



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Climate Justice Working Group Meeting

February 11, 2025

Meeting Procedures

- Meeting rooms will be muted to reduce noise
- Working Group members should raise their hand to indicate they would like to speak
- Please state your name before speaking for recording purposes
- Remote participants should be on video with name visible per Open Meetings Law

Agenda



Agenda

1. Opening remarks
2. Roll call
3. Approve minutes from previous meetings
4. DAC review
5. Continued deliberation on new indicators
6. Next steps



Roll Call



Approval of Minutes



Annual Review

Disadvantaged Communities Criteria Review

This meeting we will

- Review the maps with the proposed new indicators
- Deliberate on proposed new indicators
 - Take interim votes on proposed new indicators
- Have open discussion



Deliberate on New Indicators

Let's review the factors with

- Diabetes
- Proximity to airports
- Proximity to rail



Indicators: Framework

Currently, the Geographic DAC scoring approach uses data from national and state sources to integrate 45 indicators into 7 factors that are then combined into two component scores. For each indicator the percentile-rank of each census tract is used in scoring.

Environmental Burdens and Climate Change Risks

Potential
Pollution
Exposures

Land use assoc.
with historical
discrimination or
disinvestment

Potential
Climate
Change Risks

20 Indicators in this component
+ Proximity to airports/rail
= 21-22

Population Characteristics and Health Vulnerabilities

Income,
Education,
Employment

Race,
Ethnicity,
Language

Health
Impacts &
Burdens

Housing,
Energy,
Communica-
tions

25 Indicators in this component
+ Diabetes
= 26

If we included all three new
indicators, we would have 48
indicators in the criteria



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Environmental Burdens and Climate Change Risks: Indicators (21-22 total indicators)

Potential Pollution Exposures

- Vehicle traffic density
- Diesel truck and bus traffic
- Particulate Matter (PM2.5)
- Benzene concentration
- Wastewater discharge
- **+ Airport**
- **+ Rail noise pollution**

Land use and facilities associated with historical discrimination or disinvestment

- Remediation Sites (e.g., NPL Superfund or State Superfund/Class II sites)
- Regulated Management Plan (chemical) sites
- Major oil storage facilities (incl. airports)
- Power generation facilities
- Active landfills
- Municipal waste combustors
- Scrap metal processors
- Industrial/manufacturing/mining land use (zoning)
- Housing vacancy rate

Potential Climate Change Risks

- Extreme heat projections (>90° days in 2050)
- Flooding in coastal and tidally influenced areas (projected)
- Flooding in inland areas (projected)
- Low vegetative cover
- Agricultural land
- Driving time to hospitals or urgent/critical care

This factor has 2x weight



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Population Characteristics and Health Vulnerabilities: Indicators (26 total indicators)

Income, Education & Employment

- Pct <80% Area Median Income
- Pct <100% of Federal Poverty Line
- Pct without Bachelor's Degree
- Unemployment rate
- Pct Single-parent households

Within this factor, both income metrics have 2x weight

Race, Ethnicity & Language

- Pct Latino/a or Hispanic
- Pct Black or African American
- Pct Asian
- Pct Native American or Indigenous
- Limited English Proficiency
- Historical redlining score

Within this factor, Pct Latino/a and Pct Black have 2x weight

Health Impacts & Sensitivities

- Asthma ED visits
- COPD ED visits
- Heart attack (MI) hospitalization
- Premature Deaths
- Low Birthweight
- Pct without Health Insurance
- Pct with Disabilities
- Pct Adults age 65+
- **+ Diabetes**

Housing, Energy, Communications

- Pct Renter-Occupied Homes
- Housing cost burden (rental costs)
- Energy Poverty / Cost Burden
- Manufactured homes
- Homes built before 1960
- Pct without Internet (home or cellular)



8 Scenarios and Results

Results of 8 Scenarios

- During our last discussion we looked at 4 scenarios:
 1. Refreshed data
 2. + diabetes
 3. + diabetes & airport proximity
 4. + diabetes & rail proximity
 - Upon reviewing the maps – the group was unsure about including the diabetes indicator
 - Now we have 8 different indicator combinations – so we can review new indicators in various combinations
- Scenario 1: Original indicators with refreshed data
- Scenario 2: Refreshed data + diabetes
- Scenario 3: Refreshed data + diabetes + airport proximity
- Scenario 4: Refreshed data + diabetes + rail proximity
- Scenario 5: Refreshed data + airport proximity
- Scenario 6: Refreshed data + airport proximity + rail proximity
- Scenario 7: Refreshed data + rail proximity
- Scenario 8: Refreshed data + diabetes + airport proximity + rail proximity

Draft results (as of November 2024)

Scenario 1: Original indicators with refreshed data

Scenario 2: Scenario 1 + diabetes

Scenario 3: Scenario 1 + airport proximity

Scenario 4: Scenario 2 + rail proximity

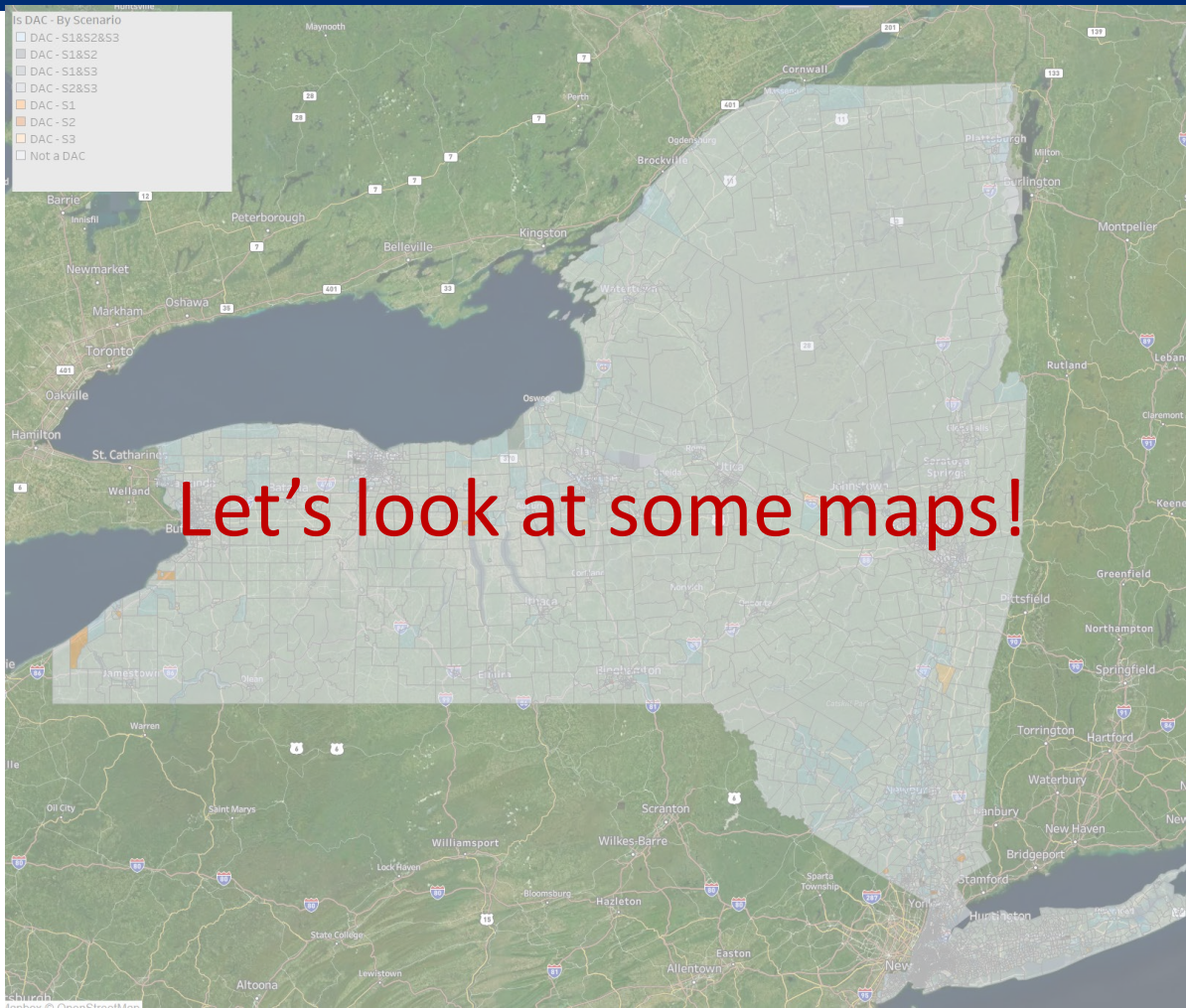
Scenario 5: Scenario 1 + airport proximity

Scenario 6: Scenario 5 + rail proximity

Scenario 7: Scenario 1 + rail proximity

Scenario 8: Scenario 1 + diabetes + airport proximity + rail proximity

Region	Total Tracts in NYS	S1 - Refresh	S2 - Diabetes	S3 - Diabetes+ Airports	S4 - Diabetes+ Rail	S5 - Airports	S6 - Airports+ Rail	S7 - Rail	S8 - Diabetes+ Airports + Rail
Capital Region	326	69	69	70	70	69	72	71	71
Central NY	244	72	73	73	73	72	73	72	73
Finger Lakes	358	96	97	96	94	94	93	94	94
Long Island	671	88	91	99	98	95	98	97	102
Mid-Hudson	600	272	269	257	261	266	259	262	257
Mohawk Valley	158	30	30	30	32	30	31	32	31
New York City	2,327	1,083	1,082	1,070	1,069	1,068	1,048	1,064	1,054
North Country	134	15	14	16	15	17	18	15	16
Southern Tier	189	35	34	34	34	33	35	35	34
Western NY	404	141	141	143	139	141	138	138	139
Grand Total	5,411	1,901	1,900	1,888	1,885	1,885	1,865	1,880	1,871
		Total DACs							



Interim votes



What this means

- We will prepare all results and documentation based on the indicators voted to be included here.
- Your interim vote is for deliberation purposes to help move us along, but it is not binding. You may change your mind before the final vote.



Interim vote 1

- Include rate of diabetes as a new indicator in the health impacts factor
- Vote yes or no

Interim vote 2

- Include airport proximity as a new indicator in the health impacts factor
- Vote yes or no

Interim vote 3

- Include railway proximity as a new indicator in the health impacts factor
- Vote yes or no

Here's where we are after heads-up voting

- *[add updates here]*

Review of Methodological Considerations



Double Weighting of Factors



Double weighting of factors

- The potential climate change risk factor was double-weighted because of the focus of the CLCPA and because there are 3 environmental burden factors vs. 4 population vulnerability factors
- 2 income and 2 race indicators are also double-weighted, but within their respective factors

Scoring Approach: Multi-Step Process

Estimate factor scores as weighted averages of indicator percentile ranks (step 1), then estimate component scores as weighted average of percentile scores.



Factor scores are weighted and added before adding:



Climate Risks are given double weight within Component to equalize the combined weights of Environmental factors (Pollution Exposures + Land Use) with Climate.

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Regional Thresholds



There are regional differences in scores

To address these differences, we use:

- Regional scoring – we use relative ranking statewide and regionally)
- Individual criteria – We use the individual criteria (for clean energy and energy efficiency investment purposes only) to try and cover more rural households.

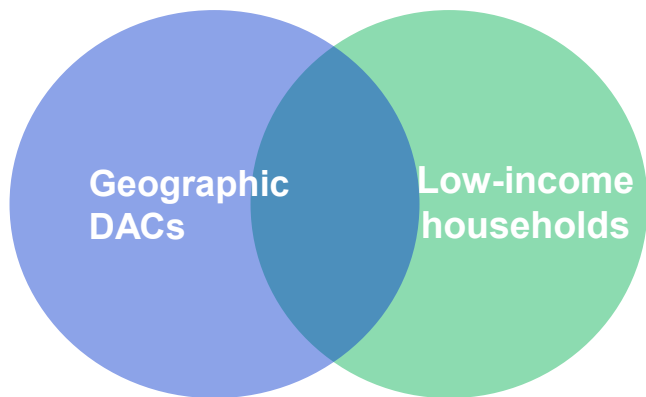
Indicator	Rural	Urban	Difference
Overall DAC Score	67.9	90.1	22.2



Individual Criteria



Individual Criteria



Include low-income households located anywhere in the State in the Disadvantaged Communities criteria **for the purpose of** investing or directing clean energy programs, projects or investments (i.e., only for purposes of ECL 75-0117).

Individual Criteria

Poverty: Annual household income at or below 100% of Federal Poverty Level

Low income: Annual household income at or below 60% State Median Income (SMI), or categorical eligibility with other low-income programs

Selected to (a) align with publicly-administered programs, (b) minimize additional income documentation and screening (SNAP, SSI, Temporary Assistance), (c) and start at low-income threshold, which can be reassessed after 1 year

Moderate income: Annual household income above 60% of SMI, but lower than 80% of Area Median Income (and sometimes 80% state median income)





Next Steps

Overview of the voting packet

- The technical and state teams have prepared a voting packet for the CJWG to reference before the final vote in March. The materials include:
 1. A report going over all the information covered in meetings in the past year
 2. A slide deck covering the same information
 3. Interactive Tableau maps
- Let us know if you have questions on any of the materials





Thank you