

**MAINE CLIMATE COUNCIL**  
**Equity Subcommittee (ESC)**  
**02/20/2024 Public Meeting Notes**

Attending—

Noel Bonam, AARP: Older adults, public health & social services

Maulian Bryant, Penobscot Nation: Members of Penobscot Nation and other tribes

Amara Ifeji, MEEA: Youth, educators, nonprofit leaders, new Mainers

Darren Ranco, UMaine: Tribal nations (climate adaptation priorities)

Eileen Johnson, Bowdoin: Community organizations, understanding who is vulnerable and "newly vulnerable"

Gabe McPhail, Resilient Communities: Rural/remote/low-capacity communities, working waterfront and fishing communities

Marissa McMahan, Manomet: Fisheries & coastal communities, shellfish community

Jason Parent, ACAP: Low-income households in Aroostook County, community action agencies

Dale Basher, Downeast Community Partners: Low-income households in Washington County

Safiya Khalid, Community Organizing Alliance: New Mainers, low-income Mainers

Marcel Ntagora, GPCOG: Underrepresented communities, low-income, older adults, people with disabilities, new Mainers

Discussion—

Coastal and Marine Working Group (CMWG)

- How can we ensure that equity is embedded in the process and not decoupled?
- Has been hard not being able to participate in in-person meetings
- Should we be reviewing all of the recommendations through the series of questions?
- No tribal representation/new Mainers on CMWG

Buildings, Infrastructure, and Housing Working Group (BIHWG)

- A lot of it is at 30k ft, need to start looking at more tangible solutions
- Need more equitable solutions for reducing fossil fuels- not enough \$ put into maintenance/replacement of heating systems
- Trying to understand the language that is being used, work in policy/community advocacy, need more space for new members that are new to this space (smaller group?)
- COA is one of partners with the UMaine Mitchell Center
- Have talked a lot about new buildings, but not as much about existing housing stock

Transportation Working Group (TWG)

- Conversations are moving along well; diverse group with many backgrounds, help maintain balance so we can make sure every population is represented in the plan and equity is at the center of everything we are doing
- What policies are we putting in place to help community members who can't drive
- Put public transportation at the center of this plan.

### Energy Working Group (EWG)

- Feels like a high-level academic exercise, UMaine didn't have community action agencies on their list for engagement
- Tried to recruit a member of a priority population and they were intimidated, might be overwhelmed with the content of the WG
- The trend I am noticing is that individuals we serve are in survival mode. We can't keep up with the systems/structures we have right now, so people are concerned about making further shifts
- We have not dealt with the rural/urban divide

### Community Resilience Working Group (CRWG)

- This time there has been more integration of 3 themes, talking about response to storms.
- How do we not put more burden on organizations that are already stressed?
- Mental health, youth can provide a different perspective