





Great Lakes & St. Lawrence Cities Annual Meeting

Kimberly Hill Knott, Director of Policy Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice (DWEJ)

Note: The Detroit Climate Action Collaborative (DCAC) is an initiative of Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice

DWEJ

Mission

Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice envisions Detroit as the global model of a vibrant urban center where all thrive in environmental, economic and social health.

Vision

DWEJ champions local and national collaboration to advance environmental justice and sustainable redevelopment. We foster clean, healthy and safe communities through innovative policy, education and workforce initiatives.



Environmental Justice (EJ): a social justice, grassroots movement that seeks to protect communities of color and low-income communities from being overburdened with pollution. Citizens of different races and classes experience disparate environmental quality directly affecting their public health and quality of life. The movement uses policy advocacy, research, community capacity building and organizing to advance environmental justice. Environmental Justice refers to those cultural norms and values, rules, regulations, behaviors, policies, and decisions to support sustainable communities where people can interact with confidence that their environment is safe, nurturing, and productive. Environmental Justice is served when people realize their highest potential without experiencing the –isms. (Environmental Justice Leadership Forum)

DWEJ's Climate Change Commitment

- Since DWEJ's inception in 1994, we have been a leading voice in advocating for sustainable communities in Detroit.
- Address many of the factors leading to climate change, which have adversely impacted low-income and minority communities .
- In 2011, DWEJ convened key stakeholders from diverse backgrounds to form the Detroit Climate Action Collaborative (DCAC).

Detroit Climate Action Plan Process

- **Develop CAP for Detroit**
- **Develop a comprehensive strategy to address GHG emissions related to land use, public health, building design, energy use, water demand, and waste generation.**
- **Identify approaches unique to Detroit to achieve GHG emission reductions.**
- **Create a roadmap to reducing community and municipal GHG emissions associated with both existing and future actions and activities.**
- **Vet strategies through a strong community engagement process.**

DCAC Workgroups



Solid Waste



Homes & Neighborhoods



Parks, Public Space &
Water Infrastructure



Energy



Community
Public Health Impacts



Business &
Institutions

DCAC Workgroup Partners

- City of Detroit General Services Department
- Detroit Area Green Sector Skills Alliance
- DTE Energy
- General Motors
- Greening of Detroit
- Ford Motor Company
- The McNeely Building Group, LLC
- Newman Consulting Group, LLC
- Zero Waste Detroit
- City of Detroit Department of Homeland Security
- Pure Eco Environmental Solutions
- University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and Environment
- U.S. Green Building Council Detroit Regional Chapter
- Wayne State University- Office of Campus Sustainability
- State of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (M-DEQ)
- Detroit Housing Commission

DCAC Sector Meetings



Causes and Impacts of Climate Change



Building Climate Change Resilience: the Community

- Develop a **STRONG** Community Engagement Program
- Ensure that residents are actively involved in identifying and addressing some of the climate –related issues in their community
- If the City has a Neighborhoods Office, partner with them to help train community leaders on developing a climate resilient community– **DCAC Detroit Climate Ambassadors**
- Partner with a variety of partners (i.e. energy efficiency/sustainability expert, architect, urban planner and climate health expert) to begin the process of developing innovative adaptation strategies
- There are many ways that communities can confront climate challenges to both build community resilience and lessen the impact of climate change. Most of these strategies are either mitigation or adaptation, although some can be both. **Mitigation** examples include taking public transportation, weatherizing homes, and transitioning to other sources of energy (wind, solar, etc.). **Adaptation** examples include planting a rain garden to help manage runoff or using passive cooling strategies for warmer summer temperatures, and infrastructure improvements (i.e. building elevation)

Thank You

Questions???

Contact:

Kimberly Hill Knott, President & CEO

Future Insight Consulting, LLC

(313) 213-9958

kimberly@futureinsightconsulting.net

****Former Director of Policy,
Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice**

For more information on DWEJ visit: www.dwej.org

For more information on DCAC visit: www.detroitclimateaction.org