

CJWG Meeting Notes

WebEx - 10.4.23

Meeting Commence 2:00pm

*Disclaimer: *Please note this is not a word for word translation.*

Agenda:

1. Presentation of heat island study
2. Next steps
3. Note: No quorum reached, no vote

Panelists/CJWG Members:

- Alanah Keddell-Tuckey, EJ Director, Office of Environmental Justice, DEC
- Jill Henck, Clean Energy Program Director, (ANCA) Adirondack North Country Association
- Adriana Espinoza, Equity and Justice Deputy Commissioner, DEC
- Michael DiRamio, Assistant Director, Energy and Climate Equity, NYSERDA
- Sameer Ranade, Climate Justice Advisor with Climate Action Council
- Sonal Jessel, Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, WEACT for Environmental Justice
- Elizabeth Yeampierre, Executive Director, UPROSE
- Elizabeth Furth, Empire Fellow, DOL
- Eddie Bautista, Executive Director, NYC Environmental Justice Alliance
- Abigail McHugh-Grifa, Executive Director, Climate Solutions Accelerator of the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region
- Neil Muscatiello, Director of the Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology, Center for Environmental Health, DOH
- Rahwa Ghirmatzion, Executive Director, PUSH Buffalo
- Tyler Picard, NYSERDA, Project Manager Energy and Climate Energy

Presentation/ Discussion of extreme heat island study

- Project Design explanation by Mark Lowery, Assistant Director of the Office of Climate Change NYS
- The statute requires the study to include recommendations to identify the effects of extreme heat in urban disadvantaged communities.
- Explanation of part A and B from Dr. Ted Endreny Environmental Science and Forestry NYS.

Breakdown:

Task A

- a) generate hottest hour heat maps and analysis for team mobilization
- b) update i-tree methods to perform heat exposure scenarios for 10-year period and future 10-year period

- c) simulate and enumerate past and future heat exposure occurrences
 - will provide 3 different heat metrics
- d) provide an online interface that communicates extreme heat findings
- e) plan features for public facing toolkit used in heat mitigation scenarios
 - we hope to have a working group in place for this task

Task B

- a) Develop and simulate heat mitigation scenarios with i-Tools
- b) Conduct statistical and map analysis of heat mitigation results
- c) Generate illustrative case studies demonstrating toolkit features
- d) Provide toolkit for extreme heat mitigation via scenario development
- e) Update toolkit annually to use latest i-tree model features and inputs

Rahwa: I agree with Elizabeth's question. How do you overlay this around the issues we are experiencing in our communities? How is DEC going to align this interagency-wise? Last year National Grid cut down a bunch of trees. How can we work with utilities to make sure they do not keep cutting down trees in our neighborhoods?

Ted: Thank you Rahwa. We would like a DEC member and a CJWG member in our working group.

Mark: There will be public facing aspects. As products are finished we will consult with our fellow agencies. DOH is already involved. Neil has helped review the scope of work. There is a substantial amount of interagency collaboration.

Alanah: Is there a timeline between finishing tasks in part A and B? When will tools be available for the public?

Mark: It will be longer than a few months. Statutory deadline is March 2024.

Rahwa: Can we get copy of today's slide presentation?

Mark: If CJWG members have questions please get them to me within two weeks.

Alanah: We will move on. Thank you again Mark and Dr. Endreny.

Alanah: DEC recently released a permitting policy with guidance for how and when to consider DACs under section 73 of CLCPA.

Eddie: He read the recent audit and found it very disturbing. Half of NY states facilities have not been in compliance. The state comptroller found 20 percent of facilities have old permits. The majority of EJ areas are exempt from current requirements. Has DEC not addressed this prior to 2013? Is DEC not always taking action for enforcing non-compliance?

Alanah: To address the audit DEC is working on our response. I cannot respond as I am not an air monitoring expert. I can schedule something with them to discuss this offline. I can respond to the EJ mapping issue. The data has been updated in 2021. We are forming a response to the Comptroller on several points. This will be made public.

Eddie: Thank you.

Alanah: We are working on having Dan Whitehead attend our next meeting. We are accepting public comments until November 27,2023. I have sent out a poll for availability for our next meeting. It will be our last meeting for 2023. Must be in person so we can approve the bylaws and approve minutes from our previous meeting. Any questions, comments? -No further questions or comments from working group.

Next Steps

- Collect poll results for last CJWG meeting of 2023. Poll closes end of business Oct.10.
 - Meeting Adjourned 3:20pm