

Climate Justice Working Group Members

New York City Representatives

Eddie Bautista is the Executive Director of the [NYC Environmental Justice Alliance](#). He has a B.A. from N.Y.U., an M.S. in City and Regional Planning from Pratt Institute and was a Revson Fellow at Columbia University. According to their [website](#): “Founded in 1991, the New York City Environmental Justice Alliance (NYC-EJA) is a non-profit, 501(c)3 citywide membership network linking grassroots organizations from low-income neighborhoods and communities of color in their struggle for environmental justice. NYC-EJA empowers its member organizations to advocate for improved environmental conditions and against inequitable environmental burdens by the coordination of campaigns designed to inform City and State policies.”

Sonal Jessel is the Director of Policy at [WEACT for Environmental Justice](#). [WE ACT’s mission](#) is to build healthy communities by ensuring that people of color and/or low income residents participate meaningfully in the creation of sound and fair environmental health and protection policies and practices. She has an MPH in Population and Family Health with a concentration in Climate and Health from Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health, and a BA in Organismal Biology from Pitzer College, in California.

Elizabeth Yeampierre is the Executive Director of [UPROSE](#). [She holds](#) a BA from Fordham University, a law degree from Northeastern University. Their [mission statement](#):

Founded in 1966, UPROSE is Brooklyn's oldest Latino community-based organization. An intergenerational, multi-racial, nationally recognized community organization, UPROSE promotes sustainability and resiliency in Brooklyn's Sunset Park neighborhood through community organizing, education, indigenous and youth leadership development, and cultural/artistic expression. Central to our work is advocacy to ensure meaningful community engagement, participatory community planning practices, and sustainable development with justice and governmental accountability. As lead advocates of climate justice, UPROSE views the just urban policy—ranging from transportation to open space—as the heart of climate adaptation and community resilience.

Rural Representatives

Jerrold Bley is the Clean Energy Program Director at the [Adirondack North Country Association](#). He received a BS in Environmental Studies with minors in Energy Science and Business from the University of Nebraska, and a PM in Science & Engineering Management from Montana State University. According to their [website](#): “Established in 1955, ANCA is an independent nonprofit organization growing the New Economy in northern New York. Using an integrated approach to sustainable economic development and prosperity where economic health, community vitality and ecological stewardship are equally important outcomes, ANCA focuses on creating opportunity for people with diverse backgrounds, experience and education levels.”

Dr. Donathan Brown is the CEO & Co-Founder of [Adirondack Diversity Solutions](#) which is a consulting firm dedicated to diversifying the workforce through strategic, sustainable growth. His biography states that he is the inaugural Assistant Provost and Assistant Vice President for Faculty Diversity and

Recruitment at the Rochester Institute of Technology. In addition, Dr. Brown is an Associate Professor in the School of Communication at RIT. I could not find his educational background.

Mary Beth McEwen is the Interim Executive Director of the [Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oneida and Madison Counties](#). There was no information available about her background on this website. According to their [mission statement](#): “The Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oneida and Madison Counties improves the lives of individuals and their communities through the excellence and relevance of our programs and services. As an extension of Cornell University, we provide objective, up-to-date, research-based solutions and processes that support children, youth, child care providers, landowners, farm and business operators, and local government officials. We are partners in creating strong and resilient economies, practicing environmental stewardship, building safe and healthy families, and guiding sustainable development practices.”

Upstate Urban Representatives

Rahwa Ghirmatzion is the Executive Director of [PUSH Buffalo](#). Her background description link is blank but [she studied](#) English Literature and Economics at University of Buffalo. The [mission of PUSH Buffalo](#) is to “mobilize residents to create strong neighborhoods with quality, affordable housing; to expand local hiring opportunities; and to advance economic and environmental justice in Buffalo.”

Amy Klein is the CEO of [Capital Roots](#). There was no information available about her background on this website. Capital Roots is a 45+ year-old non-profit whose [mission](#) is to nourish healthy communities by providing access to fresh food and green spaces for all

Abigail McHugh-Grifa is the Executive Director of the [Rochester People’s Climate Coalition](#). [She holds](#) a Ph.D. in Music Education, but “decided to give up her career in music to dedicate herself to climate work”. According to their mission statement “The Rochester People’s Climate Coalition unites local organizations to address the urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, transition to a clean energy economy, and prepare for the impacts of global warming. Through IQ Options our coordinated, collaborative efforts, we will create a more environmentally just and sustainable community”.

New York State agency members

Rosa Mendez is the Chair, Director of Environmental Justice, at DEC. She holds a degree in natural resources from Cornell and a Juris Doctor from Vermont Law School

Neil Muscatiello, is the Director, Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology, Center for Environmental Health, at the NY Department of Health. He has a MS in Epidemiology from the SUNY Albany and a BS in Health Science from SUNY Cortland.

Joseph McNearney, is the Director of Stakeholder Engagement, at the NY Department of Labor. An internet search returned no background information.

Christopher Coll is the Director of Energy Affordability and Equity Program at New York State Energy Research & Development Authority. He has a Master of Arts in Public Affairs and Policy from the

Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, University at Albany and a B.A. in Political Science from the State University of New York at New Paltz