

CJWG Meeting
WebEx- 04/21/2021

At a Glance:

- Overview of timeline for next couple of months
- Preview of decision paths
- Update on data analysis
- Information regarding meetings and materials can be found on www.climate.ny.gov

Participants:

CJWG Members -

- Elizabeth Yeampierre, Executive Director, UPROSE
- Sonal Jessel, Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, WEACT 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 Oneida County
- Abigail McHugh-Grifa, Executive Director, Climate Solutions Accelerator
- Amy Klein, Executive Director, Capital Roots
- Rosa Méndez, 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

Presenters –

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

Welcome & Roll Call

Business Items

- Reflections on 3/24/2021 meeting.

Update on data and analysis. Discussed need to document as we go through. Discussed recommendations for collecting data going forward. We discussed combining indicators and the different ways to approach that idea.

- 3/24/2021 meeting minutes approved.

Overview of Timeline

Eddie – requested description of approaches for working group

Rosa – working on putting it together for the group.

Alex – doing some of that today and will follow up with a ppt or other documentation.

Introduced Sameer Ranade as CJ advisor

Advisory Panel Feedback Planning

Eddie – synopsis will be shared? Would like to see fullness. Concerned with some of the recommendations that are not as reflective of true consensus or are flying in face of CLCPA.

Sonal – when receive?

Rosa – first batch today next batch around May 10.

Jerrod – written response. Or consolidated thoughts.

Elizabeth – both.

Rahwa – yes.

Timeline, What's ahead for us

- We have our ground truthing exercise working group members have been asked to participate in.
- We are coming up with draft scenario maps which the working group will review.
- We'd like to continue with one on ones with working group members.
- We are thinking about our public engagement once the draft is ready.
- Once all comments are received through public process there will be a review of draft documentation and review of comments as they come in.
- We've discussed what does the distribution of DAC's look like regionally? Should changes be made to get more regional distribution?
- We need consensus on the indicators to determine census tracts.
- We need consensus on the approach or how we combine indicators.
- We need consensus on scenarios or how the distribution looks on a map.

Elizabeth – talk about benefits

- a) 40 percent of “overall benefits” is a highly discretionary and ultimately subjective metric. A similar mandate in California (SB 535) requires a specific, quantifiable share of spending from a specific, quantifiable pool of public funds (GHG Reduction Fund). We are not aware of any government programs with a percentage of “overall benefits” as a metric for compliance.
- b) “Overall benefits” is not tractable for purposes of compliance and accountability over time.
- c) Intractable compliance compromises integrity of EJ commitment and sows community distrust and disengagement.
- d). Potential Result: Huge opportunity for public investment to drive a racially and economically just transition is unfulfilled or deeply compromised.

Rahwa – what is 40% of

Eddie – reason why first version of law talked about investments and not benefits. The inclusion of benefits language is complicated and jumped into national space. Nothing in law prevents

interpretation of benefits as investment. If we all agree that it should be direct investments it will make easier and more transparent.

Chris – do need to understand how operationalizing investments. Trying to pull together a number of considerations including “benefits” and what the pool is. Teeing that up for May.

Alex – what we think has to happen over next couple of months. Still missing some data pieces for drafts of maps.

Week of May 10 works.

Eddie – tutorial before may 10 would be helpful

Rahwa – how long is it on May 10? 2 hours? Or longer?

Rosa – right now is 2 hours

Elizabeth – hard for our organizations. Sacrifice but willing to make. These discussions need to be held. Need to be a bit more urgent.

Rahwa – need materials further in advance.

Abigail – schedule out through July would be better.

Next Steps

What we are working on:

- Reducing the number of indicators.
- We are still missing critical indicators. ie) environment on climate risk indicators
- GIS analysis or missing indicators
- Tableau interface
- Evaluate scenarios (ground truthing)

What we need from you

- Ground truthing results

Where We are:

- New ideas and trouble shooting

Indicators we are waiting on

- Climate: Storm search and sea level rise
- Health: Premature death (coming in end of April 2021)
- Environmental hazards: proximity to state
- **the above will change the scenarios

Eddie: How do we anticipate this impacting our May meetings if we are still waiting on data?

Alex: Right now we do not have much on climate but are working with agencies on this topic.

Combining data is a stepped process. We need to group indicators that speak to a specific concept together.

Chris: Are we looking at the top percentile of communities on these maps Illume provided? What is the state composition?

Eddie: Does DEC monitor sites for vapor intrusion? How do we process proximity to remediated sites? ie) There was an instance in the Bronx by a school, which became a significant issue.

Rosa: Will run question by the remediation team.

- Explanation of scenario using top quartile of census tracts.
- Presentation looking at various draft scenarios.
- Touched on big flood and storm surge issues that could happen
- Went over maps the working group will look at to help assess things for their ground truthing.

Amy: If areas are officially designated then there are opportunities for those regions to receive private or federal funding. Why not call the DAC's what they are and then have a separate conversation for investment?

Eddie: In trying to appear more even handed are in fact DAC communities being denied attention? There are tangible benefits we can get beyond the funding.

Alex: Big advantage we have is this working group. We have specific entities in our vulnerabilities score. We hear the need for investment benefits and how that affects the choices the group makes.

Goals Going forward:

- Illume is committing to getting the working group access to materials ahead of time as much as they can.
- Scheduling multiple meetings as far in advance as possible.
- Tutorials will also be scheduled

Adjourn 1:00pm