
**Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3)
ADAPTATION PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION
WORKING GROUP
MEETING MINUTES**

**March 5, 2020
9:30 am - 11:30 am
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT**

ATTENDANCE

Working Group	Title	Organization	Present
Aaron, Heather	Deputy Commissioner	CT DPH	✓
Anderson, David	Town Planner	Town of Madison	✓
Barrett, Juliana	Associate Extension Educator	UConn/Sea Grant	
Bell, Robert	Transportation Planning Director	CT DOT	✓
Berman, Todd	Manager, Environmental Programs and Projects	United Illuminating	✓
Bozzi, Laura	Director of Programs, Yale Center on Climate Change and Health	Yale University	✓
Bradner, George	Director, Property and Casualty Division	CT Insurance Department	✓
Buzzelli, Alysse	Commercial and Industrial Programs	CT Green Bank	✓
Dumais, Ken	State Hazard Mitigation Officer	CT DEMHS	
Cepeda, Emilio	Grid Modernization Engineer	Eversource	
Fulda, Matt	Executive Director	Metro COG	
Gillett, Marissa	Chairman	PURA	
Grigg, Kevin	Chief Operating Officer	Fuss & O'Neill	✓
Henning, Dawn	Project Manager	City of New Haven	✓
Jones, Nick	Energy Efficiency Consultant	Eversource	
Kral, George	Town Planner	Town of Guilford	✓
Kirchhoff, Christine	Assistant Professor	UConn Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering	✓
LeClair, Jessica	Program Manager Community Engagement & Outreach	Sustainable CT, Institute for Sustainable Energy Eastern CT State University	

Lucey, Bill	Soundkeeper	CFE/Save the Sound	✓
Molaei, Goudarz	Center for Vector Biology & Zoonotic Diseases	CT AG Experiment Station	✓
Morley, Dan	Policy Development Coordinator	CT OPM	✓
Pascucilla, Michael	Director of Health	East Shore District Health Department	✓
Rizzo, Nora	Director of Sustainability	Fusco	✓
Stafford, Kirby	Department of Entomology	CT AG Experiment Station	
Whelchel, Adam	Director of Science	The Nature Conservancy	✓
Woods, Aïcha	Executive Director, City Plan Department	City of New Haven	✓
Mathieu, Lori	Public Health Section Chief	CT DPH	✓
Mas, Diane	Chief Resilience Officer	Fuss & O'Neill	✓
Truscinski, John	Director of Resilience Planning	CIRCA	✓
Wozniak-Brown, Joanna	Senior Resilience Planner	CIRCA	✓
Carleton, Patrick	Deputy Director	Metro COG	✓
Keohane, Stefanie	Rate Specialist	PURA	✓

Associated Staff	Title	Organization	Present
Brian Thompson	Director, Land and Water Resources Division	CT DEEP	✓
Alex Felson	Director of Resilience Design	CIRCA	✓
James Albis	Senior Advisor to Commissioner Katie Dykes	CT DEEP	✓
Mary-beth Hart	Senior Environmental Planner	CT DEEP	✓
Adelaine McCloe	Environmental Intern	CT DEEP	✓

Ferdinand Pascua	Associate Rate Specialist	CT DEEP	✓
Cary Lynch	Research Analyst	CT DEEP	✓

Public Sign-in Sheet	Title	Organization	Present
Sten Caspersson			✓
Elsa Loehmann		MRWA	✓

AGENDA & NOTES

[Zoom recording of meeting slides and audio](#)

Welcome and Announcements

Facilitated by Brian Thompson/DEEP

- DEEP Land and Water Resources Division Director Brian Thompson began the meeting at approximately 9:35 am and welcomed all attending members to the first meeting of the GC3 Adaptation Planning and Implementation Working Group. Attendees introduced themselves and stated their work positions.
- Thompson gave an overview of the meeting format and provided a list of objectives to be discussed over the course of the meeting (Slide 4 of the meeting presentation).

Overview of GC3 and Working Group Structure

Facilitated by Brian Thompson/DEEP

- Brian Thompson talked about re-establishment of the GC3 (Governor's Council on Climate Change) by Governor Ned Lamont and that it was originally formed in 2015 by then-governor Dan Malloy to evaluate mitigation strategies for greenhouse gases. The reformed GC3 will expand on the old council goals by including implementation of resiliency and adaptation objectives.
- The focus of the council is to develop a plan for inventorying CT's vulnerable assets and operations, as well as to revise the CT Adaptation and Resilience Plan. The council will also be responsible for reporting on planning and progress of implementable adaptation strategies.
- A working group structural graph was shown on Slide 7 to demonstrate where this working group fits into the overall system created under the GC3.

Deliverables and Timeline

Facilitated by Brian Thompson/DEEP

- Thompson stated that the overall goal of the working groups under the GC3 is to produce a report that is due to the Governor by January 15, 2021.
- This report will cover the progress that the work groups have made on revising the statewide Adaptation and Resilience Plan as well as progress made on implementing suggestions that were outlined in the GC3 2018 report: *Building a Low Carbon Future for Connecticut: Achieving a 45% GHG Reduction by 2030*.
- Another deliverable is a report due by December 31, 2021 that describes how state agencies have incorporated climate change adaptation suggestions into their planning processes and documents.
- Thompson reviewed a list of questions to be discussed and addressed by this working group (Slide 9 of the meeting presentation).
- During the overview of these key questions, an attending member asked what group/individuals would be responsible for performing the data analyses that would likely be required to answer some of these questions.
 - Thompson answered that, as of right now, suggestions for handling analyses would come from a Science and Technology working group (which is still being formed). This group would also help to determine which outcomes/analyses were actionable and achievable within the given project timescale.
- Another attending member asked how human health is being incorporated into the considerations of the working group?
 - Brian Thompson answered that the group would discuss the theme areas in a later slide but that there would be a specific theme area group within the overall working group which would be responsible for overseeing and developing suggestions classified as 'Public Health and Safety.'
- Another question was asked about what the target audience of the deliverable report is?
 - Brian Thompson, with input from James Albis, responded that it is currently being decided how the final report will be broken down so that it is accessible by the public but also useful to state/local governments and ultimately presentable to the Governor's council.
- Brian Thompson overviewed a tentative timeline of this working group and what goals would be achieved on/by those dates (Slide 11 of the meeting presentation).
- An attending member asked if there would be open collaboration between all the GC3 working groups during this time and whether each working group would have access to the work being done by other working groups.
 - Brian Thompson and James Albis answered that within the Adaptation Planning and Implementation groups, there could be collaboration and members could sit in on meetings of different theme-area subgroups. However, in the overall structure, it would be too difficult to collaborate with entirely different working groups on a closely integrative basis.

- However, Equity and Environmental Justice issues will be closely integrated into all working groups
- Brian Thompson went over a list of proposed tasks to be achieved by the working group over the timeline leading up to the finalized report due date (Slide 12 of the meeting presentation).

Roles and Expectations

Facilitated by Brian Thompson/DEEP

- Brian Thompson expanded upon the roles of members within the working group and explained the different theme-area subgroups.
- The different themes covered by subgroups are to be: 'Transportation,' 'Utility Infrastructure,' 'Public Health and Safety,' and 'Land Use and Buildings.'
- He stated that leadership within the working group would be broken down as is indicated on Slide 13 of the presentation.
- Some open discussion ensued among members about what departments and interests could be classified under these theme areas and Thompson asked each of the leads to expand a little on what they envisioned the relevance of their themes would be to the overall goals of the working group and the GC3. Some thoughts that came from subgroup leads were:
 - **Land Use and Buildings:** Resilience of historic properties should be considered; non-critical infrastructure buildings have value and should be protected as well (if possible)
 - **Infrastructure:** System reliability could be expanded on through this working group; input from other groups will be useful in gathering recommendations for this
 - **Transportation:** Much of CT's existing infrastructure has already been designed to withstand varying weather scenarios; can the working group incorporate transportation infrastructure changes that are occurring now with climate change action recommendations that come from the GC3? Future work needs to harness best of current adaptation and resiliency info that might not be able to be accumulated by an individual agency but could be acquired through a working group (like GC3).
 - **Public Health and Safety:** Substantial health monitoring already goes on but it is always beneficial to have input on areas that might be newly monitored or monitored further; they look forward to collaborating and planning.
- Brian Thompson stated that the expectation was that members would participate in one or two of these theme-area subgroups. Theme area leads would work with their respective members between working group meetings in order to provide input and suggestions at future working group meetings.

Overview of 2011 Climate Change Preparedness Report

Facilitated by Brian Thompson/DEEP

- Thompson then went through a list of examples of adaptation recommendations contained in the 2011 preparedness plan. These were broken down by theme area so that members could see what sort of recommendations might fall under their subgroup's jurisdiction, and what actions they would be addressing.

- One attending member asked if the working group might add a bullet for adaptation examples that fall under transportation as well. Thompson responded that was something to further consider.

Proposed Table of Contents

Facilitated by Brian Thompson/DEEP

- Brian Thompson went over the proposed table of contents for the report drafts that would be produced by each subgroup. The table of contents for each group can be viewed in the on Slide 16 of the meeting presentation.
- At this point in the meeting, Brian Thompson asked if any of the members had technical or logistical questions. Attending members posed the following questions at this time:
 - Can the working group have a SharePoint site for the working subgroups to collaborate on progress and ask questions that might be better answered by members of another subgroup?
 - There will be a Microsoft Team established for all working groups
 - Are there opportunities for larger collaborative efforts within the region or across state lines? This attending member pointed out that it might be a good opportunity to qualify for additional funding if the goals of the GC3 were expanded across multiple states/regions.
 - Could the working group develop some examples of “Indicators,” “Targets,” and “Outcomes” in order to flesh out the exact meanings behind this terminology since it will be used throughout the reports?
 - How will the working group plan to quantitatively and qualitatively measure progress on the overall GC3 goals and the goals outlined by the different themed-area subgroups?
 - How will geography be incorporated into the conversation on vulnerability and how Targets/Indicators are considered?
- These questions were all recorded for further consideration. James Albis stated that many of the questions were good points and should be discussed further during the next meeting.

Overview from CIRCA

John Truscinski and Joanna Wozniak-Brown/CIRCA

- John Truscinski from CIRCA gave a presentation on existing CIRCA projects and what key takeaways this working group could gather from their experience.
- John introduced CIRCA and one of its primary projects, called Resilient Connecticut. He stated that this project is part of the National Disaster Resilience Competition and that there are a few components to it that are important and relevant to the work aiming to be accomplished via the GC3.
- He also presented “10 Things About Resilience in CT” which attending members agreed were very useful points for discussion in context of the goals of the GC3 and this working group. To see CIRCA’s presentation, please view their uploaded slides.

Public comments

Facilitated by Brian Thompson/DEEP

- No public comments were received.

Next Steps and Adjourn

Facilitated by Brian Thompson/DEEP

- Additional issues raised by working group members included
 - Do any organizations have “shovel-ready” projects that can be implemented as soon as there are funds available?
 - Can the working group compile a list of projects and/or changes that are already being successfully implemented to highlight an inventory of completed projects and a framework for understanding how they were accomplished?
 - In moving forward with financial considerations, is there a way to shift funding from federal support towards more CT-centric financing?
 - Are there any barriers other than financing that should be discussed?
- Thompson stated that these questions were all good points for consideration and would be addressed further at future working group meetings.
- DEEP will follow-up to confirm date availability for next working group meeting in mid- or late-April
- DEEP will follow-up with self-selected subgroup assignments
- Before next meeting: groups should review 2011 recommendations and update progress-to-date, and identify needs and gaps
- The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:40 am