



**SUMMARY OF TELECONFERENCE MEETING #2
CROSS-CUTTING (CC) ISSUES TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG)
December 8, 2006**

Attendance:

1. TWG Members:
Nadine Barnicle, Canter Barnicle Communications
Alan Betts, Vermont Academy of Science & Engineering
Paul Cameron, Brattleboro Climate Protection
Paul Comey, Green Mountain Coffee Roasters
Jon Isham, Middlebury College
Edward Mahoney, Graduate Theology Pgm. - St. Michaels College
Deb Sachs, Alliance for Climate Action
Lisa Ventriss, Vermont Business Roundtable
2. VT Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC):
Harold Garabedian
3. Center for Climate Strategies (CCS):
Ken Colburn, TWG Co-Facilitator
Randy Strait, TWG Co-Facilitator
4. Other Attendees:
None

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 second 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. Members of the CC TWG approved without objection the summary for Call #1.
3. Review of results of Governor's Commission on Climate Change-Plenary Group (GCCC-PG) meeting on November 8, 2006: Colburn reported that the GCCC-PG provided strong approval of the CC TWG's catalog of seven policy options.

4. Next Steps for the TWG: The TWG's next task is to identify policy options in the catalog that it will recommend to the GCCC-PG as initial priorities at the January 18, 2007 meeting of the GCCC-PG. The TWG may also add or consolidate options if it wishes to do so. Colburn reviewed each option from the catalog and answered questions from TWG members. The TWG agreed unanimously to recommend to the GCCC-PG that each of the seven options be considered a "High Priority" for analysis. TWG members offered specific thoughts and suggestions regarding four of the policy options:
 - a. Inventories and Forecasting: It will be important for the state to document emissions for 1990, because this is the year from which emission reduction targets will be calculated. It would be helpful if inventories and forecasts could be provided at the county level in order to facilitate community-level understanding of what their emission sources are and how each community can reduce GHG emissions from its emission sources.
 - b. Reporting: DEC indicated that although it has made planning estimates of GHG emissions (that formed the preliminary inventory that CCS used as a starting point for the planning inventory for the GCCC-PG), DEC does not have a mandate, or the resources, to routinely compile and report these emissions. Carbon dioxide is included as a pollutant under Vermont's Air Pollution Control Act, providing the state with the authority to regulate CO₂ emissions. However, the state would need additional resources to implement broader GHG reporting requirements. A TWG member noted that it will be important to coordinate reporting design characteristics with regional efforts for consistency (e.g., use the same reporting protocols if appropriate for Vermont) as well as to provide protocols to businesses as soon as possible to initiate voluntary reporting.
 - c. Registry: Although some states combine reporting with a registry, the two are presented in the catalog separately because some states have developed reporting programs independent of developing or joining a registry. Reporting requirements or protocols provide a critical foundation for a registry because they establish how emissions are to be measured.
 - d. Education and Outreach: The TWG noted that there is a strong grass-roots effort underway in Vermont to reduce GHG emissions at the community level. The Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network (VECAN) was established by five founding member organizations to support local energy and climate action in about 21 committees across Vermont. Further information is available at VECAN's website (<http://www.vnrc.org/article/view/9452/1/625>).

Given this strong grass roots initiative in Vermont, some TWG members suggested that the audience-based approach to education and outreach (as presented in the catalog) may not be best suited for Vermont. These TWG members felt that it might be more effective to develop a marketing or branding based approach to reaching multiple audiences at the same time. It will also be important to have a central location such as a website where different audiences can obtain consistent information. Nadine Barnicle,

Edward Mahoney, and Deb Sachs volunteered to develop this option further for the TWG's review.

5. Call to the Public: There were no public participants.
6. Announcements: The next GCCC-PG meeting will be held on January 18, 2007.

Next steps:

1. The next CC TWG call (#3) will be held on **Monday, February 5, 2007, from 2:00 to 3:30 pm Eastern time**. CCS will notify the full TWG of the date and time for call #3 and send a reminder out several days before the call.
2. Draft Catalog of State GHG Reduction Policy Options: CCS will provide the TWG members with a Word version of the catalog for review and comment.
3. Small groups: Following approval of suggested priorities for analysis by the GCCC-PG, TWG members will indicate to CCS which options they want to focus on in developing policy option straw proposals.
4. Policy Option Descriptions: CCS will provide the TWG with a template to use as a starting point for developing characteristics of each policy option approved as a priority by the GCCC-PG.
5. Future Meeting Dates: CCS will work with DEC in preparing the dates and times for all remaining CC TWG meetings and will distribute the meeting schedule to the TWG.