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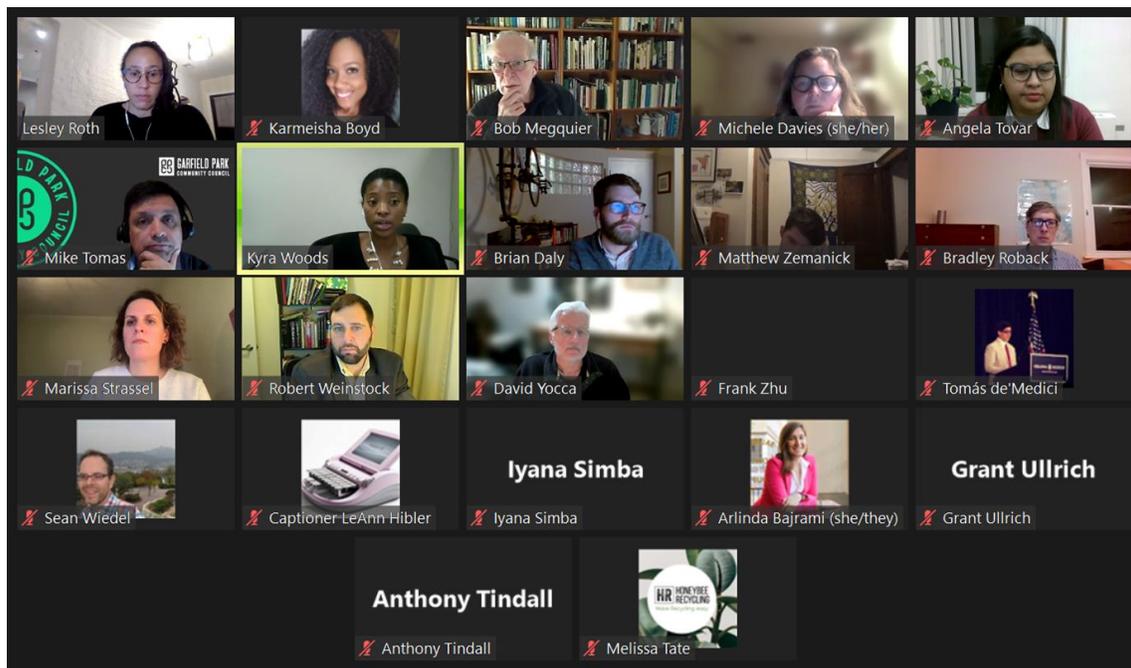
Environment, Climate + Energy Meeting #9

February 1, 2022, 6:00PM | 2 hours

Documented by: Karmeisha Boyd

ATTENDEES

- Angela Tovar
- Lyana Simba
- Anthony Tindall
- Arlinda Bajrami
- Bradley Roback
- Brian Daly
- Marissa Strassel
- David Yocca
- Frank Zhu
- Grant Ullrich
- Kyra Woods
- Lesley Roth
- Matthew Zemanick
- Melissa Tate
- Michele Davies
- Mike Tomas
- Robert Megquier
- Robert Weinstock
- Sean Wiedel
- Tomás de'Medici



MEETING GOAL

Learn about the city's Climate Action Plan and brainstorm policies to address goal statements and objectives.

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 meeting started with a presentation by Kyra Woods, a policy analyst in the Office of the Mayor, on the 2022 Chicago Climate Action Plan.
- 2 | The first of two breakout groups discussed potential policies to achieve Goal Statement #1: "Prioritize climate resiliency efforts in vulnerable communities and neighborhoods through both public and private sector efforts."
- 3 | The second of two breakout groups discussed potential policies to achieve Goal Statement #2: "Incorporate environmental justice principles and prioritize resource distribution to reverse historic disinvestment and environmental degradation in underserved communities."

CONVERSATION HIGHLIGHTS

“What matters most to you regarding climate?”

Kyra Woods | Office of the Mayor, Policy Advisor

The following responses were posted in the chat:

“Doing at least our share in reducing carbon emissions, seeing a process for how that can be done at least cost per ton of carbon.”

Michele Davies | Consulting economist

“...ensuring that frontline communities improve air quality, access to clean water and food security, have access to jobs (especially for youth), emergency response, and closing fossil fuel plants!”

Frank Zhu | Guidehouse, State and Local Government Senior Consultant

“Substantially increasing living green (vegetated) surfaces at-grade and over-structure (de-paving, green roofs/walls, bioretention, urban tree canopy, etc.) calibrated to improve human health and well-being, biodiversity, helping balance water, energy, and nutrients (food) locally, and other ecosystem services.”

David Yocca | Consulting landscape architect and ecological planner

“Reduce/eliminate all forms of pollution, increase biodiversity, engage communities in expressing their unique identity and history, and ensure that environmental justice is central to the work and a core part of the decision-making criteria.”

Robert Megquier | Openlands, Executive Vice President

NOTES

- The team covered the “Anatomy of a Good Policy” which includes a measurable action, policy lever, policy focus, and outcome.
- The team was also asked to consider short-term (“symptom relief”) and long-term (“structural change”) policy ideas.
- The team was reminded to craft equity-oriented policies.

Climate Action Plan Presentation

- Kyra Woods, a policy analyst in the Office of the Mayor, presented on the City’s climate action plan.
 - Goals:
 - Increase household savings
 - Reduce waste and create jobs
 - Strengthen communities and protect health
 - Accelerate Chicago’s clean energy future
 - Enable personal mobility and improve air quality
 - A draft plan will be released later this month. The final plan will be released in April 2022.
 - When asked whether the Climate Action Plan would conflict with the We Will Chicago Environment, Climate + Energy pillar, Kyra Woods responded, “I see them as dovetailing efforts.”
 - Woods invited attendees to fill out and share a survey on the Climate Action Plan website, which will collect answers through Feb. 15, 2022.

Pillar Working Groups

- Participants split into two virtual breakout rooms to discuss goal statements, objectives, and potential policies.
- Goal Statement #1: Prioritize climate resiliency efforts in vulnerable communities and neighborhoods through both public and private sector efforts.
 - Objectives:
 - Ensure true community input and oversight in and direction for development proposals including permitting and zoning requests
 - Limit exemptions to policies related to environmental impact.
 - Enforce the community’s right to be educated and informed to make environmental, scientific, and technological decisions.
 - Require corporate participation and responsibility.

- Breakout Discussion
 - In the group chat, Grant Ullrich, managing deputy commissioner of the City's Department of Buildings, suggested the need to "update ordinances and policies establishing procedures for review of both public investments and large private developments to require adequate public dissemination of information and opportunities for meaningful synchronous and asynchronous public participation in approval processes."
 - Community-facing fund disclosure is necessary, according to Tomás de'Medici, outreach specialist at Resource Innovations, especially early in the process when communities can provide feedback.
 - Ullrich also offered the following: "Some other cities/states require a plain-language staff summary to be prepared by staff and publicly posted a set amount of time before any legislative hearing/action."
 - Brian Daly of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning spoke to the fact that there are a number of existing disclosure policies through formal processes, but the information is not getting to the community. A multifaceted approach to disseminate information through different channels for different audiences is necessary.
 - Youth participation and input is also needed.
- Goal Statement #2: Incorporate environmental justice principles and prioritize resource distribution to reverse historic disenfranchisement and environmental degradation in underserved communities.
 - Objectives
 - Include community collaboration in City decision-making on land-use and neighborhood planning strategies.
 - Ensure community-based organizations have all the tools and resources they need to address the climate crisis.
 - Inventory and determine value of historic disinvestment, inequitable policy, and health impacts.
 - Work with indigenous leaders to protect and support indigenous land stewardship principles.
 - Establish targets for positive outcomes in communities that are environmentally overburdened.

RESOURCES

Environment, Climate and Energy Pillar, We Will Chicago

[Environment, Climate and Energy | We Will Chicago](#)

Health in All Policies: A Guide for State and Local Government

[Health in All Policies: A Guide for State and Local Government](#)

Racial Equity Impact Assessments

[Racial Equity Impact Assessments \(REIAs\)](#)

2022 Climate Action Plan, Chicago

[2022 Chicago Climate Action Plan from City of Chicago website.](#)

NEXT STEPS

- Team facilitators will continue to collect ideas, further organize, and refine brainstorming notes.
- Updated documents will be sent to team members before the next brainstorming session later this month.