

ECO Work Group recommendations for the MCCC 2020 Annual Report:

The Education, Communication and Outreach (ECO) Working Group's work is related to three specific charges in the MCCC law:

- Communicating with and educating Maryland residents about the urgency of acting to reduce the impacts of climate change;
- Addressing any disproportionate impacts of climate change on low-income and vulnerable communities; and
- Developing broad public and private partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies.

ECO is MCCC's public relations arm. ECO will provide support to the MCCC, its working groups, and will collaborate with the Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities (CEJSC) where possible to uphold ECO's charges outlined above. ECO recommends that the MCCC do the following:

1. Improve environmental justice outcomes by working with the CEJSC to use tools to support the actions incorporated into all MCCC work products (recommendations, work plans, meetings/discussions, membership/participation). Represent the concerns and guidance from vulnerable and underrepresented communities to the MCCC by hosting a minimum of five public listening sessions in 2021.
2. Expand diversity, equity, inclusion and justice on the MCCC and in its working groups by:
 - a. Supporting recruitment efforts by identifying and cultivating participants in the listening sessions;
 - b. Providing member recruitment suggestions to the MCCC; and
 - c. Identifying goals and outcomes and track progress towards outcomes.
3. Build strong connections between the MCCC and the CEJSC by:
 - a. Providing summary reports and action statements;
 - b. Highlighting opportunities to build stronger outcomes; and
 - c. Communicating agency-specific environmental and climate justice outcomes to MCCC & CEJSC to leverage ongoing efforts within government.
4. Coordinate with the Maryland State Department of Education and partners like the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education, The Chesapeake Bay Program, Project Green Classrooms, the National Association of Marine Educators and the Maryland Climate Leadership Academy, to identify opportunities to provide resources and support local school systems as they develop curricula for their stakeholders.
 - a. Support a minimum of five content requests from education entities by August 2021.
 - b. ECO will provide a minimum of five guest speakers for education entities to discuss climate policy in Maryland by August 2021.