



# Listening Session on EEA and DPU Public Involvement Plans

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**Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs**

**Caroline Lemoine, Deputy Director of Environmental  
Justice for External Affairs**

**Department of Public Utilities**

**Veena Dharmaraj, Director of Environmental Justice  
and Public Participation**



# Webinar Logistics

- **Language Interpretation** is being offered in: Español, Kreyòl ayisyen, Português, 普通话, Tiếng Việt, and Kriôlu Kabuverdianu.
  - To participate in English, click the “Globe” icon and select English.
  - Para entrar no canal em português, clique no ícone “Globe” e selecione “Portuguese”
  - Si alguien desea interpretación en español, haga clic en “Globe” y seleccione “Spanish”
  - Pou rantre nan chanèl kreyòl ayisyen an, klike sou ikòn “Globe” 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”.
  - Để tham gia bằng tiếng Việt, hãy bấm vào biểu tượng “Quả địa cầu” và chọn Tiếng Việt.
  - Pa partisipa na Kriôlu Kabuverdianu, kalka na “Globe” y selesiona Kriôlu Kabuverdianu.

Interpretation

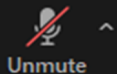


Interpretation



Live Transcript

Closed Captioning



Unmute



Chat

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# Purpose of Public Involvement Plan (PIP)

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- The purpose of the PIP is to ensure meaningful access to services, programs, activities, and materials for all persons, regardless of race, color, national origin, ethnicity or ancestry, disability, class, income, gender identity, sexual orientation, religious belief, or English language proficiency.
- The PIP provides a framework for effective public involvement that engages the impacted community and solicits meaningful public input.

# Execution of Effective Public Outreach – EEA Public Involvement Plan (PIP)



- Develop a public involvement plan strategy for decision-making processes regarding the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies, including climate change policies, that promote inclusivity.
- EEA commits to inclusivity by following procedures that consist of:
  - Engaging early on with constituents
  - Keeping constituents informed at every stage of the decision-making process, from the initial proposal to the final implementation, to foster trust and transparency.
  - Being intentional when seeking public input
- Incorporate public input in decision-making to the extent possible by law.





# Elements of Staff Training – EEA Public Involvement Plan (PIP)

- Conduct EEA-wide staff training to ensure staff understands and implements the concept of environmental justice principles in accordance with the Climate Roadmap Act.
  - Identify EJ communities
  - Translate materials
  - Minimize industry jargon
  - Provide interpretation services
  - Provide equitable access to public meetings





# Administration of EEA Public Involvement Plan (PIP)

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- This PIP is a living document that will be formally updated every two years to reflect changes in community needs, ensuring that the community remains our top priority.
- The Offices of the Secretary shall use this PIP as a guide to develop outreach plans tailored to their key agency actions, activities, or programs:
  - Coastal Zone Management
  - OTA
  - MEPA
  - MEP
- Each agency under the EEA's purview is developing its respective Public Involvement Plan, using the EEA's PIP as a module, and tailoring it to its key agency actions, activities, or programs.



# DPU Public Involvement Plan (PIP)

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- Assesses if a Department proceeding or action will have a disproportionate impact on EJ populations
- Requires greater levels of publication and community outreach for significant proceedings
- Identifies best practices to enhance public participation and community engagement



# Key Practices - DPU Public Involvement Plan (PIP)

- Conduct outreach to stakeholders, including community-based organizations, to publicize opportunities to provide feedback for significant Department initiated proceedings
- Require petitioners to conduct outreach to municipal and community leaders at least 30 days prior to filing a petition with the Department for significant proceedings initiated by the petitioner
- Translate vital documents and provide interpretation for significant proceedings so that all people can participate and provide input regardless of English language proficiency.
- Increase messaging via Department social media channels and website, including information useful for Environmental Justice (EJ) populations







# Key Practices - DPU Public Involvement Plan (PIP)

- Consider time, location, availability of public transportation when scheduling public hearings
- Include information in notices on nature of the proceeding, how to file comments or attend public hearings, comment deadlines, how to request language access services, and key contact information
- Review and consider all comments submitted in a proceeding and address them as appropriate in the order issued
- Share PIP with staff, management, and leadership, and provide staff training on processes and practices



# Inviting Feedback on draft PIPs and Survey Questions

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- What communication channel is most effective in breaking barriers to public participation in your community? Please identify your community.
- Transparency is vital to our decision-making processes. Do you have any suggestions for improving transparency and ensuring the reasons behind decisions are open to stakeholders?
- What best practices will be most impactful to enhance public participation in Department proceedings, programs, and services?





# Public Comments

*To offer public comments, please use the Raise Hand function. We will call on attendees in the order they appear on the screen.*

*Please limit your comments to 3 minutes to allow time for others to speak.*





## Additional Resources and Information

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- Draft EEA and DPU Public Involvement Plans - <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/eea-and-dpu-public-involvement-plans-pips#:~:text=The%20PIPs%20are%20designed%20to,comment%20through%20November%204%2C%202024>.
  - [English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Portuguese](#) | [Simplified Chinese](#) | [Traditional Chinese](#) | [Haitian Creole](#) | [Vietnamese](#) | [Cape Verdean Creole](#)
- **Listening Session 2: In-person**
  - **Tuesday, October 29, 6:00 – 7:30 pm**, North Shore Community College, 300 Broad St, Lynn, MA 01901. [Click here to register.](#)
- Comments on the draft EEA and DPU PIPs [can be submitted through this portal](#) or via email to [ej.inquiries@mass.gov](mailto:ej.inquiries@mass.gov) until **November 4, 2024**.