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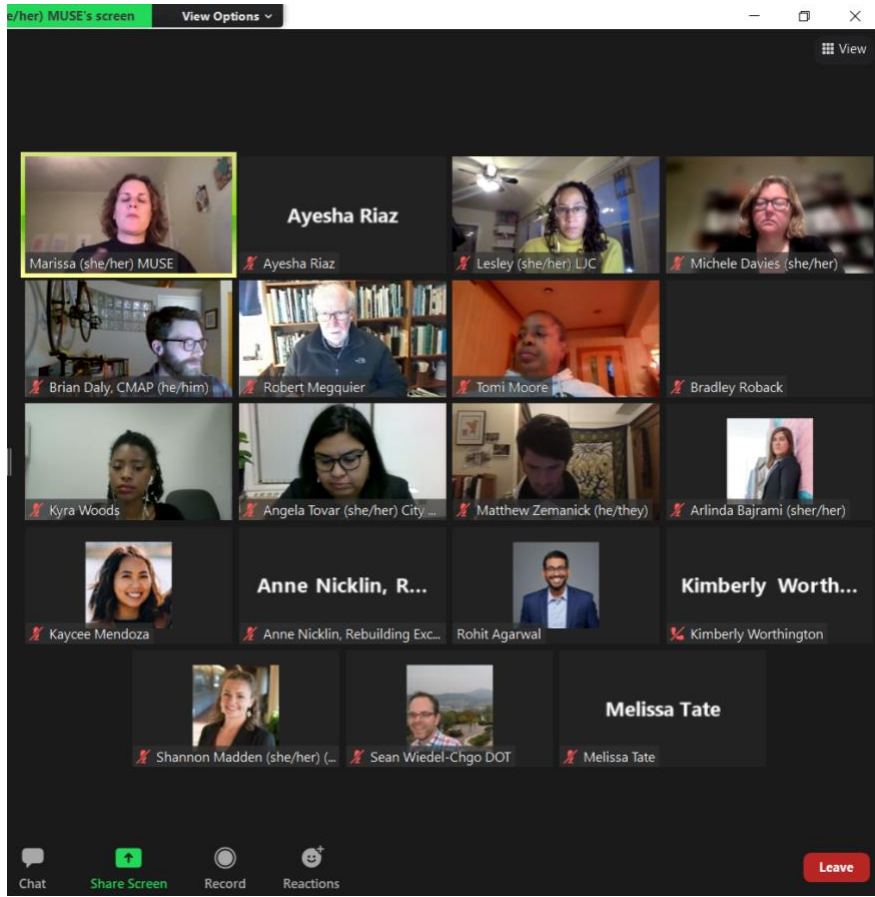
Environment, Climate and Energy Meeting #6

November 2, 2021, 6:00 PM | 2 hours

Documented by: Ayesha Riaz

ATTENDEES

- Marissa Strassel
- Lesley Roth
- Michele Davies
- Brian Daly
- Robert Megquier
- Tomi Moore
- Bradley Roback
- Kyra Woods
- Angela Tovar
- Matthew Zemanick
- Arlinda Bajrami
- Kaycee Mendoza
- Anne Nicklin
- Rohit Agarwal
- Kimberly Worthington
- Shannon Madden
- Sean Wiedel
- Melissa Tate



The image shows a Zoom meeting window with a grid of 16 participants. The participants are arranged in a 4x4 grid. The top-left participant is Marissa (she/her) MUSE, who is highlighted with a green border. The other participants are: Ayesha Riaz, Lesley (she/her) LJC, Michele Davies (she/her), Brian Daly, CMAP (he/him), Robert Megquier, Tomi Moore, Bradley Roback, Kyra Woods, Angela Tovar (she/her) City..., Matthew Zemanick (he/they), Arlinda Bajrami (sher/her), Kaycee Mendoza, Anne Nicklin, R..., Rohit Agarwal, Kimberly Worthington, Shannon Madden (she/her) (...), Sean Wiedel-Chgo DOT, and Melissa Tate. The control bar at the bottom includes icons for Chat, Share Screen, Record, Reactions, and a Leave button.

Participant Name	Participant Name	Participant Name	Participant Name
Marissa (she/her) MUSE	Ayesha Riaz	Lesley (she/her) LJC	Michele Davies (she/her)
Brian Daly, CMAP (he/him)	Robert Megquier	Tomi Moore	Bradley Roback
Kyra Woods	Angela Tovar (she/her) City ...	Matthew Zemanick (he/they)	Arlinda Bajrami (sher/her)
Kaycee Mendoza	Anne Nicklin, R...	Rohit Agarwal	Kimberly Worth...
Shannon Madden (she/her) (...)	Sean Wiedel-Chgo DOT	Melissa Tate	

MEETING GOAL

To develop 2-5 objectives for each policy question by reviewing for overlapping categories, cross-cutting topics, or language that could be expanded or condensed.

WHERE WE ARE



Step 1

We Are

Setting the Stage



Step 2

We Have and Need

Develop A Policy Toolkit



Step 3

We Will

Set Policy Framework

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1

The City of Chicago recently passed its 2022 budget, with an environmental and climate investment of \$188 million, including \$75 million for community and environmental justice investments, \$46 million for equitable tree canopy growth, \$41 million for energy and equity and \$26 million for green infrastructure.

2

Creating common language is important, especially when content spans various sectors. The team will continue to clearly indicate the definitions, parameters and responsibilities of climate resiliency vocabulary like “circular economy” and “food sovereignty.”

3

Mitigating carbon emissions simultaneously from various sources requires an understanding of construction, demolition, and remediation costs. The team discussed adaptive reuse, using local materials, and incentivizing based on subsidies.

CONVERSATION HIGHLIGHTS

“We understand the urgency of acting immediately [regarding the \$188 million budget approval] ... we are hyper-aware that it will not sufficiently address the level of investment ... and this is a downpayment to prioritize communities.”

Angela Tovar | Office of the Mayor, Chief Sustainability Officer

“There should be a focus on public transit development, specifically on the South and West Sides ... With more than 20-minute delays and infrequencies, the South and West Sides cannot rely on public transportation.”

Matthew Zemanick | Lebanon Lutheran Church, Pastor

“We should be framing [mitigation of carbon emissions] from a building codes perspective ... What are existing practices around construction and demolition?”

Shannon Madden | Crowe, Senior Manager

NOTES

Introduction, Consent + Reflective Prompt

- Marissa Strassel introduces climate resilience meeting and shares that the City of Chicago budget has passed.
- Climate successes in the budget were summarized by Angela Tovar, who explained that the city of Chicago had been preparing for the influx of federal funding and opportunity. The city received approx \$188 million for climate and environmental justice, infrastructure and programming support. It plans to fund the following initiatives:
 - \$75 million in community-level climate projects: pilot work from waste strategy and diversion, transition to circular economy, pilot for organics, citywide compost drop offs to community gardens, contaminated land remediation
 - \$46 million for equitably growing the tree canopy and utilizing trees as community-level stewards of economic development
 - \$41 million for energy and equity, including internal restructuring, addressing water and aging plumbing issues, and the African American Heritage Fund.
 - \$26 million for green infrastructure in underserved areas, such as the Resilient Schoolyards program and Rain-Ready Chatham.
- Reflective prompt with Angela Tovar, Rohit Agarwal and Bob Megquier: Speaking about livable communities and how climate action planning can include regulation of commercial truck traffic, bike traffic, and vehicular emissions. These impacts extend to noise pollution from internal combustible engines.
- Bob Megquier shares Citizens Utility Board's link for [community solar in Illinois](#), which provides access to solar power for people who aren't able to have solar panels installed at their residence.
- Matthew Zemanick speaks to the lack of reliable public transportation, specifically within the South and West sides. He gives the example of St. Petersburg, Russia, which has drastically increased their public transportation in the past 5-10 years, compared to little to no visible public transit infrastructure improvements in Chicago. "With more than 20-minute delays and infrequencies, the South and West sides cannot depend on public transportation."

Breakout Session for Objectives

- Lesley Roth explains that the 6 guiding questions were turned into goal statements by changing verb tense. Within those 6 goals, there will be 2-5 objectives with 2-5 policies each. Roth also reviews the difference between objective (the "what" as outcome) and policy (the "how" as an action).
- Artist-organizer update: Teams have been engaging with the city since October, hosting events and running an engagement survey.
 - Group 1: 1) Prioritize climate resiliency efforts in vulnerable communities and neighborhoods through both public and private sector efforts and 2) incorporate environmental justice principles and resource distribution to reverse historic disinvestment and environmental degradation in underserved communities.

- Gaps related to standards and regulations could be lessened through integrated environmental justice efforts that are aligned with government regional reports or other virtual tools.
- Conversation around self-determination and reparations for environmental justice communities or indigenous communities, in order to reform the systems that have previously created harm.
- Group 2: 1) Foster public/private partnership to implement circularity elements in our regional food, water, energy and material flows to create a model for other cities and 2) maintain and expand green space, natural resources, and conservation efforts for the benefit of all Chicagoans.
 - Creating shared language and terminology, specifically for circular economy, food sovereignty, and public/private partnerships.
 - Finding a balance between specificity and responsibility when talking about the circular economy, so the model can be replicable and scalable.
- Group 3: 1) Mitigate, then eliminate the carbon emissions in alignment with national and global climate policies and 2) leverage available state and federal resources to tackle climate change.
 - Shannon Madden questions syntax to suggest framing from a building code perspective: What are existing construction or demolition practices that currently deal with fossil fuel elimination? Should construction and demolition of buildings be regarded separately?
 - Thinking of adaptive reuse and effective space use for existing buildings, with an emphasis on using recycled and local materials, as well as how to incentivize based on subsidies and other forms.

RESOURCES

Citizen's Utility Board: Community Solar in Illinois

[Through community solar, you can purchase a portion of the electricity produced by a solar installation—called a community solar garden—and in return receive credits on your electric bill](#)

Illinois Environmental Council

[Analysis of Mayor Lori Lightfoot's 2022 budget address](#)

Sustain Chicago

[A tweet that breaks down the environmental investment in Chicago's 2022 budget](#)

NEXT STEPS

- The advisory council will meet on November 16, 2021, to review objectives
- The next meeting for the Environment, Climate and Energy Pillar will be on November 30, 2021.
- Groups will continue in their respective sections to continue working on the language to expand policies.