

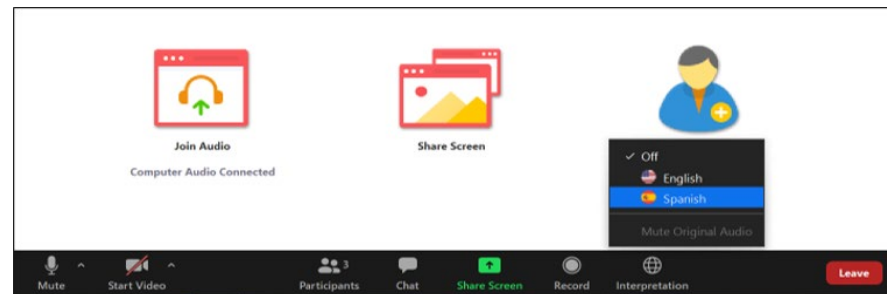
THIS MEETING IS BEING RECORDED

# Environmental Justice Council

Meeting #3  
Tuesday, Sept 27, 2022  
12:00 pm



- ▶ **Logistics: Language Interpretation is being offered in: Español, Kreyòl ayisyen 普通话, Kriolu, Português, Tiếng Việt, and American Sign Language (ASL)**
  - ▶ To participate in English, click the “Interpretation” icon and select English.
  - ▶ Para entrar no canal em português, clique no ícone “Interpretation” e selecione “Portuguese”
  - ▶ Si alguien desea interpretación en español, haga clic en “Interpretation” y seleccione “Spanish”
  - ▶ Pou rantre nan chanèl kreyòl ayisyen an, klike sou ikòn “Interpretation” an epi chwazi “Haitian Creole”
  - ▶ 要以普通话参加会议，请单击口语图标并选择 “Chinese”
  - ▶ Pa partisipa na Kriolu, klika na ikone “Intirpretason” y silisiona “Cape Verdean Kriolu”.
  - ▶ Để vào kênh bằng tiếng Việt, hãy nhấp vào biểu tượng “Interpretation” và chọn “Vietnamese”
- ▶ **Please speak slowly.**
- ▶ **All attendees must select a language channel, even if viewing the presentation in English.**



- ▶ **If you would like a translated version of the slides, please go to the EJC website at: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/environmental-justice-council-ejc-meetings>**

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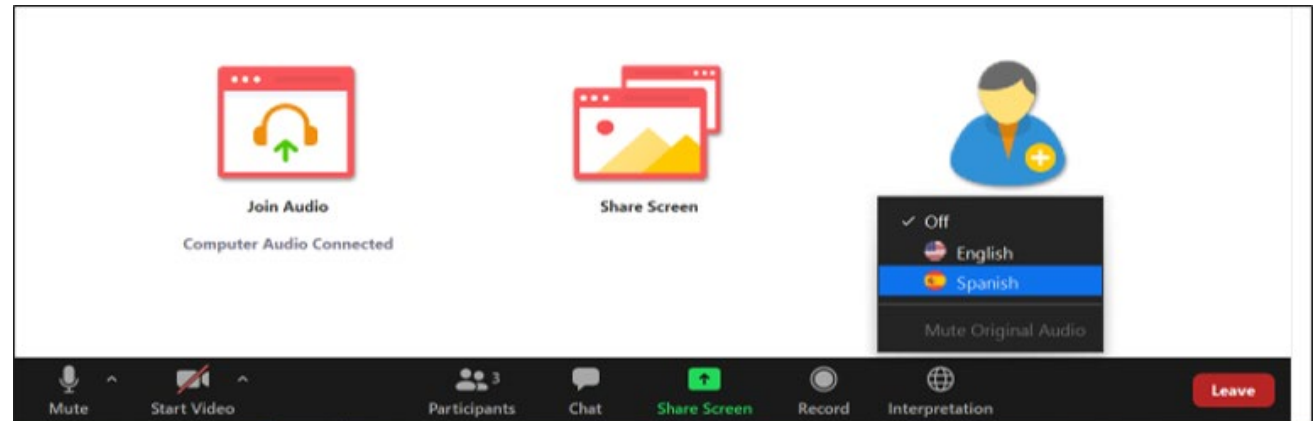
# Logistics & Agenda

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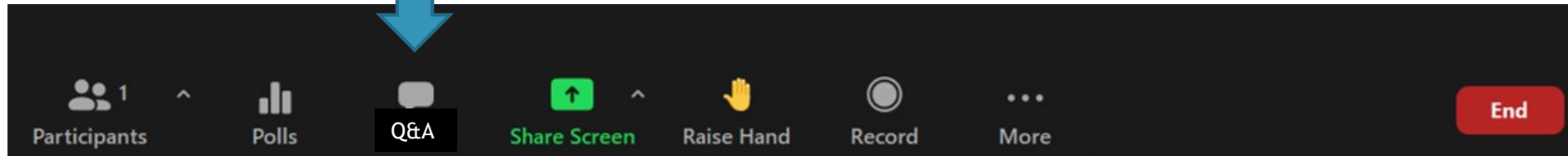
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# Logistics: Remote Meeting Details

- ▶ All lines will be muted during the presentations.
- ▶ The line will be open for oral comments after the presentations.
- ▶ If you have a clarifying question or a logistical issue during the presentations, please type it into the Q&A box.



# Agenda

- ▶ Welcome and Overview of Meeting Logistics 12:00 – 12:10
- ▶ Approval of prior meeting minutes & Announcements 12:10 – 12:15
- ▶ Presentation by Environmental Justice Task Force 12:15 – 12:45
- ▶ Further discussion of EJC work product, process, and operation regarding Comprehensive Analysis of Definition of “EJ Population” 12:45 – 12:55
- ▶ Questions / comments from the public
- ▶ Next Steps and Adjourn



# Introduction of EJ Council Members

- ▶ Kalila Barnett
- ▶ Madeline Fraser Cook
- ▶ Melissa Harding-Ferretti
- ▶ Cheryll Holley
- ▶ Caroline Hon
- ▶ Namrita Kapur
- ▶ Lydia Lowe
- ▶ Marcos Luna
- ▶ Peter Maathey
- ▶ Rishi Reddi
- ▶ Patricia Spence
- ▶ Ari Zorn

# Approval of September 15, 2022 Meeting Minutes and Announcements



# EEA's EJ Task Force

# EEA Environmental Justice Task Force

AGENCY	NAME	TITLE
EEA	Rishi Reddi	Director of Environmental Justice
EEA	Vallery Cardoso	Deputy Director of Environmental Justice
EEA	Carline Lemoine	Deputy Director of Environmental Justice
MDAR	Rebecca Davidson	Farmer's Market Nutrition Program Coordinator
DCR	Jorge J. Ayub	Coastal Ecologist
DCR	Francisco Rodriguez	AMMP Program GIS Analyst
DEP	Deneen Simpson	Director of Environmental Justice
DFG	Noah McClanan	Legislative Director
DFG	Jimmy Rossignol	Aquatic Biologist
DOER	Danilo Morales	Clean Energy Program and Outreach Manager
DPU	Wayne Wang	Energy Facilities Siting Analyst
DPU	Scott Seigal	Hearing Officer
EEA Offices	NAME	TITLE
CZM	Tyler Soleau	Assistant CZM Director
OLE	Captain Kevin Clayton	Deputy Chief of Enforcement
GIS	Dominique Pahlavan	GIS Coordinator
HR	Cindy Montoya	Director of Outreach & Training
MEPA	Tori Kim	Assistant Secretary / MEPA Director
MEPA	Page Czepiga	Assistant MEPA Director
OTA	Tiffany Skogstrom	OTA Director
OTA	Kari Sasportas	Outreach and Policy Analyst
EEA-AFFILIATED	NAME	TITLE
CEC	Beverly Craig	Sr. Program Manager, Low & Moderate Income Programs
CEC	Jade Lu	Clean Transportation Program Manager
MWRA	Tomeka Cribb-Jones	Associate Special Assistant, Affirmative Action

# Presentation by EEA's EJ Task Force

- ▶ Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act Office - Tori Kim
- ▶ Department of Agricultural Resources - Rebecca Davidson
- ▶ Department of Environmental Protection - Deneen Simpson
- ▶ Department of Public Utilities - Scott Seigal and Carline Lemoine
- ▶ Massachusetts Clean Energy Center - Beverly Craig and Jade Lu
- ▶ Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program - Carrieanne Petrik

# Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA)

## Top 5 Current EJ Initiatives:

- ▶ Implement directives of the 2021 climate legislation (St. 2021, c. 8), including requiring “environmental impact reports” (EIRs) for projects proposed near EJ neighborhoods
- ▶ Maintain a list of community-based organizations (CBOs) and tribes/indigenous organizations for purposes of facilitating public involvement in project reviews
- ▶ Provide guidance to project proponents on community engagement strategies, including language services (in consultation with EEA EJ staff)
- ▶ Develop trainings and outreach to EJ communities to educate the public on ways to participate in the MEPA process (in consultation with EEA EJ staff)
- ▶ Improve internal MEPA operations, including site visit procedures and language services

# Some ways the definition of EJ population impacts MEPA's work

- ▶ Determines the level of MEPA review required for a wide variety of public and private projects
- ▶ Informs the types of community engagement strategies that may be appropriate, depending on the nature of the project and its impacts
- ▶ Affects the nature of language services provided during project reviews

# Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR)

## Top 5 Current EJ Initiatives:

- ▶ Improving Language Access
  - ▶ Internal translation/interpretation requests -- complete
  - ▶ External translation/interpretation requests -- ongoing
- ▶ Meaningful involvement of community-based organizations through engagement and outreach
- ▶ Disseminating information on MDAR grants and programs
- ▶ Increasing web-based training and education
- ▶ Environmental Justice Internship

## Some ways the definition of EJ population impacts MDAR'S work

- ▶ Definition of EJ Population appears on all MDAR RFRs
- ▶ Referenced in EJ Map Viewer
- ▶ Leveraging Definition to Conduct Gap Analysis

# Department of Environmental Protection

## Top 5 Current EJ Initiatives:

- ▶ EJ Strategy
- ▶ Public Involvement Plan (PIP) Policy [Internal]
- ▶ Air Quality Cumulative Impact Analysis (Bureau of Air & Waste)
- ▶ Senior Equity Team
- ▶ EJ Resources Page (Intranet)



# Some ways the definition of EJ population impacts MassDEP's work

- ▶ Ensure all MassDEP staff are aware of the 2021 EJ population and that they are proceeding appropriately - community engagement, public involvement, translation services, when appropriate, etc.
- ▶ Ensure that MassDEP is looking through the EJ lens when conducting key agency actions/activities. Engaging with EJ populations is always intentional and deliberate.
  - ▶ Aware of EJ Populations that meet the EJ criteria (minority, income, English isolation)
- ▶ Ensure resources are available/accessible to MassDEP staff, EJ maps, EJ training, EJ resource site - hiring an EJ Outreach Coordinator to assist MassDEP's EJ office.

# Department of Public Utilities'

## Top 5 Current EJ Initiatives:

- ▶ Opened an inquiry to examine procedural enhancements to our public notice requirements to increase awareness of and participation in Department proceedings, D.P.U. 21-50
- ▶ Established an EJ Team and EJ Point-of-Contact
- ▶ Directed the distribution companies to procure language access services for translation of notices and simultaneous interpretation at hearings in certain cases
- ▶ More plain language in our Notices
- ▶ Contracted with a language access service provider to provide interpretation services for incoming calls from non-English speaking members of the public

# Some ways the definition of EJ population impacts DPU's work

- ▶ Community engagement with distribution companies or competitive suppliers
- ▶ DPU engagement with ratepayers about Department proceedings and public hearings
- ▶ Public comment hearings
- ▶ Addressing EJ and equity of utility company proposals in certain proceedings
- ▶ Addressing EJ and equity issues regarding rideshare company practices and services

## Top 5 Current EJ Initiatives:

▶ **Accelerating Clean Transportation for All (ACT4ALL)**

Equity-focused pilot project grants of up to \$500K - \$1M to increase clean transportation access and decrease existing transportation burdens.

▶ **EmPower**

Grants of up to \$150K to explore, develop, and implement programs that provide access to the benefits of clean energy for previously underserved populations.

▶ **Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) Support**

Grants for programming to support expansion of MWBE in climate critical fields.

▶ **Equity Workforce Training Grants**

Up to \$1M grants for workforce training of residents of Environmental Justice neighborhoods. Option for \$50K planning grant.

▶ **Internship Program: Support Even More Diversity**

Provides extra recruiting, placement support, and career training for underrepresented populations.



## MassCEC's Environmental Justice Framework

- ▶ MassCEC is committed to incorporating principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, and **environmental justice** in all aspects of our work in order to promote the **equitable distribution of the health and economic benefits of clean energy** and support a diverse and inclusive clean energy industry.

### Key Strategies:

- ▶ Integrate EJ principles and prioritize EJ populations in grantmaking
  - ▶ EJ-specific programs, EJ selection criteria, reduced or zero match requirements
  - ▶ Track spending and number of projects in EJ populations
- ▶ Build relationships with EJ stakeholders and community groups through regular engagement
  - ▶ Convene capacity-building workshops and events
  - ▶ Provide capacity-building and planning grants

# Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP)

## Current EJ Initiatives:

- ▶ MVP Action Grants
  - ▶ EJ Scoring Criteria
  - ▶ Letters of support
  - ▶ Community Liaison Model
- ▶ MVP Planning Grant 2.0
- ▶ EJ Toolkit
- ▶ Designated Equity & Engagement Technical Assistance Regional Coordinator

# Some ways the definition of EJ population impacts MVP's work

- ▶ Rural EJ community members are not captured in the current EJ definition because rural communities tend not to have “neighborhoods”
- ▶ Climate Vulnerable Populations
  - ▶ “Climate Vulnerable Populations are those who have lower adaptive capacity or higher exposure and sensitivity to climate hazards like flooding or heat stress due to factors such as access to transportation, income level, disability, racial inequity, health status, or age.”
- ▶ Challenges for municipalities who use the EJ viewer to determine if they have an EJ block group and if they don't, then just move on without further conversation



# EJ Council's Comprehensive Analysis of Definition of “Environmental Justice Population”:



# Work of the EJ Council

required by *An Act Creating a Next Generation Roadmap for MA Climate Policy*

- ▶ ....advise and provide recommendations to the secretary of energy and environmental affairs on relevant policies and standards to achieve the environmental justice principles.
- ▶ .... conduct a comprehensive analysis every 5 years to ensure the definition of environmental justice population achieves the objectives of the environmental justice principles.  
As part of the analysis, said council shall provide advice and make recommendations to the secretary on any necessary changes to the percentage thresholds included in this definition and any related regulation.

# EJ Population Definition Comprehensive Analysis: Current MA Definition

- ▶ “Neighborhood” a census block group as defined by the United States Census Bureau.
- ▶ “Environmental justice population” a neighborhood that meets 1 or more of the following criteria:
  - i. the annual median household income is not more than 65 per cent of the statewide annual median household income;
  - ii. minorities comprise 40 per cent or more of the population;
  - iii. 25 per cent or more of households lack English language proficiency; or
  - iv. minorities comprise 25 per cent or more of the population and the annual median household income of the municipality in which the neighborhood is located does not exceed 150 per cent of the statewide annual median household income.
- ▶ Exemptions: people who live in college dormitories and people who are under formally authorized, supervised care or custody, including federal, state or county prisons.

# Discussion of Work Product

## Options discussed last week:

- ▶ Oral Report to the Secretary of Energy and Environment and EEA Senior Staff in EJC Meeting under Open Meeting Law
- ▶ Written Report to the Secretary of Energy and Environment, available as a public document.
- ▶ Written Report, to be accompanied by EJC meeting with the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs and EEA Senior Staff

# Discussion of Work Process

## Options discussed last week:

- ▶ Sub-committees necessary?
- ▶ Wait and see?

# Public Comments and Questions

*Please limit each comment to 1 minute to allow time for others to speak*



WHAT'S  
NEXT?

## Next Steps & Adjourn

- ▶ Next meeting: October 12, 2022; 6:00 pm
- ▶ Information on the EJC and its meetings can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/environmental-justice-council-ejc>