

CUMULATIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROGRESS REPORT: POLICY WORKING GROUP

JUNE 2023

The Policy Working Group (PWG) is tasked with co-designing a set of recommendations and a draft ordinance that captures the vision of environmental justice communities for addressing cumulative impacts. Members of the PWG met for six working sessions between January and April of 2023 to research and refine policy solutions.



LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT:

An overview of cumulative impacts legislation from other jurisdictions at state and local levels produced by CDPH to identify common elements of cumulative impacts legislation and compare different approaches.



SUMMARY DOCUMENT AND PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS:

All outputs from the PWG process so far, including: group agreements and norms, charter, priorities identified from the Landscape Assessment, and preliminary policy recommendations.



NEXT STEPS AND TIMELINE

The PWG is currently working with City of Chicago departments to identify paths to advance preliminary policy recommendations.

- Recommendations that departments have the authority to implement were considered for inclusion in the City's [Environmental Justice Action Plan](#).
- Recommendations the City does not have existing authority to implement will be considered for the [cumulative impact ordinance](#).

Both the EJ Action Plan and proposed [cumulative impact ordinance](#) will be produced by [September 1st](#)



COMMUNITY INPUT

- Background research for the Landscape Assessment included legislative examples and original analysis from the Chicagoland Environmental Justice Network (CEJN), as well as policy ideas from the Community Input Summary.
- During meetings, PWG members provided direct input that built off these sources.
- The PWG's Preliminary Recommendations were reached through discussion driven by members.
- Members will participate in a consensus process to finalize a draft cumulative impact ordinance.



MEMBERS

- Greater Chicago Legal Clinic
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- Metropolitan Planning Council
- Equitable Resilience Sustainability
- Environmental Law and Policy Center (Co-Chair: Ellis Walton)
- Little Village Environmental Justice Organization
- Chicago Department of Public Health (Co-Chair: Clayton Oeth)
- Tetra Tech (non-voting)
- Illinois Public Health Institute (non-voting)
- Office of Climate and Environmental Equity (non-voting)



To learn more about the cumulative impact project and upcoming activities, visit: CHICAGO.GOV/CUMULATIVEIMPACT



Sign up for environmental news updates at: CHICAGO.GOV/ENVCOMMUNITYINFO

