



State of New Jersey

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SHAWN M. LATOURETTE
Commissioner

Environmental Justice Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

December 11, 2024, 10:00 am – 2:30 pm
Groundwork Elizabeth

Council Members

Present: Chloe Desir, Dr. Galia Shokry, Jackie Park Albaum, Jeffrey Perlman, Krishna Garlic, Melissa Miles, Nicole Brown, Timi Lindsay, William Casey, X Braithwaite, Andy Kricun, Micheal Morgan, Tyrese Gould-Jacinto

Absent: Dr. Amy Tuininga, Dr. Denalerie Johnson-Faniel, Dr. Robert Laumbach, Terrance Bankston, Chief Vincent Mann

OEJ Staff: Kandyce Perry, Myla Ramirez, Rehanna Azimi, Muskan Shrivastava, Nadia Akbar, Christina Gonzalve, Anna Maria O'Connor, Chloe Landau

EJAC Retreat

EJAC members met in person at Groundwork Elizabeth in Elizabeth, New Jersey hosted by EJAC member Jackie Park Albaum.

The day started with reviewing the Office of Environmental Justice's accomplishments in the past year. Accomplishments included five new Environmental Justice Community Engagement sessions, publishing the Public Participation Guidance, publishing the EJ Directory, launching an educational EJ seminar series, and reviewing projects under the new EJ Rule. EJAC's accomplishments within the year were then also recapped, including assisting in the launch of the EJ seminar series, reviewing draft bills, compiling a list of recommendations in a letter to DEP's Office of Brownfield & Community Revitalization, and coordinating with two transportation management associations to launch a pilot purple air monitoring program.

The retreat continued with a talk led by graduate students at Rutgers University from the Smart Kids and Cool Seniors project. Partnered with Groundwork Elizabeth and the Housing Authority of the City of Elizabeth, the project seeks to assist low-resource urban residents as they adapt to increasing heat stress and local air pollution. The goal is measure pollution and temperature exposures for dynamic modeling that will help the housing authority manage its facilities. The students demonstrated some of the sensors being used that are carried around in backpacks.

After lunch, EJAC transitioned into a full council meeting to discuss priorities for the 2025 Work Plan. Members participated in breakout groups with their working groups and their respective OEJ staff facilitators.

- **Air:** The working group will continue to work on its Community Air Monitoring project partnering with two transportation management authorities for a pilot. A date for training on how to use the purple air monitors has been set in January. It will also discuss the potential to scale up Groundwork Elizabeth's Breathe Elizabeth community air monitoring dashboard into a statewide platform for various community air monitoring projects around the state and continue discussions to better understand and brainstorm potential solutions for a number of air quality that have been of ongoing concern to EJ communities
- **Water:** The working group will focus on water quality awareness and education, particularly on PFAS and Lead. This includes generating ideas for fact sheets and indemnifying gaps in DEP's resources for communities. The working group will also review lead line notification letters and create a guide for municipalities on how to conduct an Adopt-a-Catch basin program.
- **Land:** The working group will collaborate with the Division of Science & Research to improve fish advisory communications, such as language and material. It will also assist in outreach to OBCs that are not currently participating in the NJ Urban and Community Forestry Accreditation program and work to implement items in EJAC's brownfield redevelopment recommendation letter.
- **Environmental Education and Communication:** The working group will continue to work with DEP to generate ideas for EJ seminars. It will also create a comprehensive organizational chart of the DEP outlining the various offices within the department and detailing their roles and responsibilities so that residents can identify the appropriate contacts. This work group will also discuss how to improve emergency communication during environmental incidents such as wildfires or fires at facilities with potential to emit environmental contaminants.

The 2025 Meeting Calendar was reviewed and members were invited to discuss any conflicts with the proposed meeting calendar.

Adjourn

2:30 pm