# 



#### New York Climate Justice Working Group

Considerations for Indicator Selection and DAC Scoring Approach Amanda Dwelley Director, ILLUME Advising LLC

November 16, 2020







# Screening Criteria (Indicators and Data)



*Level of effort/time to transform to census geographies* 

# Anatomy of an Indicator (Example)

"Areas with concentrations of people that are of low income..."

FACTOR / CONCEPT	INDICATOR (EXAMPLE*)	METRIC (EXAMPLE)	DATA SOURCE	
	Poverty Status	Percent of families with incomes ≤ Federal Poverty Level (100% or 200%) for household size	Census	
Low Income	Median Income	Median household income	Census	
	Median Income vs. Area Median Income	Median household income ≤ 60% Area Median Income	Census and	
	HUD Qualified Census Tracts	Binary indicator of QCT (50% of HHs with incomes <60% of area median or poverty rate of 25% or more)	HUD	

#### Indicator Inclusion Considerations California's Criteria for Indicator Selection



An indicator should provide a measure that is relevant to the component it represents, in the context of the **2005 CalEPA cumulative impacts definition**.

- Indicators should represent **widespread concerns** related to pollution in California.
- The indicators taken together should provide a good representation of each component.
- Pollution burden indicators should relate to **issues that may be potentially actionable by CalEPA boards and departments.**
- Population characteristics indicators should represent demographic factors known to influence **vulnerability to disease.**
- Data for the indicator should be available for the entire state at the census tract level geographical unit or translatable to the census tract level.
- Data should be of **sufficient quality**, and be: Complete, Accurate. Current



#### Objectives

"The working group, in consultation with the department, the departments of health and labor, the New York state energy and research development authority, and the environmental justice advisory group, will establish criteria to identify disadvantaged communities for the purposes of co-pollutant reductions, greenhouse gas emissions reductions, regulatory impact statements, and the allocation of investments related to this article."



# Indicator Inclusion Considerations

*Example* Rubric for Selecting Indicators

Does the indicator...

...Directly address language of legislation?

...Represent risks, threats or vulnerabilities related to greenhouse gas emissions, criteria emissions or climate change?

... Represent risks, threats or vulnerabilities that are potentially actionable by New York State agencies?

How well does it...

...Represent the component or concept/factor? (e.g., direct indicator or proxy?)

...Contribute something unique to scoring? (vs. high correlation with other indicators)

Is the data...

- ...Available statewide and/or at geographic level needed?
- ...Accurate (limited measurement error?)
- ...Current? (and/or updated regularly?)
- ...Possible to obtain/include within timeline?

What are the most important things for the definition to do?

What is the CJWG process for \*submitting\* an indicator to be considered?

What is the CJWG process for vetting and narrowing the indicators and metrics that CJWG members propose?

### Uniqueness (Example)

"Areas vulnerable to the impacts of climate change such as...[...]...urban heat island effect."

FACTOR / DIMENSION	N D   C A T O R ( E X A M P L E * )	METRIC (EXAMPLE	) DATA SOURCE		Socioeconomic factors and	
Urban Heat Island	Heat Vulnerability Index	Includes socioeconomic factors, age, language and environmental vulnerabilit	New York State Department of Health		language may be considered elsewhere	
	Environmental Component of HVI	Housing density, highly developed land, open undeveloped land and housing stock	New York State Department of Health		This indicator seems more unique, but is comprised of 4 metrics –You could	
	NYC Heat Vulnerability Index	% Vegetative Cover Temperature on a hot August day	NYC DOHMH	-	include all or some of them	
	Temperature change projections	Different projections for 2020s, 2050s, 2080s	NY ClimAid models	-		

# Data Availability (Example)

"Areas vulnerable to the impacts of climate change such as...[...]...urban heat island effect."

FACTOR / DIMENSION	INDICATOR (EXAMPLE*)	METRIC (EXAMPLE)	DATA SOURCE	SMALLEST GEOGRAPHY	DATA READILY- AVAILABLE FOR CENSUS TRACTS <sup>?</sup>		
Urban Heat Island	Heat Vulnerability Index	Includes socioeconomic, age, language and environmental vulnerability	New York State Department of Health	Census tract	Partial (does not cover NYC)	"Prepackaged" data not	
	Environmental Component of HVI	Housing density, highly developed land, open undeveloped land and housing stock	New York State Department of Health	Census tract	Partial (does not cover NYC)	available statewide, but we could pull individual metrics	
	NYC Heat Vulnerability Index	% Vegetative Cover Temperature on a hot August day	NYC DOHMH	NYC community districts	Maybe for NYC (community districts should map to CTs) No for NYS		
	Temperature change projections	Different projections for 2020s, 2050s, 2080s	NY ClimAid models	Unknown	Unknown		



#### CLCPA Criteria for Disadvantaged Communities

"Communities that bear burdens of negative public health effects, environmental pollution, impacts of climate change, and possess certain socioeconomic criteria, or comprise high-concentrations of low- and moderate- income households."

"Disadvantaged communities shall be identified based on geographic, public health, environmental hazard, and socioeconomic criteria, which shall include but are not limited to:

Areas burdened by cumulative environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative public health effects.

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.

Areas vulnerable to the impacts of climate change such as flooding, storm surges, and urban heat island effect."

#### About ILLUME Advising





Ethnographic research, market research and analytics around energy needs and barriers

People and households historically underserved by energy programs and services

Human-centered research as a platform for policy engagement

National scale, including Massachusetts, California, Arizona, Minnesota, Oregon, New York and EPA/DOE