



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
National Environmental Youth Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes

February 28-29, 2024
U.S. EPA Headquarters
William Jefferson Clinton East - Room 1153 (The Map Room)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20004

Meeting Summary

- On February 28 and 29, 2024, the National Environmental Youth Advisory Council (NEYAC) met in a hybrid format. [See Appendix A for the meeting agenda and Appendix B for a list of the NEYAC members present.]
- For questions regarding NEYAC, please contact the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (the EPA or the Agency) Designated Federal Official (DFO), Carissa Cyran, at cyran.carissa@epa.gov.

Meeting Day 1: Wednesday, February 28, 2024

9:00AM Call To Order – Carissa Cyran, DFO, EPA Office of Public Engagement and Environmental Education

- Carissa welcomed everyone to the National Environmental Youth Advisory Council (NEYAC) and thanked the NEYAC members in preparing for this meeting and for their forthcoming deliberations. In addition, she thanked EPA colleagues for all of their efforts in preparing for this meeting.
- Carissa provided an overview of her role as the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) and the meeting operations, including how the public comment session would be conducted.
- Carissa proceeded with roll call for the NEYAC council members and then welcomed Deputy Administrator Janet McCabe for opening remarks.

9:05AM Opening Remarks – EPA Deputy Administrator Janet McCabe

- Deputy Administrator Janet McCabe welcomed everyone and provided a historic overview of EPA Headquarters. Deputy Administrator thanked EPA staff for organizing, planning, and supporting the NEYAC members for the 2-day historic meeting.

- Deputy Administrator highlighted the importance of youth in helping EPA tackle the major climate issues that other generations have tolerated or made worse. Deputy Administrator noted youth have a unique perspective on environmental work and have a huge ability to help EPA make progress moving forward.
- Deputy Administrator provided a high-level overview of the topics the NEYAC would be presented with and the charge for the council to deliver insight and policy advice on climate change, clean energy transmission, clean vehicles, environmental justice, food loss and waste and workforce.

9:10AM Agenda Overview – NEYAC Co-Chairs Gabriel Nagel and Kiera O’Brien

- Gabriel Nagel walked through the agenda for the day, noting the specific presentations, the public comment period, and planned breaks.
- Kiera O’Brien walked through the agenda for day 2, noting the day would open with remarks from EPA Administrator followed by a conversation with members on questions from day one. Following this discussion, the council members would begin discussing the specific charge questions and potential workgroup assignments.

9:20AM Member Introductions – Carissa Cyran, DFO, EPA Office of Public Engagement and Environmental Education

- We will lead off with virtual participants -
 - Emmanuel Alcantar is from Los Angeles and represents the interests of communities that are pollution-burdened.
 - Wanjiku Gatheru is from Philly and represents the interests of environmental advocates focused on connecting diverse community members and policymakers on local climate issues.
 - Osasenaga Idahor is from Boston and represents the interests of science-policy communicators focused on the correlation between environmental health and the impacts from climate change.
 - Sophia Kianni is from Virginia and represents the interests of environmental activists with large platforms focused on sharing climate resources with youth across the globe.
 - Kristy Drutman is from New Jersey and represents the interests of those working at the intersections of media, diversity and environmentalism and advancing opportunities for green careers.
 - Alexandra Angerman is from Ringold, Alaska and represents the interests of organizations that work with tribal communities in remote areas that experience first-hand the impacts of climate change.
 - Rachel Billiot-Bruleigh is from Louisiana and represents the interests of indigenous and tribal people who have experienced first-hand the impacts of climate change.

- Nicholas Blumenthal is from Sioux City, Iowa, and represents food and agricultural communities.
- Colton Buckley is from Texas and represents the interests of rural and agricultural communities.
- Meghana Kunapareddy is from Texas and represents the interests of environmental educators focused on incorporating climate education and environmental justice into school curriculums.
- Lisette Perez is from Chicago and represents the interests of environmental advocates from disadvantaged communities.
- Asada Rashidi is from New Jersey and represents the interests of environmental justice and disadvantaged communities focused on creating equitable climate-change solutions.
- Page Tsirigotis is from Durham, North Carolina and represents the interests of academics focused on psychology and the connection between mental health and climate change.
- Gabriel Nagel is from Colorado and represents the interests of public-school students focused on changing local policy.
- Kiera O'Brien was raised in Alaska but now lives in DC. She represents the interests of those working on bipartisan climate and renewable-energy policy solutions.

10:20AM Presentation 1 – EPA Educational Overview – EPA Mission, Structure, Rules, and Regulations

- Presenter: Vicki Arroyo, Associate Administrator, Office of Policy
- [Full PowerPoint Presentation](#)
- At the conclusion of the presentation, Co-Chair Kiera O'Brien opened the floor for the council members to ask questions about the presentation and charge questions.
- Carissa Cyran concluded this portion of the meeting and commenced the 15-minute break.

10:50AM – Break

11:05AM Presentation 2 – Environmental Justice and Youth

- Presenter: Karim Marshall, Senior Advisor for the Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights
- [Full PowerPoint Presentation](#)
- [Charge Memo and Questions](#)
- At the conclusion of the presentation, Co-Chair Gabriel Nagel opened the floor for the council members to ask questions about the presentation and charge questions.

- Carissa Cyran concluded this portion of the meeting and commenced the one-hour break for lunch.

12:05PM – Lunch

1:05PM Presentation 3 – Office of Air and Radiation: Climate, Clean Air, and Environmental Justice

- Presenter: Alejandra Nuñez, Deputy Associate Administrator for Mobile Sources, Office of Air and Radiation
- [Full PowerPoint Presentation](#)
- [Charge Memo and Questions](#)
- At the conclusion of the presentation, Co-Chair Kiera O'Brien opened the floor for the council members to ask questions about the presentation and charge questions.
- Carissa Cyran concluded this portion of the meeting and commenced the 15-minute break.

2:05PM – Break

2:20PM Presentation 4 – Addressing Food Waste at Home and Abroad: A Case for Circular and Sustainable Materials Management Systems

- Presenters: Jane Nishida, Assistant Administrator, Office of and Tribal Affairs and Rick Kessler, Senior Advisor and Lana Suarez, Associate Branch Manager Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery, Office of Land and Emergency Management
- [Full PowerPoint Presentation](#)
- [Charge Memo and Questions](#)
- At the conclusion of the presentation, Co-Chair Gabriel Nagel opened the floor for the council members to ask questions about the presentation and charge questions.
- Carissa Cyran concluded this portion of the meeting and commenced the 15-minute break.

3:20PM – Public Comment Period

- Members of the public who registered prior or during the meeting provided oral comments.
- Carissa Cyran thanked the public for their comments and encouraged them to provide written statements to the docket at www.regulations.gov.

4:20PM – Summary & Next Steps for Day 2 – Co-Chair Gabriel Nagel

- Co-Chair Gabriel Nagel provided a summary of the presentations and public comments presented to the council for Day 1. He then provided an overview of what to expect for Day 2.

4:30PM Public Meeting Adjourned by Carissa Cyran, NEYAC Designated Federal Officer, EPA

Meeting Day 2: Thursday, February 29, 2024

9:00AM Call To Order – Carissa Cyran, DFO, EPA Office of Public Engagement and Environmental Education

- Carissa welcomed everyone to Day 2 of the National Environmental Youth Advisory Council (NEYAC) meeting.
- Carissa provided an overview of her role as the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) and the meeting operations for Day 2.
- Carissa proceeded with roll call for the NEYAC council members and then welcomed Administrator Michael Regan for opening remarks.

9:05AM Opening Remarks and Roundtable Discussion – Administrator Regan and NEYAC Full Council

- Administrator Regan provided opening remarks, emphasizing the importance of the council and this is an opportunity for youth to be at the table and a part of the decision making at the Agency. He also noted that these members represent their communities, and each have a unique perspective to bring to the council. He also focused on the partnership between the council and the agency on the work moving forward.
- Administrator Regan opened the roundtable discussion with the NEYAC members to discuss their experiences and questions as it related to the presentations and charge topics from Day 1.
- Carissa Cyran concluded this portion of the meeting and commenced the 15-minute break.

10:00AM – Break

10:15AM Discussion for NEYAC members on Charge Questions and Potential Workgroup Assignments – Co-Chairs Gabriel Nagel and Kiera O'Brien

- Gabriel Nagel opened this discussion noting this would be a less formal session for the NEYAC council members to highlight the top three issues they want to focus on. provided a summary of the presentations from Day 1 and a brief recap of the roundtable discussion. He provided a summary of the presentations, charge questions and follow up discussions from Day 1.
- Each NEYAC member provided their thoughts and opinions on the charge questions and how to begin approaching each question based on the perspective they are representing.
- Carissa Cyran concluded this portion of the meeting and commenced the 15-minute break.

11:30AM – Break

11:45AM Summary & Next Steps – Co-Chairs Gabriel Nagel and Kiera O’Brien

- Gabriel Nagel and Kiera O’Brien provided an overview of the previous discussion and what the NEYAC council members should expect in going forward in addressing the specific charge questions within each workgroup.
- Carissa Cyran asked each NEYAC member to give a brief statement on their big takeaways from the discussions. She opened this discussion by noting that it would be a less formal session for the NEYAC council members to highlight the top three issues they want to focus on. Following this discussion, Carissa welcomed EPA Chief of Staff Dan Utech for closing remarks.

12:15PM Closing Remarks – Chief of Staff Dan Utech

- Chief of Staff Dan Utech gave closing remarks highlighting how inspirational the discussions over the past two days have been for EPA leadership and staff. He emphasized the importance of the work the NEYAC is about to embark on for the next two years.
- Chief of Staff Dan Utech noted the input and recommendations each of the NEYAC members provide to the charge questions will help advance EPA’s mission of protecting human health and the environment.

12:25PM Closing Logistics and Adjourn – Carissa Cyran, DFO, EPA Office of Public Engagement and Environmental Education

- Carissa Cyran provided details on publishing all meeting material to the public docket and the NEYAC web page as well as the process for posting the meeting minutes.

12:30PM Public Meeting Adjourned by Carissa Cyran, NEYAC Designated Federal Officer, EPA

APPENDIX A: February 2024 MEETING AGENDA



**Official Meeting Agenda of the
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
National Environmental Youth Advisory Council**

February 28-29, 2024
U.S. EPA Headquarters
William Jefferson Clinton East - Room 1153 (The Map Room)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20004

DAY 1: Wednesday, February 28, 2024

9:00AM – 4:30PM Eastern Standard Time

9:00AM – 9:05AM

Call to Order & Open Public Meeting

- Carissa Cyran, NEYAC Designated Federal Officer, EPA

9:05AM - 9:10AM

Welcome/Opening Remarks and Charge Presentation

- EPA Deputy Administrator Janet McCabe

9:10AM – 9:20AM

Agenda Overview

- Gabriel Nagel, NEYAC Chairperson
- Kiera O'Brien, NEYAC Chairperson

9:20AM – 10:20AM

NEYAC Member Introductions

- Carissa Cyran, NEYAC Designated Federal Officer, EPA

10:20AM – 10:50AM

PRESENTATION 1: EPA Educational Overview – EPA Mission, Structure, Rules, and Regulations

- *Presenter:* Vicki Arroyo, Associate Administrator, Office of Policy

10:50AM – 11:05AM BREAK

11:05AM – 12:05PM PRESENTATION 2: Environmental Justice and Youth

- *Presenter:* Karim Marshall, Senior Advisor for Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights, Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights
- Q&A for the NEYAC members to ask questions on the presentation
 - *Facilitators:* NEYAC Co-Chairs Gabriel Nagel and Kiera O'Brien

12:05PM – 1:05PM LUNCH

1:05PM – 2:05PM PRESENTATION 3: Office of Air and Radiation: Climate, Clean Air, and Environmental Justice

- *Presenter:* Alejandra Nuñez, Deputy Associate Administrator for Mobile Sources, Office of Air and Radiation
- Q&A for the NEYAC members to ask questions on presentation
 - *Facilitators:* NEYAC Co-Chairs Gabriel Nagel and Kiera O'Brien

2:05PM – 2:20PM BREAK

2:20PM – 3:20PM PRESENTATION 4: Addressing Food Waste at Home and Abroad: A Case for Circular and Sustainable Materials Management Systems

- *Presenters:* Jane Nishida, Assistant Administrator, Office of International and Tribal Affairs and Rick Kessler, Senior Advisor and Lana Suarez, Associate Branch Manager Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery, Office of Land and Emergency Management
- Q&A for the NEYAC members to ask questions on presentation
 - *Facilitators:* NEYAC Chairperson Gabriel Nagel

3:20PM – 4:20PM Public Comment Period

- Members of the public who have registered to provide oral comments will have an opportunity to do so.

4:20PM – 4:30PM Summary & Next Steps for Day 2

- Gabriel Nagel, NEYAC Chairperson
- Carissa Cyran, NEYAC Designated Federal Officer, EPA

4:30PM Public Meeting Adjourns



**Official Meeting Agenda of the
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
National Environmental Youth Advisory Council**

DAY 2: Wednesday, February 29, 2024

9:00AM – 12:30PM Eastern Standard Time

9:00AM – 9:05AM Call to Order & Open Public Meeting

- Carissa Cyran, NEYAC Designated Federal Officer, EPA

9:05AM – 10:00AM EPA Administrator Regan and the NEYAC Members Roundtable

10:00AM – 10:15AM BREAK

10:15AM – 11:30AM Discussion for NEYAC members on Charge Questions and Potential Workgroup Assignments

- *Facilitators:* NEYAC Co-Chairs Gabriel Nagel and Kiera O'Brien

11:30AM – 11:45AM BREAK

11:45AM – 12:15PM Summary & Next Steps

- NEYAC Co-Chairs Gabriel Nagel and Kiera O'Brien

12:15PM – 12:25PM Closing Remarks

- Dan Utech, EPA Chief of Staff

12:25PM – 12:30PM Closing Logistics and Adjourn

- Carissa Cyran, NEYAC Designated Federal Officer, EPA

12:30PM Public Meeting Adjourns

APPENDIX B: National Environmental Youth Advisory Council Members in Attendance

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
National Environmental Youth Advisory Council
Meeting Attendance**

DAY 1: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 Attendance

Emmanual Alcantar – Vice-Chairperson (<i>virtual</i>)	Los Angeles, California – EPA Region 9
Alexandra Angerman	Wrangell, Alaska – EPA Region 10
Rachel Billiot-Bruleigh	Gretna, Louisiana – EPA Region 6
Nicholas Blumenthal	Sioux City, Iowa – EPA Region 7
Colton Buckley	Gatesville, Texas – EPA Region 6
Kristy Drutman (<i>virtual</i>)	Weehawken, New Jersey – EPA Region 2
Wanjiku Gatheru (<i>virtual</i>)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania – EPA Region 3
Osasenaga Idahor (<i>virtual</i>)	Hyde Park, Massachusetts – EPA Region 1
Sophia Kianni (<i>virtual</i>)	McLean, Virginia – EPA Region 3
Meghana Kunapareddy	Katy, Texas – EPA Region 6
Gabriel Nagel, Chairperson	Denver, Colorado – EPA Region 8
Kiera O’Brien, Chairperson	Washington, DC – EPA Region 3
Lisette Perez	Chicago, Illinois - EPA Region 5
Asada Rashidi	Newark, New Jersey – EPA Region 2
Page Tsirigotis	Chapel Hill, North Carolina – EPA Region 4

DAY 2: Thursday, February 29, 2024 Attendance

Emmanual Alcantar – Vice-Chairperson (<i>virtual</i>)	Los Angeles, California – EPA Region 9
Alexandra Angerman	Wrangell, Alaska – EPA Region 10
Rachel Billiot-Bruleigh	Gretna, Louisiana – EPA Region 6
Nicholas Blumenthal	Sioux City, Iowa – EPA Region 7
Colton Buckley	Gatesville, Texas – EPA Region 6
Kristy Drutman (<i>virtual</i>)	Weehawken, New Jersey – EPA Region 2
Osasenaga Idahor (<i>virtual</i>)	Hyde Park, Massachusetts – EPA Region 1
Meghana Kunapareddy	Katy, Texas – EPA Region 6
Gabriel Nagel, Chairperson	Denver, Colorado – EPA Region 8
Kiera O’Brien, Chairperson	Washington, DC – EPA Region 3
Lisette Perez	Chicago, Illinois - EPA Region 5
Asada Rashidi	Newark, New Jersey – EPA Region 2
Page Tsirigotis	Chapel Hill, North Carolina – EPA Region 4