

Education, Communication and Outreach (ECO)Work Group

Meeting November 17, 2020 (via Google Meeting)

Members present: Co-chairs Jody Couser and John Kumm. Jim Joyner, Mark Shaffer, Lisa Jones (proxy), Daniel Lipinski, Gregg Bortz (proxy), Laura Bankey, Steve Levitsky, MDE staff: Suzanne Dorsey, Chris Beck, Susan Casey

A total of 18 people were online.

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Chris Beck. Chris announced the appointment of Charmaine Brown as the new and third co-chair of the Commission. Charmaine is the Equity Officer for Charles County and will help lead the MCCC in considerations of environmental and climate justice issues in all its proceedings and products. ECO will invite Charmaine to attend an upcoming meeting to discuss outreach opportunities.

Chris then described the newly published 2020 Commission Annual Report as ambitious, that speaks to the urgency of climate change and to align with science and the goals of the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). It also introduces environmental and climate justice as a function of all the work the Commission undertakes. He pronounced the report as a huge accomplishment that is well-balanced and bipartisan. The report is structured in terms of science, goals, and sectors and with growing the economy.

He then discussed highlights of the Commission's Annual Report and specific provisions of the ECO work group recommendations as thus:

Education Communications and Outreach Working Group Recommendations

The ECO Working Group's work is related to three specific charges in the Commission 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 partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies and the private sector.

ECO is the Commission's public relations arm. ECO will provide support to the Commission and its working groups and will collaborate with the CEJSC where possible to uphold ECO's charges outlined above. ECO recommends that the Commission do the following:

1. Improve environmental justice outcomes by working with the CEJSC to use tools to support the actions incorporated into all Commission work products (recommendations, work plans, meetings/discussions, membership/participation). Represent the concerns and guidance from vulnerable and underrepresented communities to the Commission by hosting a minimum of five public listening sessions in 2021.

2. Expand diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice on the Commission 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 Commission; and
 - c. Identifying goals and outcomes and track progress towards outcomes.

3. Build strong connections between the Commission 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 the Commission to leverage ongoing efforts within the CEJSC and government.

4. Coordinate with the Maryland Department of Education and partners like Maryland Climate Leadership Academy, Maryland Association of Outdoor Education, The Chesapeake Bay Program, and the National Association of Marine Educators to identify opportunities to collaborate around climate policy curriculum.
 - 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.

The full report can be found online at mde.maryland.gov/MCCC.

Chris asked the group to think of opportunities via their networks for ECO to participate on the agenda at large events to help fulfill outreach commitments of the group.

Susan Casey announced that the next and last ECO meeting of the year will take place online on Dec. 15 at 10:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

