



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Climate Justice Working Group Meeting

February 10, 2026

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

1. Opening remarks
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of the Minutes
4. Illume: Review Process
5. DEC: DAC Indicators based on Federal data sources
6. Discussion
7. Next Steps

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes

Annual Criteria Review

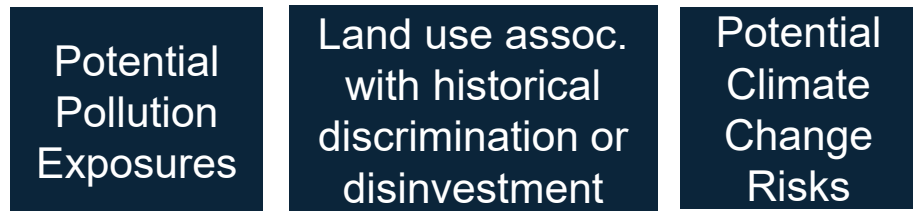
Annual Criteria Review Overview

- Criteria Summary
- Annual Criteria Review Process
 - Where are we now?
 - What's next?

Indicators: Framework

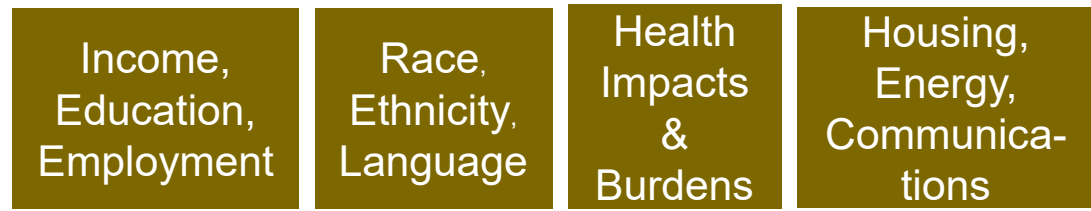
- The Geographic DAC scoring approach uses data from national and state sources to create 45 indicators in the following categories. For each indicator, the percentile-rank of each census tract is used in scoring.

Environmental Burdens and Climate Change Risks



20 Indicators in this component

Population Characteristics and Health Vulnerabilities



25 Indicators in this component

Indicators: Environmental Burdens and Climate Change Risks

Potential Pollution Exposures

- Vehicle traffic density
- Diesel truck and bus traffic
- Particulate Matter (PM2.5)
- Benzene concentration
- Wastewater discharge

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

Indicators: Population Characteristics and Health Vulnerabilities

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

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

Health Impacts & Sensitivities

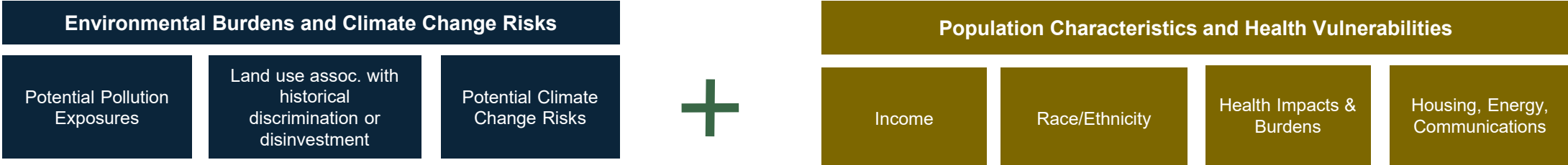
- Asthma ED visits
- COPD ED visits
- Heart attack (MI) hospitalization
- Premature deaths
- Low birthweight
- Pct without health insurance
- Pct with disabilities
- Pct adults age 65+

Housing, Energy, and 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)

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.

Annual Criteria Review Process

Step One

Review current version.
Gather input on areas of interest (CJWG/others)

Completed 12/12/25

Step Three

Adjust criteria, review, and assess value of changes

Step Five

Vote on criteria

Step Two

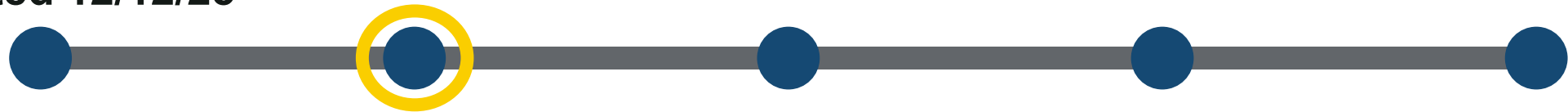
- Review findings from areas of interest from CJWG/others
- Outline considerations and factors

Today, 02/10/2026

Step Four

Deliberate

Today, or next meeting



Annual Criteria Review Process Version 2: What has been done? Where are we now?

- **What work has been done to get DAC 2 to statewide release?**
 - Development of all subordinate material
 - Updating the maps based on the new criteria
 - Calculating the new municipalities by DAC population % tables, including new municipal categories
 - Development of geospatial tools to analyze changes between DAC 1 and 2
 - Development of guidance in alignment with NYSERDA and other agencies on how programs should adopt DAC 2
 - Briefings on DAC 2 across NYS Gov
- **What is the current status of the DAC 2 release?**
 - DAC 2 is currently in the final stages and should be released soon

2025 Annual Criteria Review Process

- The State Team is currently recommending no changes to the DAC 2.0 Criteria
 - System-wide consistency and alignment
 - Mechanisms for reporting on implementation efficacy coming online now

Annual Criteria Review Process Next Steps

- Next Steps
 - **Step 3:** Adjust criteria, review, assess value of changes: no action recommended
 - **Step 4:** Deliberate
 - **Step 5:** Vote
- All of this can be completed in our next meeting

Annual Criteria Review Discussion

**Review of Areas of
Interest: DAC Indicator
Data Sources**

DAC Indicators

- The DAC Criteria is based on indicators: various environmental, demographic, economic, and epidemiological data sets that combine to cumulatively describe the conditions of disadvantage in New York as per the CLCPA.
- The DAC Criteria uses 45 indicators.
- Indicators are percentile ranked based on “raw” underlying data, which comes from a variety of sources.

DAC Indicators based on Federal Sources

27 DAC indicators are based on federal data sources:

<u>Indicator</u>	<u>DAC 2 Source</u>		
Particulate matter (PM _{2.5})	EJScreen 2023	Percent Black or African American	ACS 2022, 5-year Tables B02009 and B01003
Wastewater discharge	EJScreen 2023	Percent Native American or Indigenous	ACS 2022, 5-year Tables B02010, B02012, and B01003
Proximity to regulated management plan sites	EJScreen 2023	Percent Asian	ACS 2022, 5-year Tables B02011 and B01003
Benzene concentration	USEPA's NATA 2019, crosswalked ³	Percent with disabilities	ACS 2022, 5-year Table B18101
Vehicle traffic density	EJScreen 2023	Housing vacancy rate	ACS 2022, 5-year table DP04
Homes built before 1960	EJScreen 2023	Percent renter-occupied homes	ACS 2022, 5-year Table B25003
Low vegetative cover	NLCD 2021	Manufactured homes	ACS 2022, 5-year Table B25024
Proximity to power generation facilities	USEPA 2022 & NYSDEC 2021	Percent without internet	ACS 2022, 5-year Table B28002
Agricultural land	NLCD 2021	Percent Without Bachelor's Degree	ACS 2022, 5-year Table B15003
Percent <80% Area Median Income	USDOE LEAD 2022	Unemployment Rate	ACS 2022, 5-year Table B23025
Percent Latino/a or Hispanic	ACS 2022, 5-year Table B03003	Percent Single-Parent Households	ACS 2022, 5-year Table DP02
Percent without health insurance	ACS 2022, 5-year Table B27001	Percent <100% of Federal Poverty Line	ACS 2022, 5-year Table C17002
Limited English proficiency	ACS 2022, 5-year Table C16002	Percent adults age 65+	ACS 2022, 5-year Table S0101
		Flooding in inland areas (projected)	FEMA 2024

Federal Data Withdrawal

- January 2025, U.S. federal government modifying and removing web pages and datasets across multiple federal agencies.
- The removals have targeted resources pertaining to:
 - diversity,
 - equity and inclusion initiatives,
 - gender identity,
 - public health research,
 - environmental policy,
 - and various social programs
- Occurred most acutely to resources via the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the Census Bureau.

Federal Data Withdrawal

- Federal government organizations removed or modified over 8,000 web pages and approximately 3,000 public facing data sets.
- The data removal initiative also included the takedown of EJScreen.

EPA Removes EJScreen from Its Website

Federal Data Withdrawal Timeline Summary

- March 2025: federal agency guidance directed the removal of all public-facing content and the elimination of all material pertaining to an index of keywords
- July 2025: globalchange.gov and climate.gov taken down.

National Climate Report Website Goes Dark

The federal website hosting five legislatively mandated reports stopped working Monday afternoon.

These Words Are Disappearing in the New Trump Administration

Federal Data Withdrawal Timeline Summary

- January 2026: EPA will no longer calculate “how much money is saved in health care costs avoided and deaths prevented from air pollution rules that curb [PM2.5 and ozone].”

After Shutdown, Labor Dept. Says Some Data Is Gone for Good

Surveys were delayed and some cannot be collected at all, officials said, further complicating the Federal Reserve’s decision on interest rates next month.

EPA to stop calculating deaths avoided and health care savings from air pollution rules

The change means the EPA will focus rules for two pollutants only on the cost to industry, part of a realignment under President Trump toward a business-friendly approach.

Trump EPA moves to repeal climate rules that limit greenhouse gas emissions from US power plants

Federal Data Withdrawal Risk

- DAC Indicators based on federal data sources could be at risk of becoming unreliable or defunct due to:
 - Unavailability
 - Failure to update
 - Low quality or veracity

Federal Data Withdrawal Relevance

- CJWG should consider whether federal data sources would provide consistent and accurate information to be used in addressing climate change and environmental justice.
- Next likely DAC Data Refresh: 2030

Federal Data Withdrawal Qualitative Analysis

- Objective: to identify the DAC Indicators that could have the biggest impact on the DAC Criteria if they went away
- Qualitative analysis and organization based on three elements:
 - Current vintage and update status
 - Reliability and risk based on federal source
 - Reliability and risk based on the indicator subject

Federal Data Withdrawal Qualitative Analysis: Vintage and Update Cycle

- Vintage: the date when they were last updated
- Update cadences

Federal Data Withdrawal Qualitative Analysis: Vintage and Update Cycle 2

- High Qualitative Vintage Risk (EJ Screen):
 - PM2.5
 - Wastewater Discharge
 - Proximity to Regulated Management Plan Site
 - Vehicle Traffic Density
 - Homes Built Before 1960

Federal Data Withdrawal Qualitative Analysis: Vintage and Update Cycle 3

- Medium Qualitative Vintage Risk:
 - Benzene Concentration (2019),
 - Percent >80% Area Median Income (2022), and
 - Proximity to Power Generation Facilities (2022).
- Low Qualitative Vintage Risk:
 - The remainder have been updated in either 2024 or 2025 and are expected to continue to be updated annually

Federal Data Withdrawal Qualitative Analysis: Source Risk

DAC indicators based on federal data sources are sourced from:

- EPA
- FEMA
- EJScreen
- National Land Cover Database (NLCD)
- American Community Survey (ACS)

Federal Data Withdrawal Qualitative Analysis: Source Risk 2

- EJScreen: discontinued
- EPA:
 - Benzene Concentration
 - Proximity to Power Generation Facilities
- ++ industrial and economic activity
- -- climate change and environmental justice

Federal Data Withdrawal Qualitative Analysis: Source Risk 3

- NLCD:
 - Low Vegetative Cover
 - Agricultural Land
- Flooding in Inland Areas (Projected)

Federal Data Withdrawal Qualitative Analysis: Source Risk 4

The remaining indicators based on federal sources are sourced from the ACS:

Percent Latino/a or Hispanic
Percent without health insurance
Limited English proficiency
Percent Black or African American
Percent Native American or Indigenous
Percent Asian
Percent with disabilities

Housing vacancy rate
Percent renter-occupied homes
Manufactured homes
Percent without internet
Percent Without Bachelor's Degree
Unemployment Rate
Percent Single-Parent Households
Percent <100% of Federal Poverty Line
Percent adults age 65+

Federal Data Withdrawal Qualitative Analysis: Subject Risk

- Subjects directly pertaining to climate change, environmental justice, and pollution burdens are considered to have the highest qualitative subject risk.
- They include:
 - Benzene Concentration,
 - PM2.5, and
 - Wastewater Discharge.

Federal Data Withdrawal Qualitative Analysis: Subject Risk 2

Subjects relating to demographic groups are considered to have a medium qualitative subject risk.

- These include:
 - Percent Latino/a or Hispanic
 - Percent without Health Insurance
 - Limited English Proficiency
 - Percent Black or African American
 - Percent Native American or Indigenous
 - Percent Asian
 - Percent with Disabilities

Federal Data Withdrawal Qualitative Analysis: Subject Risk 3

- Medium qualitative risk pollution-related indicators:
 - Proximity to Power Generation Facilities,
 - Low Vegetative Cover

The remaining indicators based on federal sources are considered to have a low qualitative subject risk.

Federal Data Withdrawal Qualitative Analysis: Cumulative Risk

These risk categories have been assigned scores and ordered based on their qualitative cumulative risk based on the impact they could have if they were no longer available:

<u>Indicator</u>	<u>Cumulative Risk</u>		
Particulate matter (PM _{2.5})	High	Housing vacancy rate	Low
Wastewater discharge	High	Percent renter-occupied homes	Low
Proximity to regulated management plan sites	High	Manufactured homes	Low
Benzene concentration	High	Percent without internet	Low
Vehicle traffic density	Medium	Percent Without Bachelor's Degree	Low
Homes built before 1960	Medium	Unemployment Rate	Low
Proximity to power generation facilities	Medium	Percent Single-Parent Households	Low
Low vegetative cover	Medium	Percent <100% of Federal Poverty Line	Low
Percent <80% Area Median Income	Medium	Percent adults age 65+	Low
Agricultural land	Medium	Flooding in inland areas (projected)	Low
Percent Latino/a or Hispanic	Medium		
Percent without health insurance	Medium		
Limited English proficiency	Medium		
Percent Black or African American	Medium		
Percent Native American or Indigenous	Medium		
Percent Asian	Medium		
Percent with disabilities	Medium		

Federal Data Withdrawal Quantitative Analysis

- Illume has conducted a regression analysis of indicators that are the “largest levers”
 - Indicators with the greatest unique influence

<u>Indicator</u>	<u>Lever</u>	<u>Lever Rating</u>			
Low vegetative cover	0.08	High	Percent without internet	0.04	Medium
Agricultural land use	0.08	High	Percent Without Bachelor’s Degree	0.04	Medium
Flooding in inland areas (projected)	0.08	High	Unemployment Rate	0.04	Medium
Percent <100% of Federal Poverty Line	0.07	High	Percent Single-Parent Households	0.04	Medium
Percent <80% Area Median Income	0.07	High	Percent adults age 65+	0.03	Low
Percent Black or African American	0.06	High	Percent Native American or Indigenous	0.03	Low
Percent Latino/a or Hispanic	0.06	High	Percent without health insurance	0.03	Low
Benzene concentration	0.05	Medium	Limited English proficiency	0.03	Low
Vehicle traffic density	0.05	Medium	Percent with disabilities	0.03	Low
Particulate matter (PM2.5)	0.05	Medium	Percent Asian	0.03	Low
Wastewater discharge	0.05	Medium	Proximity to power generation facilities	0.03	Low
Percent renter-occupied homes	0.04	Medium	Housing vacancy rate	0.03	Low
Manufactured homes	0.04	Medium	Proximity to regulated management plan sites	0.03	Low
Homes built before 1960	0.04	Medium			

Federal Data Withdrawal Qualitative Analysis: Reproduction, Alternatives, Recommendations

- Reproducibility of state-specific versions
- Viable alternatives
- High Reproducibility:
 - Wastewater discharge
 - Proximity to Regulated Management Plan Sites
 - Vehicle Traffic Density

Federal Data Withdrawal Qualitative Analysis: Reproduction, Alternatives, Recommendations 2

- Low Reproducibility:
 - PM 2.5
 - Benzene Concentration
 - All demographic data
- All others have a medium capacity for reproduction based on NY data

Federal Data Withdrawal Quantitative/Qualitative Analysis Comparison

- Cumulative Risk x Influence x Reproducibility = Total Impact to the DAC Criteria

<u>Indicator</u>	<u>Impact Rating</u>
Particulate matter (PM2.5)	Highest
Wastewater discharge	Highest
Benzene concentration	High
Low vegetative cover	High
Percent <80% Area Median Income	High
Vehicle traffic density	High
Percent Black or African American	High
Percent Latino/a or Hispanic	High
Flooding in inland areas (projected)	High
Percent <100% of Federal Poverty Line	Medium
Percent Native American or Indigenous	Medium
Percent without health insurance	Medium
Limited English proficiency	Medium
Percent with disabilities	Medium
Percent Asian	Medium
Agricultural land use	Medium
Percent Without Bachelor's Degree	Low
Percent Single-Parent Households	Low
Percent adults age 65+	Low
Percent renter-occupied homes	Low
Manufactured homes	Low
Homes built before 1960	Low
Percent without internet	Low
Proximity to regulated management plan sites	Low
Unemployment Rate	Low
Proximity to power generation facilities	Low
Housing vacancy rate	Low

DAC Indicator Data Sources Discussion

Next Steps

Thank You

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