



**SUMMARY OF TELECONFERENCE MEETING #1
CROSS-CUTTING (CC) ISSUES TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG)
October 18, 2006**

Attendance:

1. TWG Members:
Theresa Alberghini-DiPalma, Fletcher Allen Health Care
Nadine Barnicle, Canter Barnicle Communications
Alan Betts, Vermont Academy of Science & Engineering
Jon Isham, Middlebury College
David O'Brien, Vermont Department of Public Service
Parker Riehle, Vermont Ski Areas Association
2. VT Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC):
Jeff Merrell
3. Center for Climate Strategies (CCS):
Ken Colburn, TWG Co-Facilitator
Randy Strait, TWG Co-Facilitator
4. Other Attendees:
T.J. Poor, Vermont Department of Public Service

Background documents:

(all posted at: http://www.vtclimatechange.us/Cross_Cutting.cfm.)

1. Meeting Notice & Agenda (including provisions for public access)
2. PowerPoint© presentation for meeting
3. Draft Catalog of State GHG Reduction Policy Options

Discussion items and key issues:

This was the first conference call of the CC TWG.

1. Ken Colburn called the meeting to order, completed the roll call and reviewed the agenda and plans for the call.
2. Colburn provided an initial overview of the process, roles, and responsibilities of the Governor's Commission on Climate Change (GCCC), Plenary Group (PG), and the CC TWG. Whereas most TWGs are focused on particular options within specific sectors (e.g., energy; residential, commercial, and industrial fuel use; transportation and land use; agriculture, forestry, and waste), the CC TWG will discuss and develop recommendations that cut across all sectors. The CC TWG

will be primarily examining the options provided in the draft “catalog” for this meeting, along with any additional options that the TWG members wish to add, and other issues or options may be suggested by other TWGs. Colburn also provided an overview of the timing for TWG meetings relative to GCCC-PG meetings, and the work products to be developed by the CC TWG.

3. Inventory and Forecast: Colburn provided an overview of the draft GHG inventory and forecast noting that this work is helpful for assessing GHG emissions and trends, but it is not intended to be a compliance baseline. It was acknowledged that the sector-specific TWGs will be responsible for reviewing the inventory and forecast and identifying opportunities for improving the inventory and forecast in this and other respects. Colburn noted that the “Energy Supply and Demand” TWG will be evaluating options for the energy supply sectors as well as the residential, commercial, and industrial sectors.
4. Decision Criteria: Slide 11 of the PowerPoint file lists four general categories for which the TWGs (with CCS support) will evaluate options to support the TWGs’ decision making on options to recommend to the GCCC-PG for inclusion in the Climate Action Plan. The four categories include: CO₂e reduction potential, cost per ton of GHG emissions removed, additional issues, and feasibility issues. A TWG member asked if the consumer and administrative costs of options will be evaluated. For example, if an option affects decisions by the VT Department of Public Service then the potential impacts of options on consumers will need to be evaluated. Colburn indicated that standard quantification issues and approaches (e.g., NPV discount rate, etc.) would be clarified and agreed to by the GCCC-PG before actual quantification of the costs and GHG reductions of options proceeds. To the specific question, Colburn indicated that levelized societal costs are typically the way costs are quantified.
5. Draft Catalog of State GHG Reduction Policy Options (Handout): CCS provided the TWG with a draft catalog of CC policy options that have been reviewed and/or undertaken in other states, including GHG emissions inventories and forecasting, reporting, registries, public education and outreach, adaptation, GHG reduction goals and targets, and states’ efforts regarding their own GHG emissions. Colburn provided a brief overview of each option. These options are intended to serve as a starting point for the CC TWG to consider in developing options most appropriate for Vermont. The TWG is encouraged to add options to the catalog. All options will be maintained in the catalog to serve as a record of all options considered. At its next meeting the GCCC-PG will review the catalog for completeness, and ask the TWGs to identify priority policy options most appropriate for Vermont. After the GCCC-PG reviews and approves recommended priority options (at its third meeting), “straw proposals” will be developed to help define the attributes of individual policy options.

Colburn noted that the catalog entry for Education and Outreach is organized by audience and that the TWG should feel free to use a different approach for developing this option. The TWG discussed several of the catalog items, noting the importance of conducting education and outreach efforts in a very comprehensive and coordinated effort to avoid fragmentation of this important

function. It will also be important to clearly define messaging, programming, and funding to support successful implementation of education and outreach activities. Enlisting the support of all constituents will also be important.

6. **Potential Options for Evaluation:** Some TWG members asked if the analysis of options will include (1) an assessment of methods for reducing VMT associated with shipping in Vermont; (2) requirements for controlling HFC leakage from air conditioning and refrigeration systems as stringent as the requirements for controlling CFCs, and (3) “take-back” requirements for manufacturers once their products have reached the end of their useful life. Colburn noted that these ideas will be passed on to the CCS facilitators for the appropriate TWGs who can bring them to the TWGs for further consideration.
7. **Call to the Public:** There were no public participants.
8. **Announcements:** None.

Next steps:

1. The next CC TWG call (#2) will be scheduled by email. CCS will notify the full TWG of the date and time for call #2 and send a reminder out several days before the call.
2. **Draft Catalog of State GHG Reduction Policy Options:** TWG members should review the catalog items carefully, suggest any new options that should be included, and be prepared to identify priority options most suitable for Vermont.