

## CJWG Meeting Notes

Webex – 12.2.20

### At a Glance:

- Welcome and Roll Call
  - Discussions with Advisory Panels
  - Discussion Disadvantaged Communities Criteria
  - Next Steps
  - Information regarding meetings and materials can be found on [www.climate.ny.gov](http://www.climate.ny.gov)
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### Participants:

#### CJWG Members -

- Dr. Donathan Brown, Assistant Provost, Rochester Institute of Technology & CEO & Co-Founder, Adirondack Diversity Solutions
- Elizabeth Yeampierre, Executive Director, UPROSE
- Abigail McHugh-Grifa, Executive Director, Climate Solutions Accelerator of the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region
- Sonal Jessel, Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, WEACTION for Environmental Justice
- Eddie Bautista, Executive Director, NYC Environmental Justice Alliance
- Rahwa Ghirmatzion, Executive Director, PUSH Buffalo
- Jerrod Bley, Clean Energy Program Director, Adirondack North Country Association
- Mary Beth McEwen, Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oneida County
- Rosa Mendez, Director, Office of Environmental Justice, DEC
- Chris Coll, Director of Energy Affordability and Equity Program, NYSERDA
- Neil Muscatiello, Director of the Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology, Center for Environmental Health, DOH
- Joseph McNearney, Director of Stakeholder Engagement, DOL

#### Transportation Panel Members -

- Nick Sifuentes, TriState Transportation Campaign
- Renae Reynolds, NYC EJA
- Jared Snyder, Deputy Commissioner Air Resources, Climate Change & Energy, DEC

#### Land Use and Local Government Panel Members:

- Sarah Crowell, Department of State
- Mark Lowery, Climate Policy Analyst, DEC
- Kathy Moser, Open Space Institute
- Gita Nandan, Resilience, Education, and Training Innovation (RETI) Center
- Juan Camilo Osorio, Pratt Institute

Presenters -

- Amanda Dwelley, Illume Advising
- Alex Dunn, Illume Advising

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## **Meeting Start 12:04PM**

Opening Remarks- Commissioner Basil Seggos

Rosa- Review of CJWG progress

## **Transportation Advisory Panel Discussion**

- Moving towards electrification. Supporting goal could include:
  - Mandates
  - Incentives
  - Rebates
    - Looking for input from WG on how to make sure disadvantages communities benefit from electrification
- Focus on public transportation, smart growth, and system optimization
  - Creating greater mobility in our communities
  - Limiting the number of trips taken without limiting mobility
- Low Carbon Fuels in hard to electrify systems
  - Impact of co-pollutants
  - Front loading areas and expanding to areas that need it most
- Market based policies and options for funding
  - Mobilizing private funding and investment
  - Looking to the CJWG to provide guidance that will inform proposals and policies

## **Questions and Comments:**

- Eddie B – Would like to see TCI referred to as a cap, trade and invest program as opposed to cap and invest. Panel should look at the disproportionate impacts in EJ communities regarding the cap and trade programs. See California study. Look at the existing research. See <https://dornsife.usc.edu/pere/journal-environmental-equity-cap-trade-2018/>
  - Jared- Hope to include someone who has evaluated the impacts of California cap and trade on EJ communities in future discussions

- Nick- WG needs to schedule a roundtable with experts and community leaders to identify faults with previous programs and avoid them going forward
  - Elizabeth Y – Reach out to EJ community members for identifying experts. Integrate and consider people with disabilities and the elderly
  - Mary Beth M. - Expand on co-pollutants issues. Where is the power coming from and how is it impacting the environment?
    - Jared- Bus ports, transportation hubs, etc. Located in EJ areas that have harmful emissions other than green house gases. Is there a role for biofuels as a solution to reduce co-pollutants?
    - Nick- Pollution from tires on pavement, putting new asphalt on roads, etc. Therefore the group needs to consider alternative forms of transportation
    - Renae- What is the supply for biofuel and is it viable?
  - Rahwa – could the panel share the list of experts that are being considered
  - Abby McHugh Grifa – How does the goal of increasing transportation services square with goals of projected investment? Competing priorities. Would the transportation panel be making decisions on this?
    - Jared- The panels will not be making decisions but recommendations to other groups.
  - Eddie B. Alternative fuels, how the fuels will depend on maintaining our dependence on fossil fuel infrastructure?
  - Mary Beth - Have you had the opportunity to look at the electrical grid capacity as we move towards electrification? Some articles suggest that it may have to double. Expressed concern for the pollution from creation and disposal of larger batteries.
    - Elizabeth - State target is about 850,000 EVs on the road by 2025. NYSERDA keeps track of the status of the number achieved
    - Amanda Dwelley - Yes, NYSERDA has a list and map of where EVs are registered: <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/all-programs/programs/chargeny/support-electric/map-of-ev-registrations>
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## Land Use and Local Government Advisory Panel Discussion

- Looking at energy and efficiency
- Equitable production of clean energy
- Siting of solar and appropriate siting of solar by scale
- Local governments working on efficiency
- Developing recommendations on adaptation and resilience
- Avoiding climate/green gentrification
- Promoting a just transition to the green economy
- How to activate regional planning
- Collaboration with other panels especially the transportation panel
- Increase land use capacity outside of government organizations
- Promote models for shared ownership of land and infrastructure

## Questions and Comments

- Kathy- Could we invite CJWG Panelists to join local government roundtables in the future?
- Jerrod B - Adirondack North Country Association hosted a clean transportation summit in September. The resource page and recordings are available at [https://adirondack.org/CleanTransportationSummit\\_Resources](https://adirondack.org/CleanTransportationSummit_Resources)
- Adaptation resilience considerations and what are the equity issues involved
- Eddie B. - how is the panel looking at programs like the local waterfront revitalization program with regards to CLCPA?  
Industrial zones – where is there an inventory of these lands? Has mapping been done? Access would be beneficial to EJ communities. Possibly DOS?
  - Sarah- Have not seen such inventory yet, most zoning information is held at the local level
- Rahwa – local government can be an obstacle with regards to land use and development. There needs to be a plan for the old equipment after we transition to a green economy and workforce.

- Elizabeth Y.- Industrial areas cannot be turned into a “playground” for investors to generate profits without it being in the best interest of communities. How do we use infrastructure to revitalize the economy and increase resiliency?
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## **Discussion and Presentation:**

### Guiding Definition Draft

What does a disadvantaged community mean to you?

- Law: Disadvantaged communities shall be identified based on geographic, public health, environmental hazard, and socioeconomic criteria, which shall include but are not limited to:
  - o Areas burdened by cumulative environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative public health effects.
  - o Areas with concentrations of people that are of low income, high unemployment, high rent burden, low levels of home ownership, low level of educational attainment, or members of groups that have historically experienced discrimination on the basis of race or ethnicity.
  - o Areas vulnerable to the impacts of climate change such as flooding, storm surges, and urban heat island effect.
- Low income
- Spatial distribution – large travel distance between amenities
- Black, indigenous, people of color; those impacted by systemic and historical racism; those that are susceptible to extreme weather events; most impacted by climate change
- Regarding geography – target at household level; don’t lose sight of people, don’t hyper focus on place
- Different needs based on region – exposed to different types of threats i.e. waterfront, rural, etc. – doesn’t define what a disadvantaged community is, but needs to be considered
- Communities that face meaningful, measurable differences in environmental exposure and health impacts
- Don’t focus on maps; don’t reflect actual disadvantaged communities
- Communities that suffer from disinvestment over time; noninvestment

### Preview of evaluation rubric for disadvantaged communities indicators

Eddie. B – can we organize a discussion with representatives from California and EJ member on effectiveness of CalScreen?

Rosa: we will follow up on organizing.

Abigail: process for agreement? Voting on minutes prior to accepting.

Rosa: majority vote. Potential use of polling function on Web Ex. Will get help on using the poll function.

Elizabeth: request to have documents sent earlier to working group members for their consideration.

Next Steps:

- Next meeting is December 16<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.
- Rosa will follow up with members with minutes and next steps to prepare for 12/16

**Adjourn 2:00PM**