



**SUMMARY OF TELECONFERENCE MEETING #3
CROSS-CUTTING (CC) ISSUES TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG)
February 19, 2006**

Attendance:

1. TWG Members:
Theresa Alberghini-DiPalma, Fletcher Allen Health Care
Alan Betts, Vermont Academy of Science & Engineering
Paul Cameron, Brattleboro Climate Protection
Edward Mahoney, Graduate Theology Program - St. Michaels College
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:
None

Background documents:

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

1. Meeting Notice & Agenda (including provisions for public access)
2. Draft Summary of Call #2
3. PowerPoint© presentation for meeting
4. Draft Catalog of State GHG Reduction Policy Options
5. Draft Policy Option Descriptions

Discussion items and key issues:

This was the third 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 #2.
3. Dates and Times for Remaining TWG Calls: The TWG members agreed to hold Call #4 on February 26 as originally scheduled in order to keep in step with the overall process. Colburn reviewed the dates and times for all remaining CC TWG meetings.

4. Goals for Governor's Commission on Climate Change-Plenary Group (GCCC-PG) Meeting #4: Colburn noted that the fourth meeting of the GCCC-PG will be held on March 22, 2007. The goals for the CC TWG will be to prepare draft straw proposals for the priority policy options for review and approval by the GCCC-PG. The TWG should focus on preparing the design characteristics of each policy option (using the template provided by CCS) to inform the GCCC-PG on the TWG's initial design and direction for each option. During today's call and Call #4, the TWG should seek to reach agreement on recommendations for the design characteristics of each policy option.
5. Discussion Regarding Development of Straw Proposals for Policy Options:
 - a. Early Consensus Items: Colburn noted that the State Legislature is interested in climate action this session and would welcome "early consensus" recommendations from the GCCC-PG of ideas to address climate change mitigation and adaptation. Colburn noted that identification of early consensus items could include: (1) recommendations from the TWGs to the GCCC-PG; (2) studies or initiatives that State Legislature could undertake over the next year; and (3) other items. All of the CC TWG's priority policy options could possibly be identified as early consensus items. Colburn noted that the State Legislature has indicated a particular interest in the Public Education and Outreach (CC-4) policy option, and that members of the CC TWG's small group for this option have been very active working on the straw proposal for this option as a result. Colburn noted that the GCCC-PG would be holding a teleconference meeting on February 21 to discuss possible early consensus policy options.
 - b. Education and Outreach (CC-4): The TWG discussed the draft straw proposal that the small group members prepared for CC-4. The straw proposal design recommends that the State of Vermont establish a coordinated, statewide effort and resources to connect and provide methods for community-based organizations and professionals to share timely and accurate information on climate change mitigation activities and adaptation issues. The draft design includes the following four key elements:
 - (1) Improve community-leader, policy-maker and community-based organizational access to useful resources and services;
 - (2) Provide tools and resources that support a growing network of groups and project activities;
 - (3) Advance a state-wide marketing brand (e.g., 10% Challenge) to encourage behavior change and achievement of shared goals; and
 - (4) Coordinate state-wide activities on climate change and all related energy activities.

The TWG agreed with this approach. The small group will continue its work on the draft straw proposal.

- c. Adaptation (CC-5): Alan Betts noted that the specific effects of climate change resolved to as small an area as Vermont cannot be characterized with scientific precision, and the straw proposal should acknowledge this concern. He agreed to assist as a member of the small group working on this policy option.
 - d. State GHG Emissions (CC-7): Colburn noted that under this option, other states have recently considered: (1) climate-neutral bonding for state-owned buildings, and (2) requiring projects subject to environmental impact statement (EIS) requirements to also quantify the GHG emissions associated with the projects. Climate-neutral bonding would require that any building projects financed with state bonds result in no net increase in GHG emissions. Members of the TWG agreed with these concepts; however, due to the limited number of TWG members participating in Call #3, these concepts will be discussed with the TWG during Call #4.
 - e. Inventories and Forecasting, Reporting, and Registries (CC-1, CC-2, and CC-3, respectively): The TWG briefly discussed these options. Colburn noted that the TWG members do not necessarily need to have a detailed technical knowledge of data sources and methods that ultimately will support implementation of these options. The TWG members only need to develop the design characteristics that will set the framework within which the options would be implemented (e.g., identify geographic coverage, emission source/sink coverage, which gases are covered, etc.). One member suggested that the TWG consider asking the Vermont Law School's Center for Energy and Environment to review and comment on the draft straw proposals for these options.
6. Small Groups: Colburn asked the TWG members on the call to identify their preferences for participating in one or more small groups to develop the draft straw proposal for each option. All of the TWG members on the call indicated that their preference is to participate in the small group for Public Education and Outreach (CC-4). As noted above, Dr. Betts also indicated an interest in participating on the small group for Adaptation (CC-5).
 7. Call to the Public: There were no public participants.
 8. Announcements: The next GCCC-PG meeting will be held on March 22, 2007.

Next steps:

1. The next CC TWG call (#4) will be held on **Monday, February 26, 2007, from 2:00 to 3:30 pm Eastern time**. CCS will notify the full TWG of the date and time for call #4 and send a reminder out several days before the call.
2. Small groups: CCS will send an e-mail to the full TWG requesting preferences for participation in a small group for each of the priority policy options. During Call #4, TWG members should indicate their preferences for small group participation.

3. Policy Option Descriptions: CCS will coordinate with the TWG in preparing and distributing straw proposals for discussion during Call #4.