

CJWG Meeting Notes

WebEx - 8.26.21

Meeting Commence 2:00pm

Agenda:

- A. Introductions
- B. Prep for Sept 13 CAC
- C. Barriers Study update and public input session
- D. DAC Criteria
 - o Timeline for Sept/Oct meetings & voting
 - o Questions and updates from last meeting
 - o Revised scenario to discuss in September
 - o Pre-reading for September
- E. Next Steps

A)Introductions:

- Alanah Keddell-Tuckey, acting EJ Director/Public Outreach Specialist , DEC, Office of Environmental Justice
- Sonal Jessel, Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, WEACTION for Environmental Justice
- Eddie Bautista, Executive Director, NYC Environmental Justice Alliance
- Elizabeth Yeampierre, Executive Director, UPROSE
- Rahwa Ghirmatzion, Executive Director, PUSH Buffalo
- Jerrod Bley, Clean Energy Program Director, Adirondack North Country Association
- 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
- Alex Dunn – Illume Advising, Consultant
- Amanda Dwelley – Illume Advising, Consultant
- Abigail McHugh-Grifa, Executive Director for Climate Solutions Accelerator
- Sameer Ranade, Climate Justice Advisor with Climate Action Council
- Donathan Brown
- Jared Snyder, Deputy Commissioner of Climate, Air and Energy, DEC
- Tyler Picard, NYSERDA
- Mary Beth McEwan, Executive Director, Cornell University

B) Prep for Sept 13 CAC- Sameer

- At this meeting CJWG members are scheduled to present.

- At this meeting Sameer suggested that the working group present on land use and local government as well as Agriculture and Forestry.
- For the rescheduled meeting TBA after Sept 13 working group can present on the remaining panels.
- Side Note: Sending PP to everyone today from our last rescheduled meeting. Members, please look out for it.

Eddie: Are CAC members still deciding on a date for next meeting after Sept 13? Or is there a decided date to add to our calendars?

Sameer: Meeting time for Sept 13 CAC will be 2pm-5pm. Will follow up with the CAC and get back to CJWG members.

Eddie: We have requested previously that CAC post their meeting schedule for the rest of 2021. If they have not, I'd like to reiterate this request from us.

Sameer: To his knowledge CAC's meeting schedule is still being worked on.

Jared S: We are trying to get those meetings scheduled shortly and available for CJWG members and Council members hopefully soon.

Jerrod B: I believe at our last meeting we did not fully commit to presenting on all the panel recommendations. Please clarify, do we have 2 more opportunities to present, and 6 or 7 recommendations left to tackle? There was discussion about tackling those last recommendations in writing. Question for the group, how do we want to move forward with this?

Sameer: Thank you Jerrod. So, there are 4 remaining panels: 1)waste, 2)just transition, 3)E.I.T.E., 4)adaptation and resilience. So, of those 4 the CJWG needs to decide which one to present on. For the remaining 3 the working group can submit their input in writing. There is one remaining opportunity to present these last four.

Alanah: Abigail shared she has limited availability on Sept 13. Can we present at an earlier time on Sept 13?

Sameer: Yes, I saw her comment as well. I can definitely flag that for Sarah Osgood and get clarification on the meeting time when they speak early next week. CJWG should have more time to present at this CAC meeting. Sameer will follow up on the time request.

Abigail: At some point I know we will be travelling for in person voting. I would love to get that date on my calendar.

Alanah: Yes, we are working on a date. Process is to setup as many locations that can be sites as possible. We recognize commuting to Albany is not ideal for everyone here today. Whether or not we go back to the suspension of open meetings law is a definite issue. We will be addressing this in the upcoming slides.

Elizabeth: Will there be any discussion about urban agriculture at Sept 13's meeting?

Eddie: Yes Elizabeth, that's among our recommendations. I will share with you offline.

C) Barriers Study update – Sameer

- If you haven't everyone, please review the email sent containing an update on where things stand with the study. Working group can connect with Sameer offline if they'd like a progress rundown.
- Next week Aug 30 we will begin focus groups. Sameer will reach out to everyone with a description. We would appreciate your input in finding people for this session.
- Week of Sept 20 tentative date for public input sessions are scheduled. We'd appreciate your input finding people for these sessions.
- Reminder, Public hearings will be late October.
- Rest assured your input is coming through with the CAC.

Discussion of slides- Illume

Discussion of CLCPA language

Discussion of our interpretation of legislation

Discussion of five services and commodities topics

Timeline: Barriers Study Activities

Note: What we are referring to as a Barriers Study is from this portion of the CLCPA

Note: The report must be finalized by Jan 1, 2022

We are doing existing research for Barriers and opportunities listed in public studies. We are looking for NY specific research from organizations who have done community outreach. ie) We found a study WE ACT did about cooling shelters which we will be using. For this phase if members can think of anything their organizations did, please pass that along to Illume.

Week of Sept 20:

Illume is hosting online public input sessions. Purpose is to ask people what they see as barriers to all of this. Public's feedback will be translated into a draft outline or draft framework of barriers and opportunities. We will wrap up with 2 public hearings. In between those two activities there will be focus groups for each topic area.

Eddie: There have been regulatory hearings over the years focused on Barriers. Folks gave a lot of input on the VDR (value distributed energy resources). Lot of legit complaints about the Barriers VDR was presenting. Let's avoid a situation of there has already been testimony of Barriers. Secondly, how will this process factor in local municipality issues?

Amanda: Yes, there are 1000's of public comments from previous proceedings. Goal is to use as much previous research as possible, so our focus groups are really targeted. Targeted on emerging ideas and things that weren't as well researched.

Chris: Let's start with what we have already. Issues at local levels with municipalities should emerge through this work Amanda described.

Amanda: We'd like to track down any feedback from the NY State Fire Dept and utilize that. If we can't there can also be a focus group on that topic that Fire could potentially participate in.

Abigail: I noticed the public info session is during Climate Week. Was that intentional? Will this make it harder for people to engage?

Amanda: No intentional alignment. More so we have an aggressive timeline because of the November draft deadline. If you think that scheduling doesn't give people enough time we can discuss moving the info sessions to the following week.

Amy: This could be a good way to get people involved. People are always looking for ways to engaged during those types of opportunities.

Amanda: Idea is to have an afternoon and an evening session with a short overview of the legislation then open the floor to comments. Comments being 3 minutes each.

Jerrod B: Amanda will you be providing collateral for us to share to promote these events?

Amanda: Yes. What would be helpful for you?

Jerrod B: Flyers, one pagers, social media posts. Whatever you can work out.

Amanda: We are definitely looking at e-blasts and social media. We have not discussed flyers yet. Other thoughts?

Groupmembers: No.

Focus Areas: 5 Services and Commodities

1. Distributed renewable energy generation
2. Energy efficiency and weatherization investments
3. Zero-emission and low-emission transportation option
4. Adaptation measures to improve resiliency of homes and local infrastructure to the impacts of climate change
5. Services and infrastructure to reduce risks associated with climate related hazards

Abigail: Amanda will you be putting out a preliminary study? Something to prime people for the public information sessions?

Amanda: I don't think we will do that. That's more so done in public hearings.

Elizabeth: I think the more informed the public is the more they can provide useful input.

Amanda: Appreciate that feedback.

Jerrod B: Do you have a target audience or is it just all of NY?

Amanda: For the first run we'd like to hear from anyone interested. For the focus groups we want to hear from specific audiences. ie) people living in heat vulnerable areas or coastal areas. Jerrod did you have ideas on who to target?

Jerrod: Not per se. Just trying to wrap my head around what the objectives are and how to get there.

Sameer: Jerrod, for the focus groups it could be focused on who we've already reached out to. ie) We've been reached out to about school buses. We can go back to that specific source.

Jerrod B: Thanks Sameer

D) DAC Criteria

Timeline- Alanah

- Calendar HOLD has been sent to working group members for Sept 17. For anyone who did not receive it, Saran will resend today.
- Sept 17 may not be the best way. Alternate times were proposed from the doodle poll. Please let Alanah know in the chat or email her which days work best or if the 17th is the best.
- Barriers date conflicts with Climate week. We are open to adjusting the date.

Chris: Are you referring to in-person voting?

Alanah: Yes, with multiple locations that qualify under the open meetings law as a site. Being at the hearings is welcome but not required for the working group.

Jerrod B: Alanah, is there a contingency plan if the open meetings law was suspended again?

Alanah: If that happens, we will still have that meeting online via WebEx. Goal is to come to consensus. Meeting will be recorded just like this one. Meeting hold will be for Sept 17 from 1pm-3pm.

Amy: Just want to reiterate Sept 16 falls under Yom Kippur.

Alanah: Alternate dates from doodle poll:

- Tentatively Sept 14 from 12:30-2:30pm
- Tentatively Sept 16 from 10am-12pm
- Seeing in the chat suggestions for the vote to happen early Nov 2021 instead.

Eddie: WebEx is not the best platform. Not as accessible and discourages participation because it is not user friendly. Should we be using it for public hearings?

Alanah: She can bring this up at DEC. Taking November into account puts the process ending sometime in January 2022. We'll need time to analyze all public comments and address them accordingly. We'll reconvene to discuss any adjustments. Estimated date for finished product late March, early April 2022.

Chris: That's an ambitious timeline. Let's make sure we have time to adequately assess all input and adjust as needed. Once we get into the process, we can see better what needs to be tweaked.

Alanah: Reminder we do not have a statutory deadline. Still, we do not want it to take too long.

Chris: Something to flag. Agencies are reporting on the benefits to DACs. That reporting process will need to be taken into account as we complete our final draft for DACs. Longer we take to reach a final draft the more it will impact the agencies providing reporting on DACs. Let's revisit this later as a group.

Illume

- We'd like to provide the CJWG with a pre-read document to get their feedback on. The goal of the document is to get working group members prepared for the September meetings.
- Something to consider for our September discussion. How many scenarios are we going to pull out for public comment?
- Presentation of slides and screen sharing

Eddie: Clarification. Did Illume look through a racial lens overlay for historically redlined areas? What was once a historically redlined community often is not anymore.

Amanda: When we thought about how we wanted to weight these indicators we found using redlining to be more appropriate coupled with the current racial and ethnic mix of the census tracts.

Alex: This is a big departure from California's model which did not account for race and ethnicity. We've added Asian into the race and ethnicity component.

Amanda: California per state regulations was not permitted to include race and ethnicity in their scoring. They included income and housing ability.

Group member: Does this correct for gentrified neighborhoods?

Amanda: It wasn't designed to specifically do that.

Alex: Gentrification is a hard thing to capture.

Note: Summary of potential adjustments slide will be in the pre-read document Illume will be sending to the working group.

Alex: Biggest change we made was separating race and income into their own separate factors. This gave us more control in the model.

**Further presentation of slides by Illume.
Discussion**

E) Next Steps

- What does the working group need? What are they concerned about?
- Illume will provide a pre-read document and slides from today.
- Next meeting tentatively Sept 17. Invite to come.

End: 4:06pm