



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

# Climate Justice Working Group Meeting

June 17, 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. Sunsetting with Illume
4. Updates to CJWG Membership
5. Update on DAC 2.0
6. NYS Community Air Monitoring Presentation
7. Next Steps

# Sunsetting with Illume





# **Updates to CJWG Membership**



# Updates to CJWG Membership

- Recent Appointments
- CJWG Member Term Periods

## Recent Appointments

- Two new representatives have been appointed to the CJWG:
  - **Arif Ullah**, who will be joining as an NYC representative
  - **Eric Walker**, who will be joining as an upstate-urban representative
  - DEC is working to fill the last vacancy (NYC)



## **CJWG Member Term Periods**

- All CJWG representatives have a term period of 3 years. This does not apply to the DEC Director of the Office of Environmental Justice. Representatives may be considered for a subsequent term and are encouraged to continue participating until a successor is named.
- Seven representatives have an appointment date of 11/14/2023, the date when the bylaws were adopted. These representatives will have a term limit date of 11/14/2026.

# **Update on DAC 2.0**



## **Update on DAC 2.0**

- Quick overview of DAC 2.0
- Public Release of and Implementation of Version 2.0
- Improving Annual Review Process

## 2024 Annual Review

As a reminder, the 2024 annual review resulted in:

- updating the indicators to use the **most recent data available**,
- updating the maps to be based on the **2020 U.S. Census**,
- and a change in how the **Proximity to Landfills** indicator is measured.

## **Public Release and Implementation**

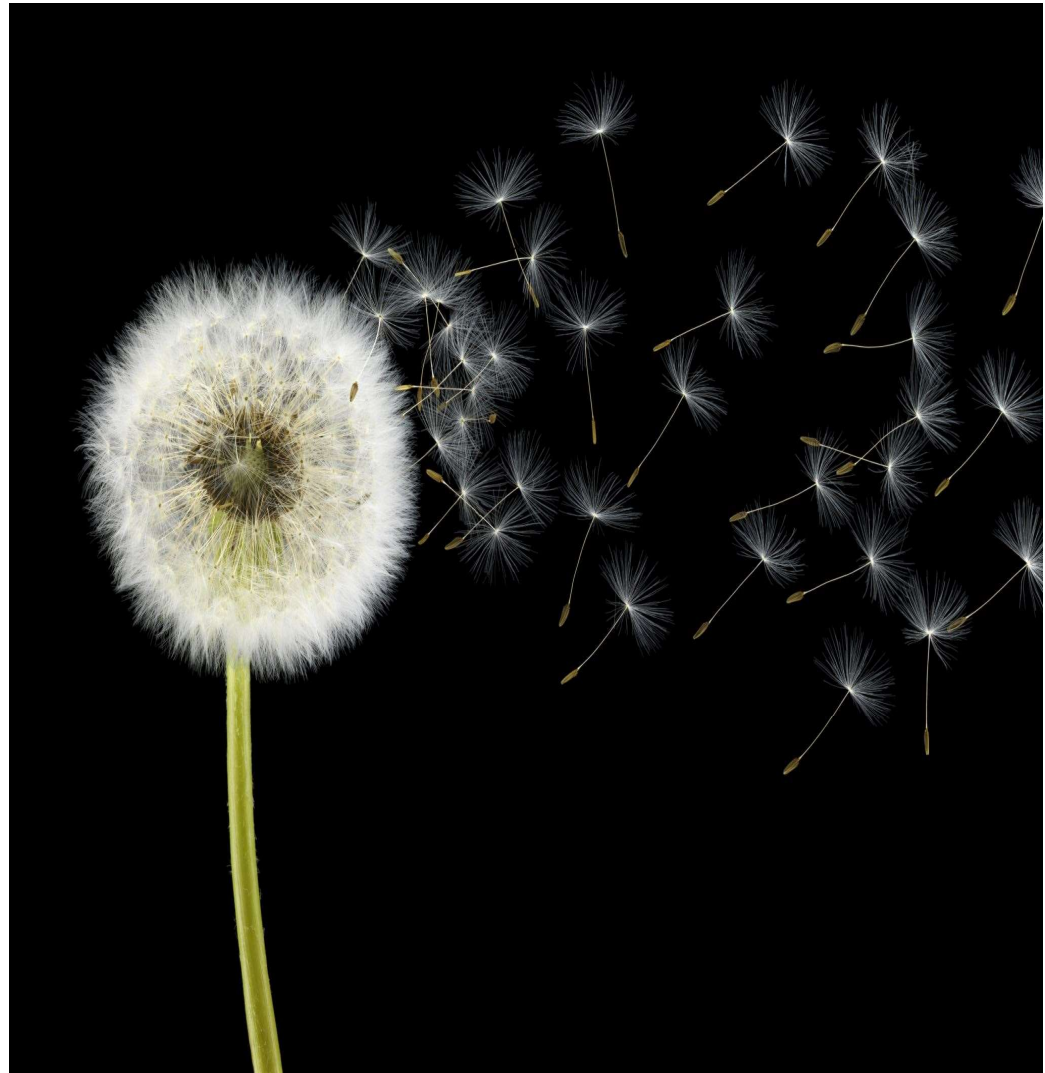
- The DAC Criteria are used in a multitude of ways across state government, and the State team has been undertaking a through process to consider how this first update to the Criteria will impact those programs.
- CJWG members will be notified when a date is set for public release of DAC 2.0



## **Improving the Annual Review Cycle**

- The CJWG is required by law to review the DAC Criteria annually
- Demographic and indicator-basis data is commonly updated on a slower cadence, e.g. every 2, 3, 5, or 10 years.
  - Demographic and indicator-basis data is generally calculated on 5-year estimates
- The universe of programs that use DACs require a level of predictability in the Criteria

# **NYS Community Air Monitoring Presentation**





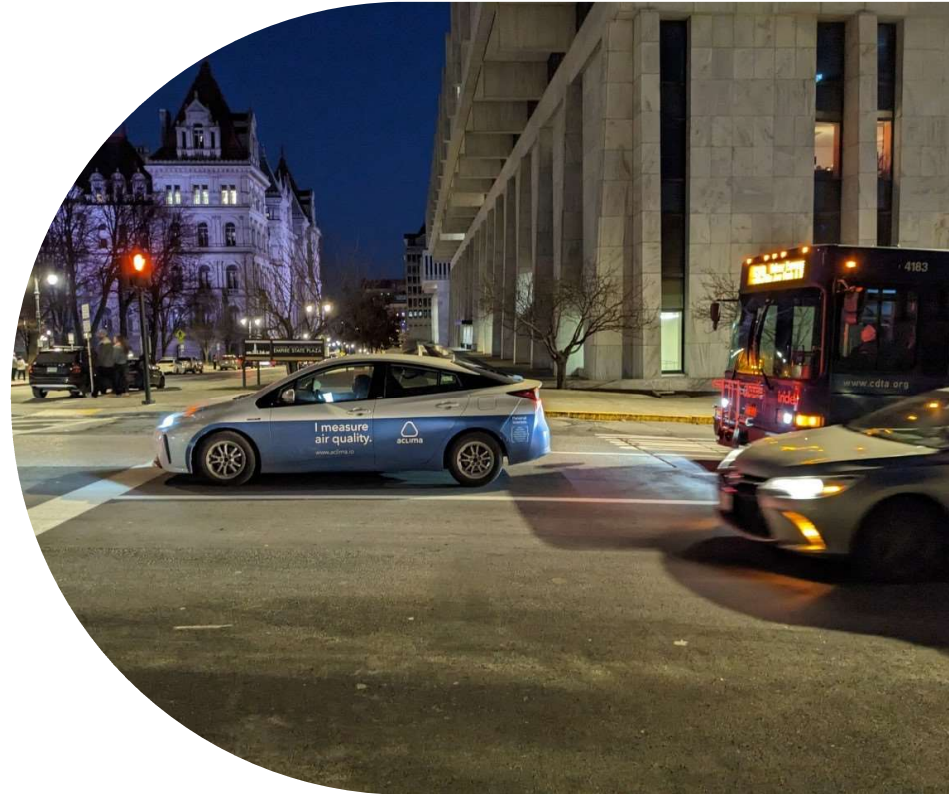
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# **NYS Community Air Monitoring Initiative**

## Today's Update

- Climate Act's Community Air Monitoring Initiative Overview
- Overall Findings
- Next Steps: Developing Air Pollution Reduction Strategies in Partnership with Community
  - State Agency and CJWG roles

# **NYS Community Air Monitoring Initiative**





# Climate Leadership & Community Protection Act



**Required Community Air Monitoring and**

**At least 35% of clean energy benefits to Disadvantaged Communities**

**Why?**

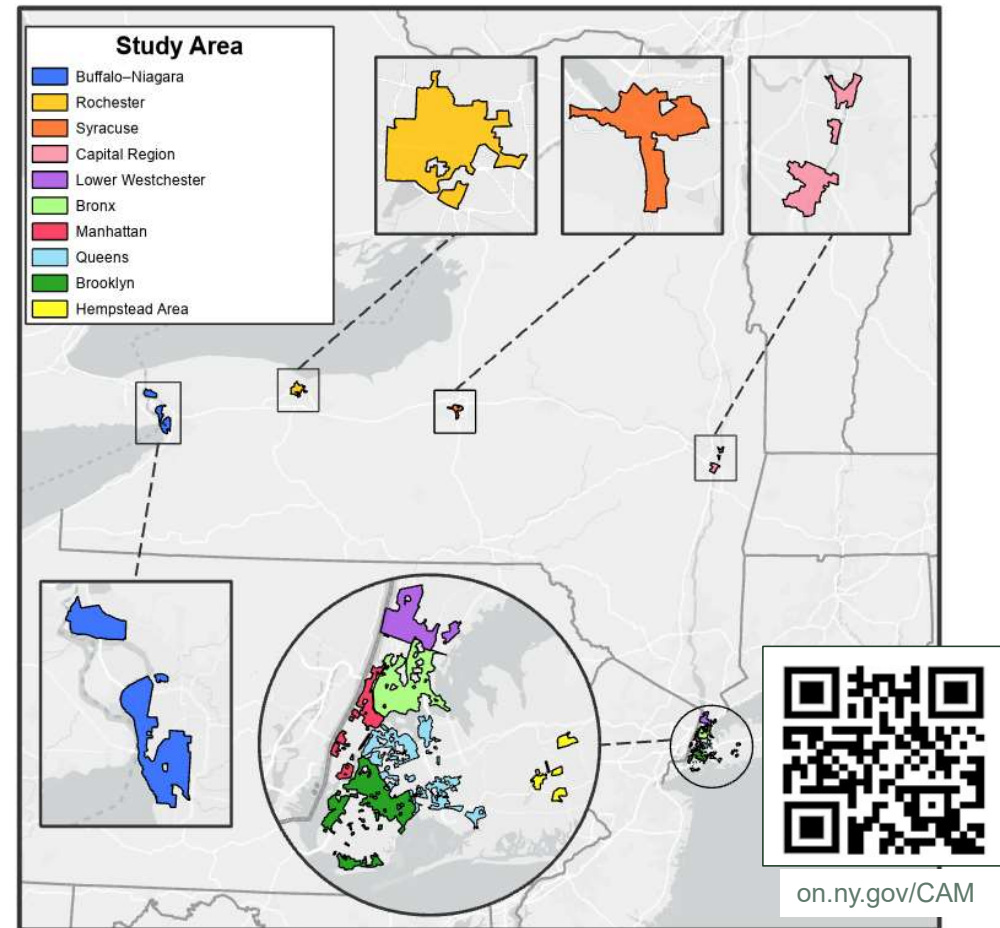
- Higher air pollution burdens
- Health and economic inequities
- More vulnerable to climate and air pollution impacts

# Community Air Monitoring 2022 to 2023

## Purpose

Identify sources contributing to higher air pollution

Inform local air pollution reduction strategies



# Overall Findings

Higher pollutant levels were found near:

- Busy traffic, congestion, diesel vehicles, construction



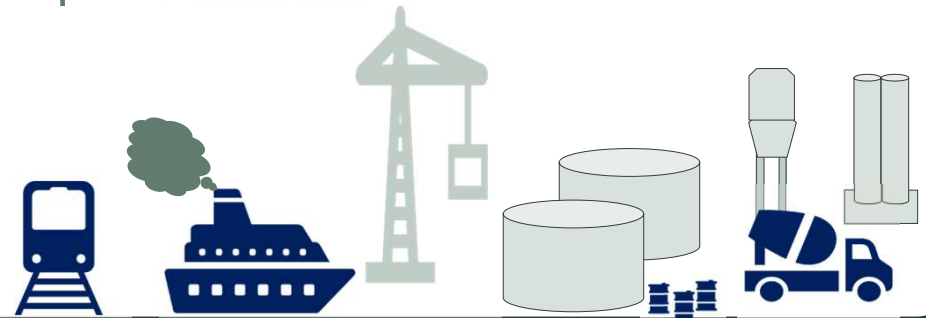
- Busy commercial and industrial areas



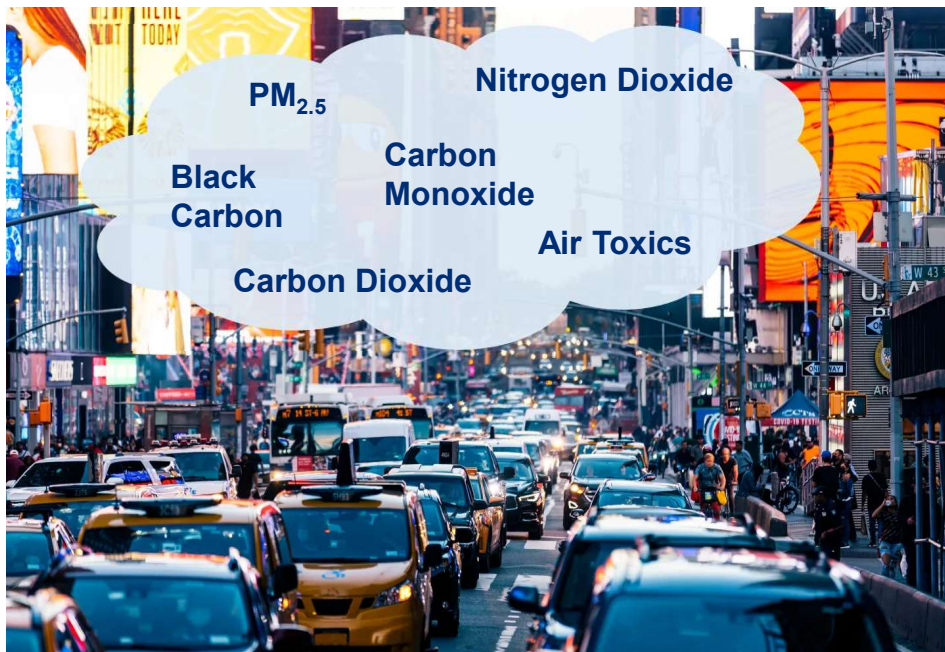
- Landfills, waste transfer stations, metal recycling, vehicle dismantling, auto body repair



- Railyards, ports, petroleum storage, asphalt facilities



# Air Quality and Health Impacts



- People living closer to busy roadways are exposed to higher levels of **Traffic Related Air Pollutants (TRAP)**
- Strong evidence linking higher levels of **TRAP** with increased risks of
  - Asthma
  - Heart and lung disease
- **Quality of life impacts**
  - Noise, odors, and stress

## Summary

- Although air quality has improved in many locations, DACs are burdened with a higher number of air pollution sources and traffic
- Land use and spatial density of specific source categories contribute to pollution variability across a community
- A long history of injustice contribute to disparities in DACs today



# **Next Steps: Community Input and Collaboration**



# Next Steps



on.ny.gov/CAM

## **Phase 1: Fall 2024:** DEC Community Story Maps

- Community summaries and results as interactive websites
- In-person community information sessions and presentations in all 10 communities

## **Phase 2: Fall 2025:** DEC Communities Report

- Community air quality priorities
- Community-driven strategies

## **Final Deliverable 2026:** Air Pollution Reduction Strategies Report

- Collaborate with communities and other state and local government officials
- Developed in consultation with the Climate Justice Working Group

# CLCPA

## Local Air Monitoring Results and Community Input

- **Prioritize air pollution areas of concern** near sensitive populations (schools, daycares, nursing homes, public housing)
- **Identify potential sources** contributing to higher air pollution levels
- **Formulate community guided recommendations** for mitigation strategies to improve air quality
  - DEC will consult the CJWG to review community priorities and develop final mitigation strategies



Help Inform

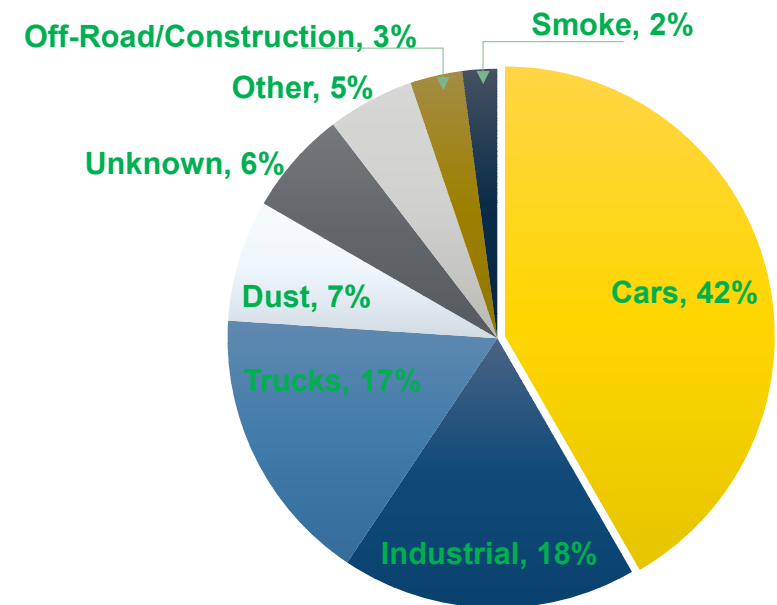
## Investments in Disadvantaged Communities

- **Benefits and programs to improve inequities and reduce burdens**
- **Address intersecting issues** and strengthen mitigation strategies
- **Effective Governance** including
  - State, City, Local
  - State Interagency Workgroup

# Communities Survey

## Sources of Concern

- Traffic congestion, major roadways, truck and bus routes, busy intersections
- Peaker units and power plants
- Last-mile-e-commerce warehouses
- Parking and storage
- Waste transfer stations
- Scrap metal processors, vehicle dismantlers, autobody shops
- Ready mix concrete and asphalt facilities, crushed stone quarry
- Construction projects
- Remediation/brownfield sites
- Wastewater treatment facilities
- Landfills
- Plastic molding facility
- Municipal waste incinerator
- Airports and railroad



# Air Pollution Reduction Strategies Survey

## Recommendations:

- **Limit industrial zones** near homes with zoning
- Decrease amount of **trucking waste** through disadvantaged communities
- Restrict high emitting vehicles, implement **clean air zones, redesign truck route, reduce/regulate mobile source emissions** from last-mile warehouses
- Provide stricter rules for warehouses, factories, **better enforcement**
- **Expand/subsidize public transportation**
- Promote **sustainable transportation**
- Encourage electric vehicles and charging infrastructure - **public transit bus fleets and diesel freight**
- Electrify **diesel transport refrigeration units**



# Air Pollution Reduction Strategies Survey

## Recommendations:

- Consider **traffic demand management strategies** like congestion pricing
- Consider **traffic calming** and **smart traffic signals**
- Increase **green space**, incorporate in designs
- Use **exposure reduction** strategies like **vegetative barriers** and **air filtration especially near sensitive populations** (schools, playgrounds, public housing)
- Improve buildings and **energy efficiency, in public housing**
- Prioritize **local community composting**
- Expand **geothermal, solar energy, and battery storage** development
- Identify **priority pollutants**, control sources, **involve the public**, implement comprehensive plans with **clear timelines and enforcement mechanisms**

# Thank you

## Questions

- Email us [CLCPA.CAM@dec.ny.gov](mailto:CLCPA.CAM@dec.ny.gov)

For more information on  
NYS Community Air Monitoring Initiative



[on.ny.gov/CAM](https://on.ny.gov/CAM)

# Next Steps



## **CJWG Meetings 2025**

- June 17, 2025
- September 30, 2025
  - Office of Climate Change Presentation on the Extreme Heat Action Plan
- October 14, 2025
- November 4, 2025

**Thank You**

