

EQUITY IN AIR QUALITY AND CLIMATE PLANNING

Proposed Approach

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Department of Environmental Programs (DEP)

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

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Background

- In May of 2023, the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) adopted its FY24 work program including an objective to include a racial equity lens in work activities. The committee also included a goal of developing a new document to address environmental justice in air quality planning.
- As part of COG's work:
 - ACPAC is to update its 2017 EJ Toolkit.
 - The Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) climate plan program for the MSA requires significant new community engagement, emphasizing J40 and LIDAC. Consultant proposals currently under review include EJ/Equity/Community Engagement.

Proposed Approach

- What is MWAQC Planning to Do?
- Recommend a multi-pronged approach
 1. Partner with COG – EJ Toolkit
 2. Partner with COG - CPRG grant program
 3. NEW - Resource Guide document, joint exercise of COG and MWAQC
- This approach would be consistent with:
 - MWAQC Resolution from May
 - COG’s Region United Framework
 - Requirements for the CPRG Plan



Resource Guide Document

- What will resource guide be about?
 - Potential outline for EJ resource
 - Look for best practices in different sectors
 - How identify and quantify inequities in all sectors that are attributable to environmental policies, programs, and projects
 - Drivers causing in equities
 - Opportunities to address inequities
 - How factor them into policies, programs, and policies to help address criteria or GHGs or other environmental issue.

Immediate Actions/Next Steps

- Survey and hold focus group discussions with COG member staff and experts to identify resource and assistance needs
- Plan and hold community engagement
- Hire consultant to assist:
 - Update EJ Toolkit
 - Develop EJ Resource Guide Document
 - Member, expert and community engagement with emphasis on low-income disadvantaged communities.

Input, What Else?

- Input from State Air Agencies, Local Government
 - Update EJ Toolkit
 - Develop Regional EJ Resource Guide
 - Member, expert and community engagement with emphasis on low-income disadvantaged communities.



Public Participation Encouraged

- To engage on Equity and EJ for air quality and climate planning, share your thoughts and ideas:
 - email MWAQCPublicComment@mwkog.org
 - Sign up in advance for public comments
 - Observe technical committee meetings
- Website update pending
- Please share resource ideas, recommend experts to participate in focus group, community engagement, etc.

COG Staff Resources

- COG Chief Equity Officers (CEOC)
 - Monica Beyrouiti
- MWAQC
 - Jen Desimone
 - Sunil Kumar
- ACPAC
 - Leah Boggs
- COG DTP
 - Sergio Ritacco

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