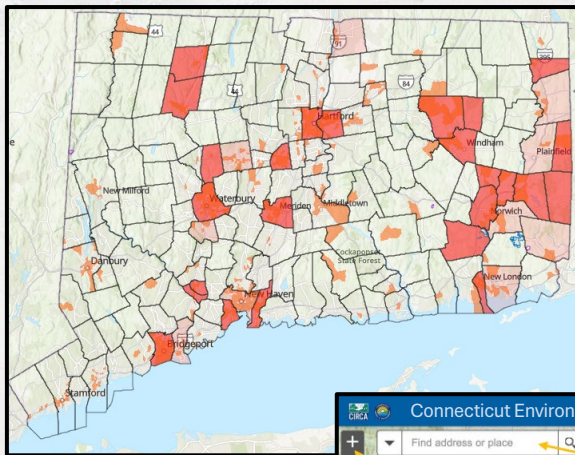
Public Participation Plan, Report

Sample Cumulative Impacts Stressor Indicators

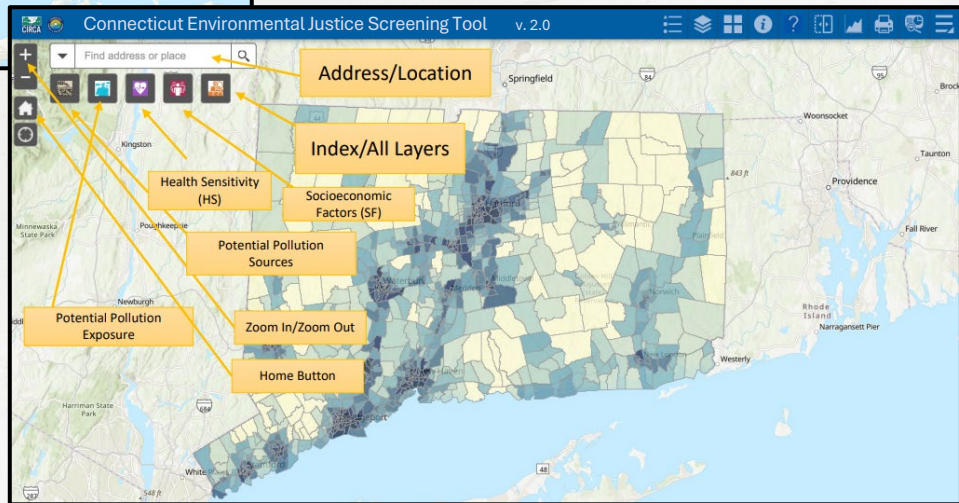
Potential Pollution Sources	Potential Pollution Exposure	Socioeconomic Factors	Health Sensitivity
Incinerators	Ozone	Poverty Levels	Asthma
Landfills	Particulate Matter 2.5	Unemployment	Coronary Heart Disease
Recycling Facilities	Major Sources of Air Pollution	Median Income	Diabetes
Contaminated sites	Minor Sources of Air Pollution	Population Age < 5	Low Birthweight
Gas Energy Plants	Traffic Density	Population Age > 65	Mental Health

CT Environmental Justice Tools

EJ
Communities
Map



EJ
Screening
Tool



Cumulative
Impacts
Tool*



To Be
Developed!

State Survey

Thirteen **states** (CA, HI ,IL, MA, MD, MI, MN, NJ, NM, NY, OR, VT, WA) were identified that have legislation, mapping tools, and/or agency guidance that includes cumulative impact assessment.

New Jersey, Massachusetts, New York and Colorado all recently passed laws requiring a cumulative impact assessment as a prerequisite to obtaining certain permits in disadvantaged communities.

Connecticut

[2023 law](#)

FACILITIES

electric generating facilities
sludge or solid waste incinerators or combustors
sewage treatment plants
intermediate processing centers
landfills
medical waste incinerators
major sources of air pollution

PERMIT DENIALS & CONDITIONS

GEOGRAPHIC POINT OF COMPARISON

(for example, county, state)

CONTROL MEASURES

(may come in part from Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act laws)

Socioeconomic

Housing Burden
Linguistic Isolation
Poverty/Low Income
Unemployment
Race/People of Color
Educational Attainment
Median Income
Young Population
Elderly Population
Health Insurance
Mobile Home
Multi-Unit Home
Rent-Ownership Ratio
Single Parent
Food Security
Energy Burden
Disability
Tree Canopy

Health Sensitivity

Asthma Emergency
Department Visits
Coronary Heart Disease
COPD Emergency Department
Visits
Childhood Elevated Lead
Levels
Depression
Diabetes
Mental Health
Low Birth Weight Rate Infants

INDICATOR OPTIONS

Pollution Exposure

Diesel PM Emissions
Noise
Ozone
Particulate Matter 2.5
Facilities Releasing Toxins
Traffic Density
Permitted Major Air Pollution
Sources
Permitted Minor Air Pollution
Source
Minor Facilities with Permit-Limited
Emissions Potential
Urban Heat Index
EPA Respiratory Hazard Index
EPA Cancer Risk

Pollution Sources

Brownfields
Facilities Managing Chemicals
Impervious Area
Incinerators/Resource Recovery
Facilities
Landfills
Lead Paint Risk in Housing
Municipal Transfer Station
Potentially Contaminated Sites
Recycling Processing Facilities
Proximity to Superfund Site
Significant Environmental Hazards
Underground Storage Tanks
Wastewater Discharge

“The commissioner shall consult with **stakeholder industries** and **sectors** when developing the regulations pursuant to this section.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § 22a-20a(f)

Regulations Development Process



ORIENTATION

INFORMATIONAL AND LISTENING
SESSIONS



CONCEPTS

SIX STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS:
INTRODUCTION
FOUR CONCEPTS MEETINGS
CONCLUSION



LANGUAGE

PRESENTATION OF
DRAFT LANGUAGE



COMMENT

PUBLIC COMMENT
PERIOD



HEARING

PUBLIC HEARING

2024

2025

Upcoming Meetings

Next EJ Rulemaking Meeting:

Cumulative Impacts Tool & Geographic
Points of Comparison
Summer 2025

Join us at other EJ events:

Connecticut Equity & Environmental
Justice Advisory Council (CEEJAC)
Thu. June 26, 2025 | 5:30-7:30 PM
Hybrid Meeting
295 Meridian St. Groton, CT

Contact us:

deep.EJrulemaking@ct.gov

Take our survey!




Scan or click to receive
email updates

Mark Mitchell, CT Health Professionals for Climate Action (CHPCA)



Wrap Up

- Next coalition meeting: **July 16, 2025**

Yale-sponsored virtual event next **Monday, April 21, 2025 (1:30-2:30pm)**, register at: <https://bit.ly/BorundaPoynterLecture2025>



Yale SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Center on Climate Change and Health



Alejandra Borunda, PhD
Climate and Health Reporter, NPR

“Climate change is hurting our bodies and minds: How climate health journalism can make a global problem personal”

Co-sponsored by the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication and the Yale School of the Environment Climate Change Science and Solutions Learning Community