

# Public Infrastructure for Effective and Equitable Climate Mitigation and Adaptation: A Workshop

MONDAY, MAY 20, 2024 & MAY 29, 2024 (ALL TIMES ET)

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## PUBLIC WORKSHOP

### Purpose

This workshop will examine the meaning of public infrastructure for an effective and equitable climate mitigation and adaptation by focusing on broad physical-social-economic definitions for assessing impacts and evaluating potential actions relying on metrics rooted in engineering and social science using transportation, water, and electric power systems as examples.

### May 20

1:00–1:15

#### Welcoming Remarks and Workshop Overview

Led by Bilal Ayyub, *Workshop Committee Chair (Professor and Director, Center for Technology and Systems Management, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Maryland, College Park)* and Thomas Thornton, BECS Board Director

1:15–2:15

#### Case Studies on Regional and Strategic Action

Panelists in this session will discuss state and regional approaches to support, accelerate and scale effective, equitable climate mitigation and adaptation. Case studies will highlight how different governance approaches (e.g., collaboration, capacity building, new institutions, innovative policies) foster effective, equitable climate mitigation and adaptation.

#### Panel Discussion Questions:

- Illustrate public-infrastructure considerations for climate mitigation and adaptation, and provide appropriate definitions of public infrastructure in relation to environmental change and communities
- Present approaches used to support sustainable and effective responses to social-environmental change at regional and strategic levels
- Discuss any associated risk-reduction measures in engineering, economics/social science, and policy and law

**Moderated by:** Christine J. Kirchhoff, Associate Professor of Law, Policy & Engineering, School of Engineering Design and Innovation, Associate Professor, Civil & Environmental Engineering, Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, Associate Director of Law, Policy & Engineering, Penn State University

#### Panelists:

Lindsay Correa, *Technical Advisor for Climate Resilience*, California Department of Water Resources (Confirmed)

Kimberly Koriath, *Chief Resilience Officer, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management*, State of Rhode Island (Confirmed)

## 2:15–3:15 **Policy Implications at Regional and Strategic Levels**

This panel discussion will identify and explore policy implications by starting with reviewing existing policies and practices for regional and strategic public-infrastructure consideration for climate mitigation and adaptation building on defining public infrastructure in relation to environmental change and communities; policy innovations to support sustainable and effective responses to social-environmental change at regional and strategic levels; and any associated risk-reduction measures in engineering, economics/social science, and policy and law.

### **Panel Discussion Questions:**

- What are existing policies and best practices for regional and strategic public-infrastructure consideration in climate mitigation and adaptation?
- What is an appropriate meaning of public infrastructure in relation to environmental change and society?
- What are the policy innovations to support sustainable and effective responses to social-environmental change at regional and strategic levels?
- Provide associated risk-reduction measures in engineering, economics/social science, and policy and law

**Moderated by:** Bilal Ayyub – Chair, Professor and Director, Center for Technology and Systems, University of Maryland, College Park, Senior Economist, Applied Economics Office, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce, USA, Co-Director, International Joint Research Center for Resilient Infrastructure, Tongji University, China

### **Panelists:**

Joseph Thompson, *Assistant Director, Natural Resources and Environment*, Government Accountability Office (Confirmed)

Gerald Galloway, *Professor Emeritus, Civil and Environmental Engineering*, University of Maryland (Confirmed)

Douglas J. Mason, *Assistant Director for Nature Based Solutions*, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (Confirmed)

## 3:15 **Wrap up of First Day**

Led by Bilal Ayyub, *Workshop Committee Chair (Professor and Director, Center for Technology and Systems Management, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Maryland, College Park)*

## 3:30 **Adjourn**

May 29

**10:00–11:00 Case Studies on Strategic Community Action (Lynnette)**

Panelists in this session will discuss the intersection of community-defined objectives, environmental justice, economic empowerment, and sustainable climate mitigation efforts. Case studies are drawn from both urban and peri-urban contexts, from which more generally applicable concepts can be drawn.

Environmental justice and community-based

**Panel Discussion Questions:**

- Discuss the intersection of community-defined objectives, environmental justice (intra- and inter-generational), economic empowerment, and sustainable climate mitigation efforts
- Provide case studies drawn from both urban and peri-urban contexts, from which more generally applicable concepts can be drawn from green infrastructure and nature based solutions

**Moderated by:**

Lynnette Widder, Professor of Professional Practice, Columbia University, Sustainability Management, Columbia University, Sustainability Management, School of Professional Studies; Affiliated Researcher, The Climate School

**Panelists:**

Micaela Martinez, *Director of Environmental Health*, WE ACT for Environmental Justice (Confirmed)

Brandon Evans, *Manager, Urban Resilience*, Center for Neighborhood Technology (Confirmed)

Ryan Wilson, *Director*, Metropolitan Planning Council (Confirmed)

**11:00–12:00 Policy Issues at Strategic Community Level: Challenges and Solutions**

This panel discussion will identify and explore policy issues related to environmental justice and communities by starting with reviewing existing policies and practices for public infrastructure in relation to environmental justice and communities from climate mitigation and adaptation perspectives; policy innovations to support sustainable and effective responses to social-environmental change at a strategic community level; and any associated risk-reduction measures in governance, economics/social science, and policy and law.

**Panel Discussion Questions:**

- What are existing policies and practices for public infrastructure in relation to environmental justice and communities from climate mitigation and adaptation perspectives?
- What is an appropriate meaning of public infrastructure in relation to environmental justice?
- What are the policy innovations to support sustainable and effective responses to social-environmental change for communities and environmental justice?

- Provide associated risk-reduction measures in governance, economics/social science, and policy and law

**Moderated by:** Lisa Dilling, Associate Chief Scientist, Environmental Defense Fund

### **Panelists**

Aseem Prakash, *Professor, Department of Political Science, Walker Family Professor for the College of Arts and Sciences, Founding Director, UW Center for Environmental Politics, University of Washington, Seattle (Confirmed)*

Kaitlin Raimi, *Associate Professor of Public Policy, Ford School, University of Michigan (Confirmed)*

Stephanie Stern, *Professor of Law, The University of Arizona (Confirmed)*

### **12:00–12:30 Wrap-Up Discussion Session**

This session will point to themes, questions, and gaps that emerged during the earlier sessions

Bilal Ayyub, *Workshop Committee Chair, Professor and Director, Center for Technology and Systems Management, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Maryland, College Park*

### **12:30 MEETING ADJOURNS**