

EXECUTIVE CLIMATE CHANGE
COORDINATING COUNCIL
ADVISORY BOARD

FEBRUARY 24, 2021

Agenda

- **Welcome & Opening Remarks**
- **Review of January 27, 2021 Meeting Minutes**
- **News from the RIEC4 (Elizabeth Stone)**
- **Review & Discussion of Advisory Board Survey Results**
- **Presentation & Discussion: Communicating About Climate Change (Jennifer West)**
- **Other Business/Announcements**
- **Public Comment**
- **Future Meetings**
- **Adjourn**

REVIEW MINUTES

REPORT FROM EC4

EC4AB MEMBER SURVEY RESULTS

TOPICS MOST INTERESTED IN **WITHIN** SPHERE OF CLIMATE JUSTICE

- How policies/regulations/permitting impact environmental justice
- How the state may speed up permitting and projects that lead to enhanced environmental justice outcomes.
- The use of renewable energy and environmentally friendly design in affordable housing
- Promoting denser development near transit modes
- Flood risk
- Better identify gaps in our communities and government initiatives/programs/projects and also the connections between such initiatives/programs/projects
- Tapping into youth and workforce development
- Promote Just Transition policies and priorities for the state (Gather examples of and identify and promote opportunities)
- Within climate justice – identify and document what this means – specific impacts to EJ communities
- Review of the state climate justice priorities to the EC4 and holding state agencies accountable to achieve the priorities
- Communicating to diverse audiences
- How we can partner with groups/leaders to better understand their issues and needs
- Building capacity within frontline communities so that they can build resilience and social cohesion
- Collaboration with community groups and frontline communities
- Create the capacity to make progress towards the [Spectrum of Community Engagement](#)

TOPICS MOST INTERESTED IN OUTSIDE SPHERE OF CLIMATE JUSTICE

- Communication and public education
- Homeowner/consumer education on solar and storage, EVs
- K-12 education, youth engagement and higher education climate change education.
- Reviewing the work of the EC4 toward its statutory requirements and identifying gaps and opportunities
- Encouraging the EC4 to integrate the recommendations of the state's wide range of climate-related studies into a comprehensive approach to address climate change and accelerate the transition to a low carbon future
- Advocating to the incoming administration the importance of the EC4 and the urgency of climate action
- Creating a municipal network so decision makers can have more peer-to-peer exchanges
- Best practices for resiliency at the municipal level
- Defining measures for resilience and monitoring how states/municipalities are doing
- Finding funding (and advocating for) uniform climate scenarios/modeling
- Sea level rise adaptation
- Flooding (inland / riverine)
- Connected grid solutions
- Property buy-out program
- Fulfilling the US Green Building Council's vision, healthy people in healthy places equals a healthy economy

WHAT STAKEHOLDERS OR CONSTITUENCIES WILL YOU ENGAGE WITHIN YOUR PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS?

- Businesses: Construction, real estate
- Affordable housing: Community development corporations first time homebuyers, low-income renters, developers, owners and advocates
- Trade associations: American Institute of Architects, the U.S. Green Building Council, Green Business Certification Inc., Association of State Flood Plain Managers, CA Office of Emergency Services, Disaster Assistance Committee of the American Institute of Architects, LEED Location + Planning Technical Advisory Group of the USGBC
- Federal Government: U.S. HUD Resiliency Task Group
- Higher Ed: RI Sea Grant/URI
- Media
- Health groups: Health Equity Zones, RIDOH constituencies (community health workers, CAP agencies)
- Food security: RI Food Policy Council
- Environmental groups: TNC, ECRI, Save The Bay, Audubon Society of Rhode Island, Green Energy Consumers Alliance, the Green Infrastructure Coalition, Providence Neighborhood Planting Program, Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council
- Labor: Climate Jobs RI (including AFL-CIO and member unions)
- Municipalities: elected officials, planners DPW professionals
- Justice-oriented groups: DARE, the REJC, Groundwork RI, Youth in Action

OTHER KEY ORGANIZATIONS WHICH SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN REVIEWING THE STATE'S CLIMATE JUSTICE PRIORITIES?

- The American Planning Association RI Chapter
- NAACP
- League of Cities & Towns
- Statewide Planning
- RIDOT
- Newport Energy and Environment Commission
- Emergency management officials (RI Association of Emergency Managers, RIEMA, PEMA)
- RIPTA users, transit advocates, bike/ped advocates
- Housing justice groups, housing equity, homelessness advocates
- Organizations representing low-income and minority groups (e.g., Progreso Latino)
- Trade/technical schools
- Environmental justice community members across the state
- Food sovereignty groups, food policy advocates, farmers
- Community development organizations
- Workforce development organizations

WHO ELSE?

- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION WELCOME -

STAKEHOLDER SURVEY GUIDE

Review of Proposed State Climate Justice Priorities

State government climate leaders have outlined a set of proposed priorities to advance a coordinated climate justice approach to their work, emphasizing equity and access for all Rhode Islanders.

The EC4 Advisory Board is surveying stakeholders to provide feedback on the outline.

For each of the four priorities:

- Will this effectively advance climate justice?
- Is this action framed correctly and with the appropriate language?
- What else should be included in this priority?

Overall questions:

- What else would you add to this list?
- Who else should be engaged in this review?
- Other comments

RHODE ISLAND
CLIMATE JUSTICE
PRIORITIES
-DRAFT-



Conduct a gap analysis of statewide policies and programs



Prioritize and improve public engagement and input throughout development and decision-making process



Create or improve access to programs, resources and information



Mitigate and remove burdens from environmental justice communities

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Conduct a gap analysis of statewide policies and programs

Example related goals:

- Informed by community engagement
- Qualitative and quantitative comprehensive equity assessment of programs
- Include metrics (e.g., grant funds awarded to environmental justice communities)
- Define environmental justice and develop statewide environmental justice policy, defining environmental justice communities, benefits, and burdens (aligned with federal definitions/restrictions)
- What else?

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Prioritize and improve public engagement throughout development and decision making

Example related goals:

- Compensate community members for their engagement
- Provide free child-care and/or transportation during community listening sessions and public input meetings
- Even after COVID, consider continuing to live stream public meetings and enable remote public comment
- Attend and present at community meetings and/or host workshops at community groups
- Hold regular environmental justice listening sessions with community members and leaders from our overburdened communities
- Engage advisory boards: RIPTA Passengers Advisory Board, TCI Equity Advisory Board, DPUC Ratepayer Advisory Board, National Grid/OER Income-Eligible Energy Efficiency Advisory Board, EC4 Advisory Board
- In EC4 annual report, include environmental justice section
- What else?

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Improve access to programs, resources, and information

- Example related goals:
- Analyze existing programs to promote increased access to environmental communities
- Coordinate across agencies to connect Rhode Islanders with comprehensive resources across state government (i.e. broad comprehensive resource document with personal contacts at state agencies; think about how we can plug resources into 211 and/or validate info)
- Create new initiatives that serve environmental justice communities
- Improve outreach and sharing information (includes ensuring all public documents and/or websites are translated); translation opportunities to provide public input (consider Google Translate resource or other state translation program)
- Short-term: secure stable translation services
- Expand translation opportunities to provide public input
- Improve public access and transportation to shores, parks, state offices
- Forge community partnerships with EJ communities
- Identify a climate justice point of contact at each agency
- Expand hours of operations
- Create a climate justice webpage on climatechange.ri.gov
- Educating people about channels for involvement and engagement
- What else?

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Mitigate and remove burdens from EJ communities

Example related goals:

- Identify burdens for environmental justice communities
- Consider unique needs of environmental justice communities in statewide grant programs
- Create new programs specifically targeted to serve environmental justice communities
- Reduce local emissions in environmental justice communities
- Create maps of environmental justice areas
- Address cost inequities in services
- Screen new initiatives through an environmental justice lens
- Coordinate efforts with our Health Equity Zones (HEZs)
- What else?

DISCUSSION

- What other tools or support do you need to conduct stakeholder surveys?
- Respond by Google form or email?

ASSIGNMENT

- Report to Liz who you plan to survey
- Plan to conduct at least 3 surveys (including yourself) by March 24
- Discuss feedback and revise process at March 31 meeting

COMMUNICATING ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

OTHER BUSINESS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUTURE MEETINGS

LAST WEDNESDAYS OF THE MONTH 10:30-NOON

March 31

April 28

May 26

June 30

July 28

August 25

September 29

October 27

November/December - TBD

Meeting materials will be posted
on the EC4 Advisory Board webpage

climatechange.ri.gov/state-actions/ec4/ec4-council/advisory-board.php

PUBLIC COMMENT

- PLEASE TYPE COMMENTS IN THE CHAT -

CLOSE