Climate Justice Working Group Meeting
Meeting Teleconference - WebEx
1 October 2020
2:00 pm

At a Glance
• Working Group reviewed and discussed draft workplan
• Working Group were presented with state interim approach
• Working Group were presented with EJ and Just Transition Working Group's mapping subcommittee efforts and information on CalEnviro Screen and EPA EJ Screen
• Information regarding meetings and materials can be found on – www.Climate.ny.gov

Participants
Eddie Bautista, Executive Director, NYC Environmental Justice Alliance

Jerrod Bley, Clean Energy Program Director, Adirondack North Country Association

Dr. Donathan Brown, Assistant Provost, Rochester Institute of Technology & CEO & Co-Founder, Adirondack Diversity Solutions

Cecil Corbin-Mark, Deputy Director, WE ACT for Environmental Justice

Rahwa Ghirmatzion, Executive Director, PUSH Buffalo

Mary Beth McEwen, Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension Of Oneida and Madison Counties

Abigail McHugh-Grifa, Executive Director, Rochester People's Climate Coalition

Elizabeth Yeampierre, Executive Director, UPROSE

Rosa Méndez, Director, Office of Environmental Justice, DEC

Neil Muscatiello, Director, Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology, Center for Environmental Health, DOH

Joseph McNearney, Director of Stakeholder Engagement, DOL

Christopher Coll, Director of Energy Affordability and Equity Program, NYSERDA

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Meeting Start: 2:03PM

Commissioner's Welcome: 2:07PM

RollCall: 2:08PM

Agenda: 2:10PM

– Finalize workplan

- Establish criteria for disadvantaged communities
- Consult with Climate Action Council
- Draft Scoping plan
    - Draft due January 2022
    - Final due January 2023

- Create Community Air Monitoring report (2022)
- Reduce Emissions (2022)
- Rule Making (2024)

Eddie B – request for clarification of the CLCPA rulemaking

- Barriers report
    - Definitions and explanation

Abigail – wants notes available

- Breakdown of process
    - ID criteria
    - ID indicators
    - Ensuring available data is usable
        - Creating methods to define disadvantaged communities

How often to meet?

- Cecil suggested front loading meetings to expedite process, then have fewer meetings in the future
    - DEC should hold times available for education or availability sessions to expand on ideas or answer questions
- Possibility for additional meetings in December to digest November information

Meeting Focus Plan
See plan documents

- January
    - Focus on info taken from panels
- February
    - Draft list prepared
- April through June
    - Hearings
- July and beyond
    - Staff will synthesize data

Chris Coll – Interim approaches

- Creating consistency throughout agencies

Rahwa

- CJWG should get links to info on PEJAs and screening tools to determine social detriments to health

EJ & Just Transition WG Mapping, California

Elizabeth

- NIHS info should be used and their datasets examined

Gateway is more a portal where as EJ screen uses the date as an application

Rahwa

- Wants to view the 37 datasets

Recommendations

- User friendliness
- Should include health data and program implementation
- EJ group participation
- Indicator data

Full list will be provided for group when they discuss indicators

Illume Presentation

Amanda Dwelley

- CalEnviro Screen
    o Scores areas via census tract
    o Does not designate communities

Questions?

How does it account for non-census indicators?

- Disadvantages communities definition expanded to consider LMI population in other areas (AB 1150 expands SB 535)

How does this tool help local municipalities?

- It is applicable to local government decision making
    o Local governments actively use the tool

Race was explicitly eliminated

– Specifically eliminated in areas that were not permitted to use race as a factor when looking at the distribution of funds, etc.

Eddie

– Is interested in the effects of cap & trade on EJ communities and how the funding stream is directed
– CalScreen uses percentile scores
   o pollution burden index x population characteristics creates a single score to see things in one layer
   o Socioeconomic and health factors amplify burdens and characteristics

Disadvantages communities definition

– Based on datasets and traditional markers
   o This includes socioeconomic markers
      ▪ 35% of Climate Investments benefit priority populations

Meeting Ended 4:00PM

Questions & Comments

2:57PM: from Jerrod Bley to all participants:

How do we ensure that "opportunity zones" identified to spur economic development/investment in disadvantaged communities are protected against predatory actions which may be operating under the guise of a beneficial community enterprise?

3:17PM: from Mary Beth McEwen to all participants:

Backing up a little, the interim EJ indicators will result in opportunities being concentrated in NYC and larger Upstate cities. Can we perhaps also include limited resource farmers and/or beginning farmers to capture more rural areas in the interim? Rosa will follow up

3:58PM from Eddie Bautista to all participants:

Any clue how CA is going to incorporate climate impacts? Regarding CalScreen

Comments

2:48P from Jerrod Bley to all participants:

I highly support high quality visuals and mapping that illustrates the geographic distribution of communities that are identified as criteria are defined and confirmed throughout the whole process.

2:50P from Elizabeth Yeampierre to all panelists:

ensure all the programs work holistically by having consistent language

2:58PM from Cecil Corbin-Mark to all participants:

I would want to add health criteria as another screen (referring to slides 10 and 11)
Health indicators will be examined

3:50PM: from Cecil Corbin-Mark to all participants:

https://journals.plos.org/plosmedicine/article?id=10.1371/journal.pmed.1002604
Manuel Pastor and Rachel Morello Frosch study

3:58PM: from Jerrod Bley to all participants:

echoing other group members earlier, it would be great to see a repository created to house and access all these resources in the future.