



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

# Climate Justice Working Group Meeting

October 20, 2022

# 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





Resolution Vote

# Agenda for October 20, 2022

- **DAC Comments Overview**
- **Timeline & Workplan for DAC Finalization**
- **Air Monitoring Update**
- **Scoping Plan Update**
- **Next Steps**
  - **DAC Next Steps**
  - **Proposed Air Monitoring Training**
  - **Benefits & Investments Discussion**
  - **Proposed Economywide Policy Discussion**

A photograph of a wind farm with several white wind turbines of varying sizes in a grassy field under a clear blue sky. The turbines are arranged in a line, receding into the distance. The largest turbine is in the foreground on the right, while smaller ones are visible further back. The sky is a deep blue with a few wispy clouds. The ground is a dark green field.

# DAC Comments Overview

# DAC Comments: General Update

- Have a total of 3,124 comments
- Most comments were duplicates of 8 form letters
- We're still reviewing the comments
- **These are preliminary findings**

Comment Type	Count	Percent
Form letters	2,743	88%
Race Indicators Form	952	30%
DAC Investments Form	862	28%
Transparency Form	805	26%
Priorities Form	96	3%
Support Form	12	0.4%
Long Island Form	9	0.3%
ROC Form	5	0.2%
Seneca Falls Form	2	0.1%
Other comments	381	12%
<b>Total Comments</b>	<b>3,124</b>	<b>100%</b>

# DAC Comments: Form Letters

Form Letter	Count	Summary
Race Indicators Form	952	Support for race as an indicator, population characteristics should be weighted more, suggests using census blocks, transparent process for map development, comment period should be extended
DAC Investments Form	862	Process needs to ensure investments provide real and lasting benefits. Standards need to be created to record, monitor, account for benefits and consequences of investments.
Transparency Form	805	Criteria must be informed by community knowledge. Need accountability process to ensure funding goes toward supporting DAC communities. Must prioritize transparency across communities, the CJWG, and state agencies
Priorities Form	96	Support EJ in Rural communities, ensure indigenous communities determine their involvement in the process, adjust scoring to ensure burdens carry across geographic boundaries
Support Form	12	Expressing support for the work the CJWG has done
Long Island Form	9	Need for LI representative on CJWG, individual emails provided groundtruthing and methodology recommendations
ROC Form	5	Groundtruthing is needed, criteria missed some low-income BIPOC areas, suggests weighting population characteristics more, request for annual review of criteria and assessment of gentrification
Seneca Falls Form	2	Region has potential pollution by large landfill

## Key Themes

- Transparency is critical
- Groundtruthing is important
- Population characteristics are important (should have more weight)
- Need annual review for DACs and benefit assessment
- Integration of feedback across communities, CJWG, and agencies



# DAC Comments: Common Recommendations

## Indicators:

Diabetes  
Lead piping  
Noise pollution  
Vacancy rates  
Physical disability  
Area median income  
SNAP or school lunch  
Percent of children

## Methodology:

Weight population characteristics more  
Include rural regions more  
Local input  
Use census blocks

Recommendation	Count
Region should be a DAC	76
Additional indicator(s)	34
Methodology	25
Language	4
Climate policy	2
Documentation	1
<b>Total non-form comments</b>	<b>142</b>

# DAC Comments: Next Steps

We will continue to review and code the comments

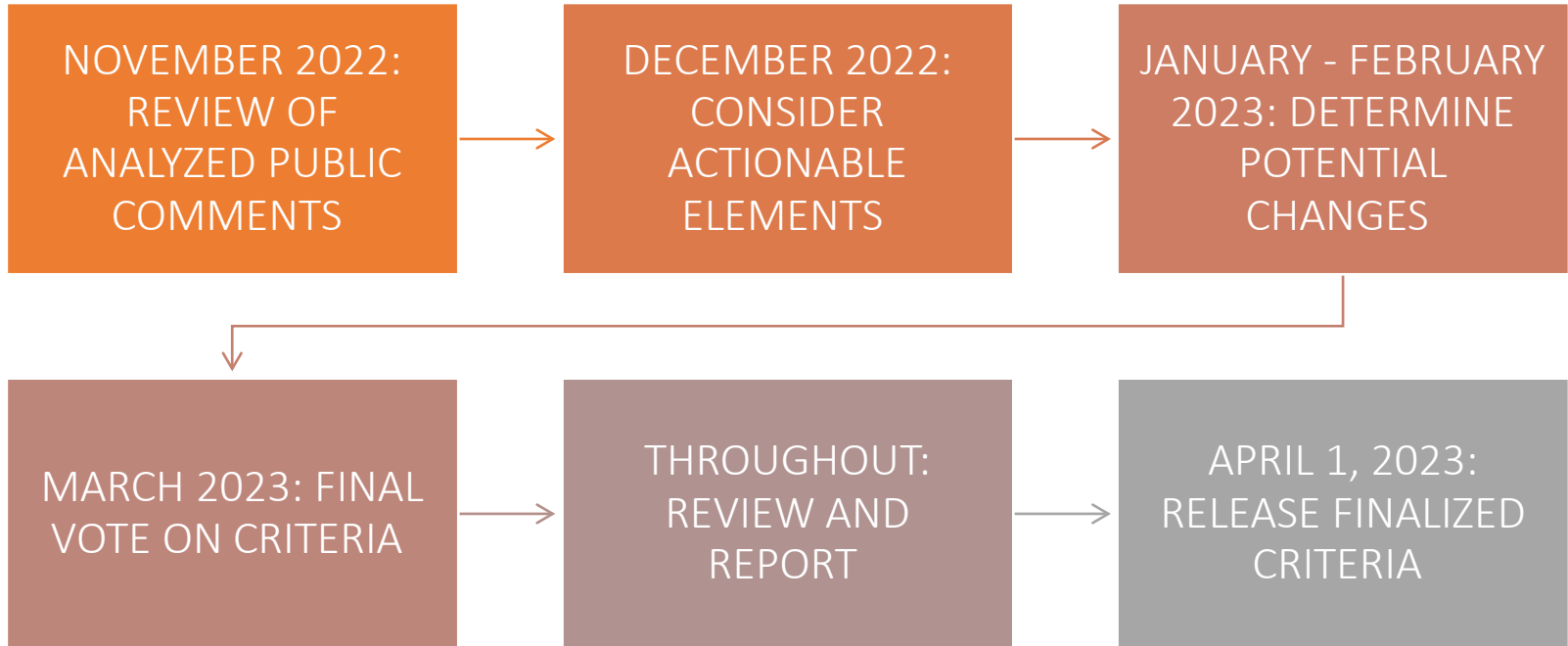
Then we will list out a set of next steps based on the recommendations in the comments

**How would you like to review the comments?**



# Workplan and Timeline

# Finalizing the DAC Criteria Timeline & Workplan



# CLCPA Community Air Quality Monitoring Update



# CLCPA Community Air Quality Monitoring

- Mobile screening approach to help identify sources for emission reductions
- Air monitoring in 10 DACs with high air pollution burden
  - July 1, 2022: Four communities
    - Buffalo/Niagara Falls/Tonawanda, Capital Region, Bronx, Manhattan
  - September 1, 2022: Six communities
    - Brooklyn, Hempstead/New Cassel/Roosevelt/Uniondale/Westbury, Queens, Rochester, Syracuse, Yonkers/Mt. Vernon/New Rochelle

# Air Monitoring Community Engagement

- DEC held two meetings in each community to describe the process and gather input
- Adjusted study boundaries based on community concerns
- Summary of community input:
  - **Buffalo:** municipal waste incinerator and landfill in Niagara Falls
  - **Bronx:** waste transfer stations, trucks hauling waste, and peaker plants, dirt bikes around the Grand Concourse near 161st Street and a request to monitoring in peninsulas
  - **Capital Region:** North Troy downwind of industrial facility in Cohoes, diesel generators tests, and rush hour traffic in Albany
  - **Manhattan:** North River Wastewater treatment facility



# Air Monitoring Community Engagement

- Summary of community input:
  - **Brooklyn:** Bronx-Queens Expressway especially near playgrounds and around the on/off rampways and warehouse operations in Red Hook
  - **Queens:** rail cars with landfill-bound waste, waste transfer stations, trucks hauling waste and trucks idling as they wait to remove or accept waste and the odors from waste operations
  - **Rochester:** request to include high air burdened DACs outside city limits



# Air Monitoring Community Engagement

- Summary of community input:
  - **Syracuse:** traffic along I-81 and I-690 including census tracts with low-income housing
  - **Hempstead Area:** include New Cassel EJ community, near high density of small sources and add areas of Roosevelt near sources of concern
  - **Yonkers Area:** include New Rochelle census tracts with high air burden scores around Interstate 95

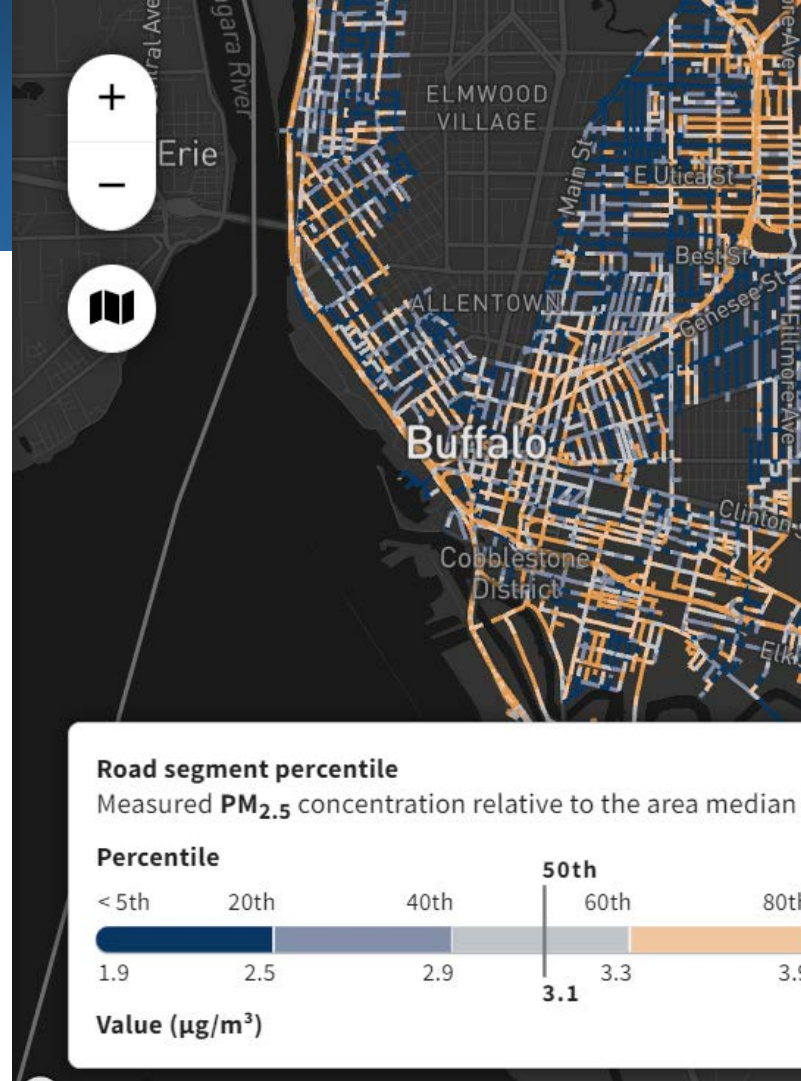
# Air Monitoring Community Engagement

## Next Steps:

- Quarterly reports to the community to include progress on the monitoring collection, result summaries, and observations.
- DEC proposes Community Advisory Committees:
  - Sharing insights from monitoring, general awareness, and education
  - Attuning the study to community knowledge on an ongoing basis
  - Respecting community driven solutions during the mitigation phase

# Reporting

- Partner organizations and CJWG will have access to first-available data through Aclima Pro™ platform
- First-available data will change as data are reviewed for quality assurance
- First-available data may give an early sense of neighborhood-level trends which will change as monitoring continues



# Reporting

- Results collected through September 2023
- Final results available after the year of monitoring is complete
  - Computer models are used with monitoring data to produce final estimates of pollutants
- Mobile screening results will be supplemented with other monitoring data, emissions information, and community input
  - DEC, CJWG and community partners to develop emission reduction strategies
  - Community leaders and groups to lead discussions
- Final reporting in 2024

# Air Monitoring Next Steps

- CJWG members are entitled to license for Aclima Pro
- Credentials and training can be provided at members convenience
- Group or individual training

## Questions or Comments ?



## Scoping Plan Update

# Overview of Public Comments

- > ~35,000 comments received through July 1
- > Key topics of general feedback:
  - Cost impacts
  - Capacity, reliability, and security of the electrical grid
  - Rural and Upstate community needs
  - Jobs and the New York economy
  - Alternative fuels
  - Scoping Plan goals, timeline, and process
  - Renewable energy technologies
  - Climate justice and equity
  - Perceived ban on wood burning
  - Economy-wide strategies
- > Key topics of email campaigns
  - Gas System Transition
  - Climate and Environmental Justice
  - Multi-topic
  - Green Hydrogen
  - Agriculture and Forestry
  - Wood burning
  - Nuclear energy
  - Waste incineration
  - Legislation



# Incorporating public and CJWG member input

## Topics reviewed

- 9/13: Transportation, Ag & Forestry, Land Use, Local Government, Waste
- 9/29: Just Transition, Economywide subgroup report out
- 10/13: Adaptation & Resilience, Gas System Transition, Buildings, Industry, Health, Transportation (clean fuels standard follow up)

## Topics remaining

- 10/25: Climate Justice and Electricity

## CJWG consultation

- Staff recommended ways to incorporate existing input
- Input on the economywide chapter is requested







# Next Steps