

Climate Action Steering Committee

Council Caucus, Room 108, City Hall

Thursday, February 13, 2020

3:00PM



Committee Members in attendance: Jennifer Fogliano (NJTPA), Mira Prinz-Arey (Councilperson, Ward B), Lindsey Sigmund (Jersey City Division of Planning), Alison Cucco (Jersey City Environmental Commission), Florence Baron (Jersey City Economic Development Corporation), Sonia Dublin (Jersey City Department of Public Works), Alan Miller (NJDEP Community Collaborative Initiative), Jeffrey Trzeciak (Director, Jersey City Free Public Library), Caroline Jones (on behalf of Carmen Gandulla, Director of Community Development)

Staff: Kate Lawrence and Carolina Ramos (Jersey City Office of Sustainability)

1. Introduction of new members

A. The following members have been added to the Steering Committee:

- Althea Bernheim, Assistant Director of the Office of the Construction Code Official
- Stacey Flanagan, Director of the Department of Health and Human Services
- Carmen Gandulla, Director of Community Development
- Alan Miller, NJDEP Community Collaborative Initiative (CCI)
- Jeffrey Trzeciak, Director, Jersey City Free Public Library

2. Overview of Climate Action Plan Progress to Date

A. Climate Action Working Groups, Meetings #2 & #3

- The second meeting for all four Working Groups took place on December 11, 2019. The Working Groups (Energy, Transportation & Land Use, and Waste) were asked to refine their respective sector's objectives and vote for priority action items. The Equity & Outreach (E&O) Working Group was asked to review the history of inequity in Jersey City and the equity assessment sheet.
- The third E&O Working Group Meeting was on January 8, 2020. The E&O Group was tasked with assessing each proposed action item.
- The rest of the Working Groups had their third meeting on January 29, 2020. They reviewed the E&O's feedback and were asked to fill in the implementation for their respective sector.

B. Review Survey #1 draft results

- Survey #1 closed on January 24 with a total of 218 responses. The responses will soon be available on jcmakeitgreen.org/climate-action [as of 3/4/20 the responses are now available online].

3. Upcoming Public Meetings

A. In order to reach other communities in Jersey City, the Office of Sustainability scheduled public meetings in all wards of the City on the following dates: Thu, 2/27, 6:30-8:00pm, Bethune Center; Tue, 3/3, 6:30-8:00pm, Congregation B'nai Jacob, 176 West Side; Thurs, 3/5, 6:30-8:00pm, HCCC STEM Building; Sat, 3/14, 10:30am-12:00pm, City Hall Council

Chambers; Thu, 3/19, 6:30-8:00pm, Pershing Field Community Center; and Mon, 3/23, 6:30-8:00pm, Gallo Center, Lincoln Park.

- Comments on Public Meeting Dates: The Committee asked to reschedule the February 27th and the March 5th meetings. There are other major events scheduled in the City on those dates. The Office of Sustainability will reschedule those dates.

4. General Discussion Topics:

- A. Director Kate Lawrence stated that the working groups had already adjusted some of the draft action items based on the input of the Equity & Outreach working group. For example, the Pay-As-You-Throw Waste action item will likely be removed based on input that this would have disproportionately negative impacts on low-income residents.
 - Director Stacy Flanagan voiced concerns over removing the Pay-As-You-Throw Waste action item because of the Mayor's vision of reducing garbage pick-up frequency.
 - Director Kate Lawrence stated that the action may be a better fit in the future, but for now will likely be tabled.
- B. Director Flanagan offered to merge Health and Human Service's emergency preparedness toolkit with the Meeting in a Box. She can offer financial incentives as well.
 - Carolina Ramos and Director Lawrence stated that they would let people interested in the Meeting in a Box know about the emergency preparedness toolkit as well.
- C. Committee Member Sigmund suggested that it may be a good idea to engage children during the public meetings. This will help parents who have to bring children with them.
 - Alan Miller suggested using scout groups or other environmental groups to provide some kind of activity for them.
 - Director Flanagan also suggested youth organizations that are funded by the Division of Community Development.
 - Councilwoman Prinz-Arey suggested reaching out to Gina Verdibello, who is a Girl Scout leader.
- D. The committee was asked to suggest alternate survey platforms. Director Flanagan mentioned Snap Surveys which also translates materials.

5. Next Steps

- A. The next meeting will be scheduled in 3 to 4 weeks. The Steering Committee will be asked to provide input on the implementation of the action items. They will review action items that pertain to members' departments and determine if it is feasible or not.