



119 Washington Avenue, Suite 1G
Albany, NY 12210
518.432.1405
info@aceny.org | www.aceny.org

[July 15, 2021](#)

[Summaries of the CAC, Advisory Panel and Working Group Meetings - June, 2021](#)

By Anastasia Gordon

Climate Action Council – Monday, June 28, 2021

The **Climate Action Council** (CAC) meeting on June 28 focused on feedback from members of the Climate Justice Working Group (CJWG) on final Panel emissions reduction recommendations. The CJWG, which is tasked to define and provide strategic advice on meeting the needs of disadvantaged communities (DACs), narrowed in on the mitigation proposals of the [Transportation](#) and [Energy Efficiency and Housing](#) (EEH) Panels, specifically. Further engagement with the CJWG is anticipated in the near future to gain feedback on the remaining Panel recommendations. The CAC reconvenes on July 22.

Before delving into the feedback, CJWG member Elizabeth Yeampierre (UPROSE) set the context by encouraging the CAC to consider environmental justice (EJ) and the principles of the [just transition framework](#) as they develop the scoping plan to achieve the targets of NY's climate law, the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). She called for community driven investments, workforce development for low-income communities and communities of color, and annual assessment of meeting the equity goals in the CLCPA.

CJWG members felt that the Transportation Panel's recommendations fell short of addressing environmental justice raising concerns over the "over-emphasis" on electrification of passenger cars vs public transit as well as market-based approaches such as the [Transportation and Climate Initiative](#) and a clean fuel standard. Alternatively, Eddie Bautista of NYC Environmental Justice Alliance endorsed the [Climate and Community Investment Act](#), an economy-wide carbon pricing mechanism that is estimated to produce \$15 billion a year in revenues for EJ communities. Considering these insights, the Transportation Panel Chair Marie Therese Dominguez expressed her desire to coordinate continued engagement with the CJWG.

In contrast, the CJWG members praised the EEH Panel's proposed mitigation strategies but offered additional suggestions such as bolstering local supply chains and creating standards for upgrading existing buildings prioritizing public housing. Rahwa Ghirmatzion (PUSH Buffalo) emphasized that this should include proper cost projections and placed-based strategies for these buildings including maintenance/

upgrades, mold and lead remediation, and preparation for heat pumps and solar installations.

The meeting wrapped up with a report out from Chair Rosa Mendez (DEC) on the working group's progress in identifying criteria to define disadvantaged communities. To date, the CJWG has reviewed available models of DACs and applied an evaluation rubric to identified indicators. They are now in the process of developing draft criteria, methodology and documenting data sets as well as ground-truthing draft scenarios. Starting in August, six public hearings will be held to garner input on the DAC draft criteria with the aim to finalize them by November.

It is anticipated that the CAC will continue engagement with the CJWG in the coming months to get feedback on the remaining Panel recommendations. However, the next CAC meeting on July 22 at 2 p.m. will center on the integration analysis that will evaluate the emissions reductions and societal costs/benefits of all the [Panel recommendations](#). The recording and materials from this meeting can found [here](#).

Climate Justice Working Group – Wednesday, June 23, 2021

By Anastasia Gordon

On June 23, the **Climate Justice Working Group (CJWG)** met to continue its work on identifying criteria to define disadvantaged communities. Illume, the consultants assisting the working group with its work went through a series of health indicators that have been difficult to get data on, including COVID-19 related deaths. The consultants tasked the CJWG to assist with finding proxies for these indicators. Recordings and materials for this and past CJWG meetings can be found [here](#).