



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Energy Programs Office

Climate Action for Disadvantaged Communities

Environmental Justice Advisory Board

February 14, 2023

Josh Shapiro, Governor

Richard Negrin, Acting Secretary

Background on DEP's Energy Programs Office

- EPO is the Pennsylvania State Energy Office.
- EPO's mission is to protect the environment, improve public health, and ensure access to affordable energy options for all Pennsylvanians.
- Focuses on:
 - Energy conservation and efficiency
 - Advanced energy technologies
 - Energy security and resiliency²
 - Education and outreach
 - Climate change

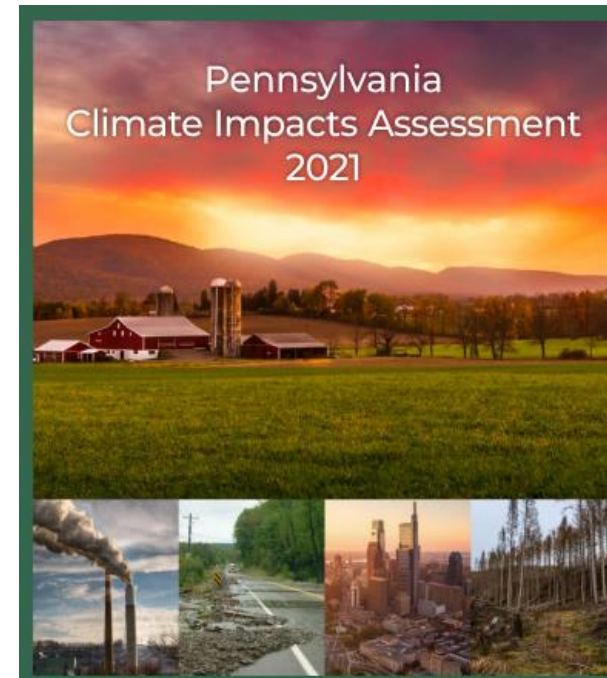
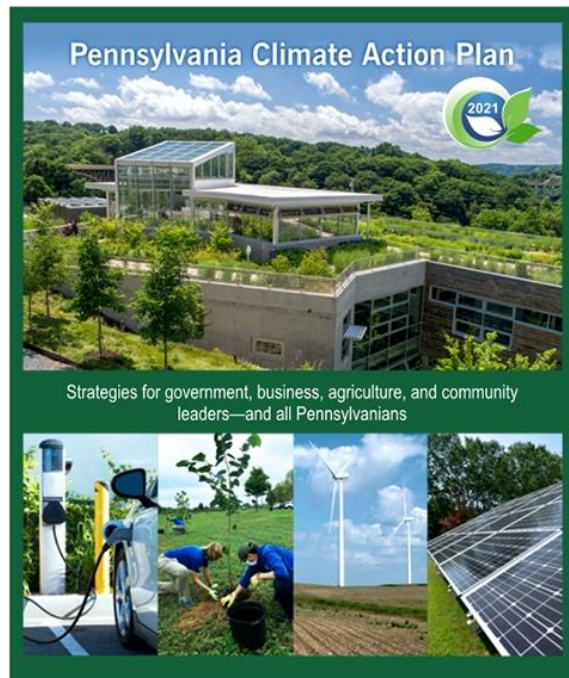
- EPO strives to incorporate EJ in all its work and will engage directly with EJ communities to provide support, assess challenges, and capture opportunities.
- The federal government is prioritizing funding EJ projects through initiatives including:
 - Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA/BIL)
 - Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)
 - Justice40

Climate Action for Disadvantaged Communities: Background

- EPO must understand EJ and Disadvantaged Communities' (DACs) biggest obstacles to climate resilience.
- Climate Action for Disadvantaged Communities (CADAC) Program will:
 - Develop a plan for community engagement.
 - Facilitate engagement.
 - Solicit and coordinate input from DACs and experts on diversity, equity and inclusion.
 - **Develop a guide for implementation of climate strategies to maximally benefit DACs and measure success.**

Climate Action for Disadvantaged Communities: Background

- DEP's [2021 Climate Action Plan](#) (CAP) recommends strategies PA can take to combat climate change and improve resilience.
- DEP's [2021 Impacts Assessment](#) (IA) describes the greatest anticipated climate change hazards and suggests adaptation pathways to improve community and statewide resilience.



Where CADAC Makes a Difference

- Addressing climate change and reducing emissions requires an "all hands on deck" approach, but climate change impacts do not affect all Pennsylvanians equally.
- Some may be more vulnerable to impacts due to their location, income, housing, or other hazard-specific factors.
- Disproportionate impacts result from historical discriminatory practices, such as redlining and disinvestment.

Where CADAC Makes a Difference

- **This program aims to address and correct these inequities while advancing Pennsylvania's climate goals by:**
 - Engaging with and listening to DACs to better address their needs by prioritizing these needs in future climate adaptation and planning.
 - Ensuring greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction strategies produce meaningful health, welfare, and community benefits.
 - Prioritizing state and federal funding to ensure assistance is available where it is needed most.

Big Picture Question:

How can EPO use this project to address the most significant adaptation needs and impactful GHG reduction opportunities for DACs?

Preservation Design Partnership

- EPO is partnering with [Preservation Design Partnership](#) (PDP).
- PDP focuses on the protection and preservation of historic resources in older communities throughout the United States.



Project Milestones

- Conduct literature review.
- Develop plan for engagement.
- Develop preliminary Action List.
- Engage with public on preliminary actions. ← Next step
- Synthesize public recommendations into report and refine actions to maximize impact.
- Develop Guide for Climate Action for Disadvantaged Communities.

Preliminary Action List

- Includes the following components:
 - Literature review
 - Existing CAP
 - Strategies from Local Climate Action Plans
 - DEP priorities
 - Justice40 requirements
 - Known best practices
- Strategies can reduce GHG emissions while providing meaningful environmental and resiliency benefits.
- Feedback will ensure climate strategies are implemented to benefit DACs and avoid/eliminate unintended negative impacts.

Preliminary Action List

- The action guide will be a menu of climate resilience strategies that benefit DACs.
 - For government and community leaders.
 - Not a policy document or regulation.
 - Will provide options and perspectives to assist in future decision making.

Engagement Plan

- EPO is developing a list of six (6) proposed locations for in-person meetings with DACs.
- Locations will be selected based on:
 - DEP EJ Area status
 - U.S. Department of Energy DAC Status
 - Local Climate Action Plan participation
 - Ability to act as a “model” for other communities in Pennsylvania
 - Additional feedback from project contributors and advisory board members

Engagement Plan: Before In-Person Meetings

- DEP/PDP will work with representative local “ambassador” organizations to site and promote meetings.
 - Municipal governments
 - Local non-profits
 - Community action groups
- DEP/PDP will conduct outreach to local organizations interested in climate, sustainability, and community services.

Engagement Plan: In-Person Meetings

- Meetings will introduce the project, provide a short primer on climate change, and outline the most serious climate impacts in PA.
- PDP will facilitate discussion of community needs, risks, and opportunities to improve resiliency.
- DEP/PDP will review proposed strategies and solicit input.
- Online post-meeting surveys will gather additional participant input and feedback from those unable to attend.

Finalizing the Action Guide

- DEP/PDP will use feedback to refine the preliminary action list and develop a final Guide to Climate Action for Disadvantaged Communities.
- **Anticipated publication: Summer 2023**

CADAC and Future Planning

- EPO can better support DACs through existing programs including:
 - PA Climate Action Plan 2024
 - Energy Assurance Outreach
 - Shared Energy Manager
- As DEP receives additional federal funding, these recommendations can guide new program development to target funding for DACs.



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Energy Programs Office

Thank you!

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