2-26-21

Attendees: Scott Tess, Savannah Donovan, Kaamilyah Abdullah-Span, Meredith Moore, Warren Lavey, Morgan White, Ruby Mendenhall, Kimmy Chuang

- **Next steps: Look at different data points and different indices that we have control over (look at Excel document), EJ framework for structure with how to move forward**
- If we can keep a running list, that can help break down our scope
- Update on TedTalk – Environmental Justice topic, 100 people signed up, 60 people in attendance
  - Takeaways: Important to listen. We want to listen to engagement
  - Not inviting people to our space but going to their spaces
  - Merging social justice, climate action, and environmental justice
  - A lot of these challenges are "doom and gloom" but if we treat others as if these situations were happening to us, we will make progress
  - Addressing privilege that we cannot all address these issues equally (e.g., hard to address litter/garbage issues when people are food insecure)
- We are dealing with a massive and pervasive issue that is everywhere; what is the most impactful thing we can do? We want this done correctly and not "quickly"
- Let's continue to be hopeful! If we can try to address and present solutions for a
- We must go beyond the iCAP 2020, which focused on vulnerabilities and risk assessments. Must address two other pillars
  - 1) participation, engagement, listen, reflect
  - 2) opportunities for climate action (President Biden has said 40% of benefits from climate actions will go to the disadvantaged communities); Future Energy Job Act in Illinois targeted Solar For All, job training, = these are all aspects of environmental justice
- While we will not be able to solve housing stock, poverty, etc. but we can and should highlight success stores without greenwashing.
  - Public Health district opening more cooling centers
  - Illinois Solar For All
  - Carle – Healthy Beginnings
- Address uncertainties from literature – we know where environmental justice zones are located, through EPA EJ Screens
- **Next steps:**
  - **Everyone please review EJ plan framework and provide initial comments/feedback and think about you wish existed**
  - **Review key indices that we know we can change (e.g., trees in Urbana but *not* influence over interstate commerce or international trade)**
- University has a strong role with capacity to collect data/research in future
- Kimmy will combine and consolidate the documents/data in the EJ Box Folder
- Develop relationships with different groups, neighborhoods, etc. – Urbana Park District recently developed "outreach and wellness" pillar and trying to establish relationships and dialogues with communities that have been underserved by the Park District

- Adopt-a-pathway opportunity – where are some areas within our community that could benefit from citizen maintenance? E.g., clearing sidewalks, fallen branches, drains
  - Urbana has a program "Adopt Urbana"
  - Champaign uses "Keep America Beautiful" framework
  - More spaces exist that need cleaning than groups exist
- Space needed for mothers that have lost children – open green space
- Urbana reserving space for community gardens, this will be multi-use space for memorials/public green space, etc.
- Connections with Prosperity Gardens, Solidarity Gardens
- Multi-faceted issue, must approach this complexity with this lens
- Margarita had addressed health concerns in the last call – urban heat, street trees, health access, food access, taking the health angle
- Revisit initial indicators of resilience document which address broad categories, so we do not need to reinvent the wheel
  - **Next steps: Review this document and give some thought to these categories, how can we address specific challenges and solutions, are data sets needed to tackle this? (e.g., review local control such as emergency shelters)**
  - **Take health angle**
  - **Continue networking and sharing with other groups our plans/discussions**
- Funding may be an issue – who could fund this?
  - Public engagement is cost-intensive
- Balance data collection with perspectives with people who actually live here
  - Questions such as: what does environmental justice mean to you? What would you like to see?
  - May be included in Urbana Plan
- Every ~3 years, Public Health District writes a community public health plan (Community Health Improvement Plan) – last one released in 2020
  - Process likely has not started for the next plan
  - Some public health plans incorporate environmental threats – Champaign/Urbana likely does not include this but we could work with that process which is already funded to ask about environmental threats, community health assessments
  - Public Health District Administrator - Julie Pryde
- Meredith and Kimmy can continuously update public Portal page – and share any findings