

Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
November 28, 2017 9:30 am-11:30 am
Maryland Department of the Environment
Aqua Conference Room
1800 Washington Blvd Baltimore, MD 21230

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

- Commissioners: Duane Johnson, Stephan Levitsky, Rebecca Rehr, Subha Chandar, Tanvi Gadhia, Clarence Lam, Robert Hackman, Janet Moye Cornick, Crystal Faison
- Participants: George Aburn, Angelo Bianca, Horacio Tablada

Introduction

Camille Burke asked everyone in the meeting and on the phone to introduce themselves.

Horacio Tablada, Deputy Secretary of the Environment introduced himself and gave a brief history of his involvement in Environmental Justice issues at MDE.

October meeting minutes were approved.

Daniel Engelberg from the National Center for Smart Growth gave an overview of EJ Mapping Tools for Maryland based on established tools such as EPA EJ Screen (<http://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/>) and CalEnviroScreen (<https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30>):

- He talked about the different pollution burdens, environmental effects and exposures, population characteristics, and socio-economic characteristics; and discussed the following methodology for a scoring system borrowed from CalEnviroScreen:

Pollution Burden (average of exposure and environmental effects) X Pollution Characteristics (average of sensitive populations and socio-economic factors)=CalEnviroScreen model

- Mr. Engelberg mentioned collaborators such as Dr. Wilson and Dr. Payne from UMD, Prince George's County, and Bladensburg community; and shared some additional partnerships with CEJSC: Town Creek Foundation, National Center for Smart Research & Education, and the Maryland Environmental Health Network.

Rebecca said the mapping tool can be used as a tool, but not to infer causation or to define policy recommendations that provide data on a geographical scale, and in-terms of defining areas, this is where the Commission can come in and talk about:

- How we define vulnerability in the context of the Climate Commission, What indicators we use to look at EJ communities.
- If you are living in an EJ community, what does that mean to you?

- There was some talk about Action vs Data as it relates to the mapping tool. It was asked if EJScreen gives similar results and Mr. Engelberg said relatively yes, as it relates to layers.
- A survey was sent to CEJSC to gauge what the Commission thinks about this tool. A think will sent be sent that the Commission can use for the survey.
- Mr. Engelberg said he would send out the user guide for the mapping tool.
- Tanvia Gadhia asked whether transportation layers are included in the mapping tool. Mr. Engelberg said there are some.

Camille Burke tabled the topic of Defining Equity, but said she would begin to look into it and share what she found with the Commission.

Camille asked Rebecca to,be the Commission’s legislative person and keep the Commission on point with what’s going on in Annapolis.

Maryland Climate Change Commission Update

George Aburn gave a brief overview of the inception of the Climate Change Commission:

- The Commission was started in 2007.
- It developed its first climate action plan in 2008, leading to law in 2009.
- The Commission was put into law in 2015.
- It has four working groups- Adaptation, Scientific and Technical, Mitigation and Education, and Communication.
- Mr. Aburn said the Commission does a lot with green gas reduction and community outreach.
- Steve Levitsky asked Mr. Aburn if the reduction scope is 1,2 or point source. Mr. Aburn said its economy wide.
- Mr. Aburn said the Commission began a concerted effort to go into communities in 2016 to hear what they wanted to talk about. Since 2016 they have been to about to about 15 communities.
- Examples of partnerships created as a results of these outreach efforts includes: Bon Secour Hospital and Safe Alternative in West Baltimore.
- Mr. Aburn talked about the VW settlement which totals about \$76 million the State can use to help the movement and clean up the air. He said one part of the settlement requires it to have an environmental impact on EJ communities.
- Mr. Aburn asked the EJ Commission to let him know of areas where CEJSC thinks the Climate Change Commission should go.
- Someone asked Mr. Aburn what topics communities ask him to talk about. He said air pollution and that some communities say they can’t find resources concerning State accentives. Mr. Aburn said they are working on facts sheets that will help address these concerns.

It was decided not to have the December meeting but to communicate by email if needed.

No Public Comments

Meeting Adjourned