



**SUMMARY OF TELECONFERENCE MEETING #5
CROSS-CUTTING (CC) ISSUES TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG)
April 9, 2006**

Attendance:

1. TWG Members:
Nadine Barnicle, Canter Barnicle Communications
Alan Betts, Vermont Academy of Science & Engineering
Paul Comey, Green Mountain Coffee Roasters
Edward Mahoney, Graduate Theology Program - St. Michaels College
Deb Sachs, Alliance for Climate Action
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:
Mark McElroy, Center for Sustainable Innovation

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 #4
3. PowerPoint© presentation for meeting
4. Draft Policy Option Descriptions

Discussion items and key issues:

This was the fifth 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 #4. It was noted that Alan Betts was inadvertently not included as a participant in the call; the summary will be revised to add Alan Betts to the participants list.
3. Dates and Times for Remaining TWG Calls: The TWG members agreed to hold Call #6 on April 23 as originally scheduled. 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 #5: Colburn noted that the fifth meeting of the GCCC-PG will be held on May 17, 2007. The goals for the CC TWG will be to develop its remaining policy option straw proposals for review and approval by the GCCC-PG, and to further flesh out remaining template elements for policy options that the PG has already approved and sent to the Legislature as early consensus options. Colburn noted that CCS would try to fill out the remaining template elements for the TWG's review during the next call.
5. Discussion Regarding Development of Straw Proposals for Policy Options:
 - a. Options for State GHG Goals or Targets (CC-6): Colburn indicated that serious deliberation about state GHG reduction goals or targets needed to await the results of the TWGs' quantification efforts. Nevertheless, GHG reduction goals and targets established in other states and regions provide a useful framework and basis for comparison, so Colburn and Strait reviewed with the TWG goals and targets from several other jurisdictions.
 - b. Education and Outreach (CC-4): TWG members noted that the format of this option had changed somewhat from the last version circulated. Colburn indicated that CCS had endeavored to put the TWG's conclusions into the format called for by the PG by distilling the four major thrusts of the recommendation as key components under the Policy Design section of the template. Colburn noted that the PG had approved the revised straw proposal, but that revisions could be proposed, particularly if any material problems existed within the approved text. One TWG member expressed concern that the description could benefit from greater emphasis on marketing. Colburn noted that marketing with respect to specific policy options (as opposed to education and outreach generally), marketing of or for them may be included directly with their TWG template (e.g., included in a specific RCI policy, as appropriate).

Another member suggested that it may be appropriate to add additional text reflecting points from the PG discussion. For example, in terms of implementation and parties involved, one member questioned whether state agencies would be the best vehicle through which to conduct public education and outreach activities. Colburn clarified that the intent of citing VT DEC under parties involved was that it was probably the best agency to oversee these efforts from the official state standpoint; the intent was to avoid the creation of a new agency, not a suggestion that DEC would actually conduct all the activities. Doing so through the array of community, environmental, and affinity groups already working with the public on climate change may be a better approach, with DEC perhaps overseeing an advisory group or coordination function. Additional resources dedicated to public education and outreach are likely to be needed in any case.

Finally, there was some discussion about changing the title of this policy option to incorporate the word "marketing." Colburn indicated that changes

as significant as title changes did need to go back to the PG. TWG members opted to retain the title, but to ensure that the marketing concept came through clearly in the template for this policy option.

- c. State GHG Emissions / Lead by Example (CC-7): Colburn reviewed this policy option, noting that few states had set specific targets or requirements for its own emissions. State emissions typically include those from state fleets, state buildings, state lands, etc. A few states have joined the Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX), which imposes a reduction target when entities join. And presumably, those states that have set statewide goals intend that the same goals apply across the board to the state as an emitter too. Colburn indicated that the state may want to charge an agency (e.g., DEC) with developing an inventory of GHG emissions from the state's own operations, and disaggregating it appropriately among all agencies along with advice about emission reduction opportunities. Results from each agency could then be aggregated annually to measure overall state progress.

Jeff Merrell from DEC noted that the state had already begun efforts to reduce its own emissions through the Climate Neutral Working Group, had a 2005 state energy plan, and that he would forward links to such efforts to the TWG. TWG members suggested enlisting the assistance of Debra Baslow, who is in charge of overseeing implementation of the State Energy Plan with state agencies. There was some discussion about including assessment of GHG emissions impacts in Environmental Impact Statements, but the TWG thought that Act 250's provisions already addressed this issue to some extent.

6. Call to the Public: Mark McElroy from the Center for Sustainable Innovation participated in the call at the DEC offices. He asked if any assessment had been done regarding what impact achievement of the state's goals would have on atmospheric CO₂ concentrations. Colburn indicated that almost universally, the states which had set goals had done so on the basis of aspiration and/or feasibility, not global atmospheric concentrations. A TWG member noted, however, that if the same targets were adopted globally, they would go a long way toward stabilizing concentrations around 450 ppm CO₂e. Mr. McElroy noted that his organization had done some modeling with lower concentrations as far out as 2150, and then tried to work backward to figure out what goals would be necessary to reach those levels, thinking that that approach might be more credible. He was concerned about the feasibility particularly of Vermont's short term goal. Colburn indicated that the GCCC-PG could recommend a modification to the state's goals if it thought doing so was warranted. Colburn indicated that overall, the GCCC-PG process calls for reductions in Vermont emissions as compared to baseline levels, not atmospheric concentrations.
7. Announcements: The next GCCC-PG meeting will be held on May 17, 2007.

Next steps:

1. The next CC TWG call (#6) will be held on **Monday, April 23, 2007, from 2:00 to 3:30 pm Eastern time**. CCS will notify the full TWG of the date and time for Call #6 and send a reminder out several days before the call.
2. TWG member Debra Sachs will contact Debra Baslow with respect to CC-7, state GHG reductions. Jeff Merrell from DEC will circulate web links for the items he noted as bearing on CC-7 too.
3. Policy Option Descriptions: CCS will coordinate with the TWG in preparing and distributing straw proposals for discussion during Call #6.