Executive Order

• Governor Whitmer created the Office of the Environmental Justice Public Advocate and the role of Environmental Justice Public Advocate in Executive Order 2019-06

• The Office of Climate and Energy was also created as part of EO 2019-06 within the Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy.

• Both offices are working collaboratively to ensure that the state moves forward to address climate impacts through an equity lens.
Action & Engagement

- Michigan Advisory Council on Environmental Justice (MAC EJ)
- Climate Task Force (coming soon)
- Just Transition (coming soon)
- More to come...
Michigan Advisory Council on Environmental Justice
Interagency EJ Response Team

• Participating departments identified through the executive order, include:
  – Natural Resources
  – Civil Rights
  – Transportation
  – Public Service Commission
  – Strategic Fund/Economic Development
  – Agriculture and Rural Development
  – Health and Human Services
Interagency EJ Response Team

• Work Groups have been established, including:
  – Planning and Policy
  – Communications and Outreach
  – Research and Data
  – Training
COVID 19 and EJ

- EJ communities hit hard by COVID 19
- Water reconnections and communities without water
- Air pollution impacted communities (Harvard Study)
- Opportunities to address systemic inequities that impact communities.
Disparate Impact Factors

- Proximity and Exposure
- Unique Exposure Pathways
- Physical Infrastructure
- Cumulative Impacts
- Public Participation
- Vulnerable Populations
An Equitable Lens for Our Work

• How will being more intentionally inclusive enhance our work?
• How can we think of equity as an element of how we move forward on climate and not an add on or something extra?
• How can we learn to value diverse perspectives and use a broader lens to view what we do and why?
• How do we let communities speak for themselves?
The Intersection of Climate & Equity

- Prioritize saving people and the planet
- Engage frontline communities in renewable energy future
- Consider energy siting options in community transitions
- Prioritize electrification of public transportation, as well as personal vehicles
Climate & Equity Considerations

• Look at over-burdened communities and assess cumulative impact as mitigation strategies are developed.

• Consider just transition for communities and employees as we transition away from the fossil fuel economy.

• Provide opportunities for meaningful engagement and equitable participation for impacted communities.
Contact Information

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