Climate Justice Working Group Meeting

January 24, 2023

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 transcript purposes

Roll Call

Agenda for January 24, 2023

- Vote on meeting minutes from December 14th meeting

- Recap of "where we have been".

- Discuss methodological considerations from the public comments on this meeting.

- Timeline Review

- Items of Interest

- Next Steps

Approval of Minutes

Where we've been

Process we used to develop draft criteria

1. Identify what indicators should be in criteria (170 potential indicators)

2. Gather indicator data (100 indicators)

3. Test indicator viability and cross-indicator correlations (resulting in 45 indicators)

4. Combine indicators into factors

5. Combine factors into component scores

6. Multiply component scores to get final score

7. Take top 35% of highest scores

8. Include individual criteria

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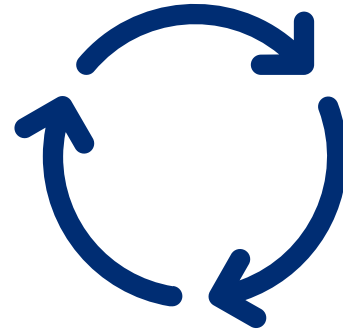
Indicators Considered

More than 170 indicators considered for inclusion.

CJWG went with 45 of the strongest indicators that were:

1. Supported by sufficient and high-quality granular statewide data, and

2. Applicable to the goals or applications of disadvantaged communities under the Climate Act

1 Framework: Burdens, Risks & Vulnerabilities

The Geographic DAC scoring approach uses data from national and state sources to select 45 indicators in the following categories for each census tract in NY state.

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

Population Characteristics and Health Vulnerabilities

Income, Education, Employment	Race, Ethnicity, Language	Health Impacts & Burdens	Housing, Energy, Communica-tions

25 Indicators in this component

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1 Environmental Burdens and Climate Change Risks: Draft Indicators

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

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1 Population Characteristics and Health Vulnerabilities: Draft 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+

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)

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Steps taken after comment period

1. Reviewed comments (3,124 comments)
2. Categorized comments
3. Summarized recommended indicators for inclusion (66 indicators)
4. Summarized recommended methodological changes
5. Reviewed with the WG and prioritized indicators to review (15 indicators)
6. Worked to identify data sources to assess based on comments

Type of Comment

Comment Type	Count
Opinion	1,692
General comment	1,047
Recommendation	286
Non-DAC Comment: Climate policy	28
Non-DAC Comment: Other	13
Non-DAC Comment	2
(blank)	56
Total	3,124

Recommendation Type	Count
Additional indicators	138
Groundtruthing	96
Methodology	47
Language	4
Climate policy	2
Documentation	1
n/a	2,780
(blank)	56
Total	3,124

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Indicator Recommendations

So far, we've identified 66 individual indicators recommended in comments.

	A	B	C	D
1	Indicator recommended from comments	Pillar	Action	Comment
2	PEJA	-	No action	Used as a comparative tool
3	Noise pollution	1. Env Pollution & Hazards	Assess what potential indicator could/should add	
4	Pesticide use	1. Env Pollution & Hazards	Assess what potential indicator could/should add	
5	polluted waterways	1. Env Pollution & Hazards	Assess what potential indicator could/	Assess whether current ind
6	Proximity to airports	1. Env Pollution & Hazards	Assess what potential indicator could/	industrial areas included
7	proximity to waste transfer stations	1. Env Pollution & Hazards	Assess what potential indicator could/	industrial areas included
8	proximity to water pollution	1. Env Pollution & Hazards	Assess what potential indicator could/	wastewater already include
9	Rail tracks and yards	1. Env Pollution & Hazards	Assess what potential indicator could/	industrial areas included
10	Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT} Per Capita	1. Env Pollution & Hazards	Assess what potential indicator could/	related indicators included
11	zoning practices	1. Env Pollution & Hazards	Assess what potential indicator could/should add	
12	asthma	1. Env Pollution & Hazards	No action	Already included in criteria
13	Electromagnetic fields	1. Env Pollution & Hazards	No action	Little data available/ data d
14	Heat related illnesses	1. Env Pollution & Hazards	No action	Will require operationalizin
15	landfills	1. Env Pollution & Hazards	No action	included
16	Potential pollution exposure	1. Env Pollution & Hazards	No Action	Pollution exposure indicato
17	Water and air quality monitoring	1. Env Pollution & Hazards	No action	PM 2.5 is included, wastewa
18	Access to potable water	1. Env Pollution & Hazards	Review feasibility	Cannot calculate with censu
19	citing of industry	1. Env Pollution & Hazards	Review feasibility	
20	Competitive power ventures (fracking)	1. Env Pollution & Hazards	Review feasibility	
21	Illegal dumping	1. Env Pollution & Hazards	Review feasibility	

Quick breakdown of recommended indicators

Considered Previously	Count
Yes	34
No	27
Partially	5
Total	66

Next Step	Count
Review feasibility	23
Assess what potential indicator could add	22
No action	17
Discuss/review with WG	3
Actively identifying data	1
Total	66

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Putting new indicators through rubric

indicator id	Pillar	Factor/Concept	Indicator	Staff Initial Priority	Metric	Potential Data Source	Year Rang
p1_aq_benzene	1. Env Pollution & Hazard	Air quality	Benzene	1. High	Modeled ambient (airborne	EPA NATA modeled average amb	2014
p1_aq_formaldehyde	1. Env Pollution & Hazard	Air quality	Formaldehyde	1. High	Modeled airborne formalde	EPA NATA modeled average amb	2014
p1_aq_ozone_summer	1. Env Pollution & Hazard	Air quality	Ozone	1. High	Summer seasonal average;	EPA EJScreen (EPA, Office of Air	2016
p1_aq_pm25_annual	1. Env Pollution & Hazard	Air quality	Particulate Matter (PM2.5)	1. High	Annual average PM2.5 conc	EPA EJScreen (EPA, Office of Air	2016
p1_aq_so2_annual	1. Env Pollution & Hazard	Air quality	SO2	2. Maybe	Annual average	DEC (limited monitoring)	
p1_aq_dieselpm	1. Env Pollution & Hazard	Air quality	NATA Diesel PM	2. Maybe	Diesel particulate matter le	EPA EJScreen (EPA NATA)	2014
p1_aq_co_popavg	1. Env Pollution & Hazard	Air quality	CO	3. Low	Population exposure - 1hr c	DEC (limited monitoring)	
p1_aq_co_roadavg	1. Env Pollution & Hazard	Air quality	CO	3. Low	Near road exposure - 1hr o	DEC (limited monitoring)	
p1_aq_no2_popavg	1. Env Pollution & Hazard	Air quality	NO2	3. Low	Population exposure - aver	DEC monitoring	
p1_aq_no2_roadavg	1. Env Pollution & Hazard	Air quality	NO2	3. Low	Near road exposure - avera	DEC monitoring	
p1_aq_vocs	1. Env Pollution & Hazard	Air quality	VOCs	3. Low			

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Methodology Comments

Recommendation Type	Count
Change/Review/Delete Indicator	16
Geographic	16
Calculation change/different calc. approach	9
Weighting	8
Standardize data across state	1
Data outside of NY	1
Include non-statewide data	1
Total	52

We're still working on coding and commenting methodology recommendations.

To do: Identify which recommendations we considered previously vs. new

Prioritized indicators update

Go to excel

Methodology

Methods and approach comments

- We found 52 substantive methodological recommendations in comments.

- In prior WG meeting, we reviewed the list and discussed the recommendations.

- Some summary statements were unclear. We reviewed comments to clarify

Review methods and approach comments

Go to excel

# Ongoing Assessment of DAC Definition

- Monitoring developments in other regions

- Updating existing indicators

- Identifying potential new indicators, including the prioritized indicators from public comments

- Tracking DAC criteria with an eye to identifying unintended consequences

- Anything else?

"The group will meet no less than annually to review the criteria and methods used to identify disadvantaged communities and may modify such methods to incorporate new data and scientific findings. The climate justice working group shall review identities of disadvantaged communities and modify such identities as needed."

Workplan and Timeline

Revised Finalizing the DAC Criteria Timeline & Workplan
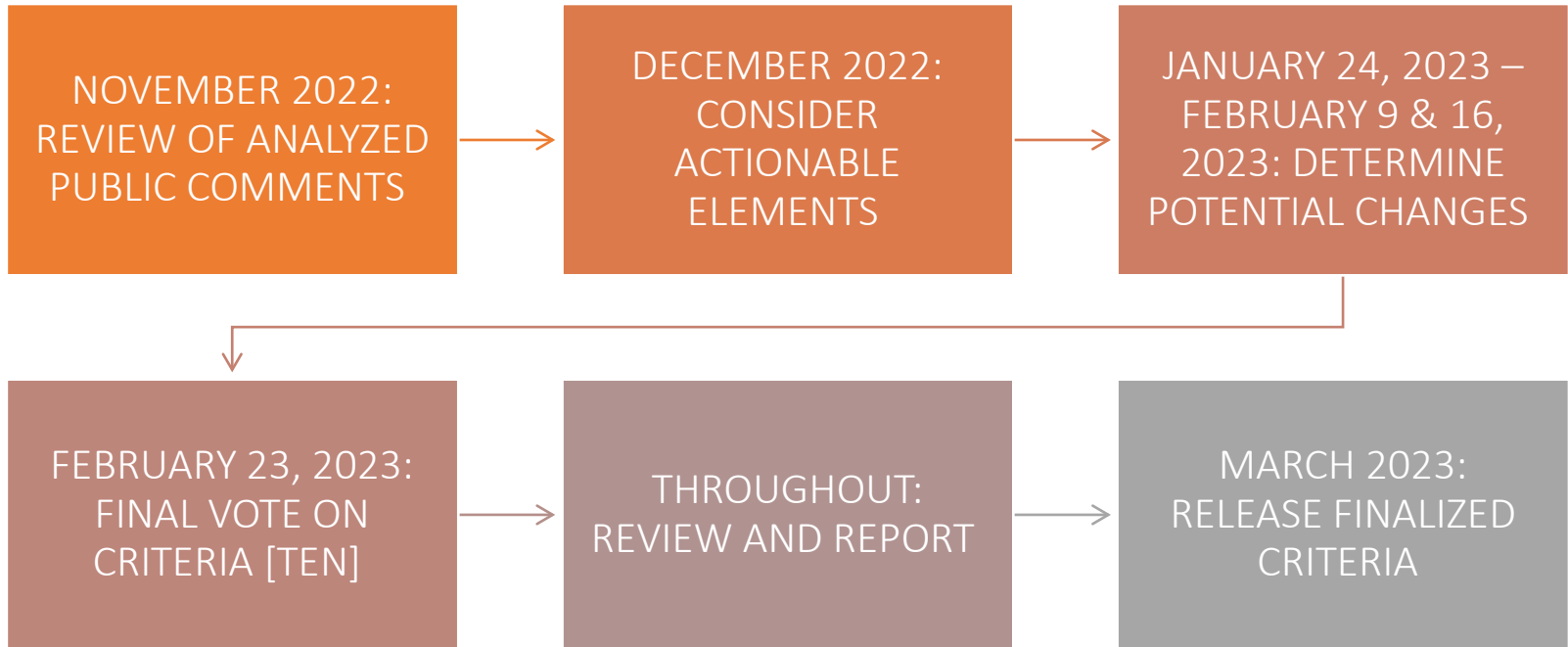
Items of Interest

Community Air Monitoring Meetings

- Four CAM meetings have been held (Bronx, Manhattan, Capital Region, and Buffalo/Tonawanda/Niagara Falls) to provide an update on the progress of data collection and share examples of how emission sources can be detected with this technology, as well as explain how DEC will analyze the data for each of the pollutants.

  ▪ Meetings have been scheduled for the other 6 communities and will be held over the next few weeks.

- We have been working to create community advisory committees in each area to facilitate ongoing engagement throughout the study period.

- For more information about the initiative, including the Webex information for the scheduled meetings, visit our website: https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/125320.html

Next Steps

Questions?