



# THE POWER OF VOICE

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Metropolitan Group crafts strategic and creative services to amplify the power of voice of change agents in building a just and sustainable world.

## DRAFT MEMORANDUM (UNPROOFED)

**Date:** February 21, 2023

**To:** Peter Ledford, Clean Energy Director, North Carolina Governor's Office

**From:** Vernice Miller-Travis, Metropolitan Group  
Sarah Malpass, Metropolitan Group

**Re:** Summary of 2022 Activities in Support of E.O. 246

**Att:** Pre-Consultation Materials (A)  
Stakeholder Engagement Meeting Agenda - December 14, 2022 (B)  
Stakeholder Engagement Meeting Transcript - December 14, 2022 (C)  
Summary of Public Comment - December 14, 2022 (D)  
EJ & E 101 Workshop Agenda (E)

## INTRODUCTION

At the request of the Office of the Governor, Metropolitan Group (MG) has been conducting a number of activities in support of Executive Order 246, "North Carolina's Transformation to a Clean Equitable Economy."

Planned activities include internal capacity building investments with North Carolina cabinet agencies, design and facilitation of three stakeholder engagement meetings, and facilitation of a direct dialogue between Governor Roy Cooper and environmental justice advocates and allies. These activities will inform development of a set of recommendations for advancing environmental justice in North Carolina via a variety of potential mechanisms including executive action, actions by cabinet agencies and legislative agenda items.

This memorandum summarizes activities conducted in 2022, including an Environmental Justice and Equity 101 Workshop for cabinet agency staff and a virtual public meeting on environmental justice. The memorandum also lays out anticipated next steps for additional supporting activities in 2023.

## **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT - SUMMARY OF KEY ACTIVITIES AND ATTACHMENTS**

Metropolitan Group conducted the following key activities in 2022 in support of the stakeholder engagement meetings:

- Designed and conducted several pre-consultation conversations, including November 17, 2022 and December 7, 2022 with EJAB members and other EJ stakeholders, to inform design and facilitation of the stakeholder engagement meetings.
- Designed meeting materials for the December 14 Stakeholder Engagement Meeting, including a participants agenda, facilitators agenda and presentation.
- Coordinated a panel of NC-based environmental justice activists to present at the December 14 Stakeholder Engagement Meeting.
- Coordinated with the interpretation team to develop a set of Spanish-language materials for the meeting.
- Designed and administered a survey for meeting participants in English and Spanish.
- Facilitated the December 14 Stakeholder Engagement Meeting (virtual).

Please see the following attachments for additional details:

- A. Pre-Consultation Materials
- B. Stakeholder Engagement Meeting Agenda - December 14, 2022
- C. Stakeholder Engagement Meeting Transcript - December 14, 2022
- D. Summary of Public Comment - December 14, 2022

A comprehensive summary of input from stakeholders will be developed after all three stakeholder engagement meetings have been completed. Some emerging themes from comment at the December 14, 2022 stakeholder engagement meeting include:

- Address all types of EJ impacts, including those affecting farm and agricultural workers.
- Issue an Executive Order on Environmental Justice.
- Direct resources to EJ communities and ensure that they are targeted to redress inequities (e.g. pollution reduction, infrastructure improvements, expanded health services).
- Update standard practices at Cabinet Agencies to include environmental justice and civil rights enforcement.
- Develop and implement a robust cumulative impacts analysis methodology.
- Enact new regulations and legislation.
- Increase Cabinet Agency staff capacity.

For deeper discussion of each of these themes, see Attachment D.

## **EJ & EQUITY 101 WORKSHOP - SUMMARY OF KEY ACTIVITIES AND ATTACHMENTS**

Metropolitan Group conducted the following key activities in 2022 in support of the EJ & Equity 101 Workshop:

- Designed and tailored six-hours of workshop content for NC Cabinet Agency staff (starting with lead EJ and Civil Rights staff), in consultation with the Governor's Office and representatives from the Department of Environmental Quality.



- Developed draft and final workshop materials, including an agenda, facilitator’s agenda, module presentations and handouts.
- Facilitated an in-person, two-day workshop on December 15 & 16, 2022.

Please see the Attachment E for the workshop agenda.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Metropolitan Group anticipates the following next steps to support E.O. 246 in 2023:

- Design and facilitate an in-person discussion between Governor Cooper and EJ representatives and allies on February 27, 2023.
- Design and facilitate two in-person Stakeholder Engagement Meetings in geographically varied locations across the state (dates and locations TBD).
- Develop a summary of stakeholder recommendations for advancing environmental justice in North Carolina via a variety of potential mechanisms including executive action, actions by cabinet agencies and legislative agenda items.

