



State of Alaska
Governor's Climate Change Sub-Cabinet

Adaptation Advisory Group Meeting
Meeting #6a

Health and Culture TWG
May 15, 2009



HC-1: Community Climate Impact Assistance

- Need: Many aspects of the traditional and subsistence way of life are being made more difficult by climate change
- Objective: To create an integrated and coherent process by which state, federal, regional, and local entities can provide rapid, coordinated, and effective relief to communities facing (and experiencing) substantial cultural, health, economic infrastructure, and subsistence impacts from climate change
- Structure: A permanent, high-level state coordinating body within Alaska
- This option is intended to work together with the options proposed by the IAWG

Four functions:

- 1. Develop a process for prioritizing and addressing climate challenged communities**
- 2. Help communities to adapt to flooding and erosion either by relocation or protection-in-place**
- 3. Develop a flexible and responsive process to regulate subsistence access under changing climatic conditions**
- 4. Develop principles to guide community climate impact assistance activities**

Function 1: Process for prioritizing

- A. Future climate scenario development and analysis to identify communities at risk
- B. Conduct meetings with leaders in at-risk communities to understand the risks and challenges from climate change
- C. Prioritize at risk communities and the risks within each community, using clear and transparent criteria
- D. Recommend communities in need of state and federal assistance to address specific risks and reduce vulnerability
- E. Create strategies and measures tailored to the needs of the community
- F. Work with communities to obtain funding for adaptation

Function 2: Help communities adapt

- A. Create a mandate for climate impact assistance (especially migration and relocation) within state and Federal agencies
- B. Designate lead agencies at the Federal and state levels and outline an overall strategy for relocation process
- C. Create a dedicated funding source for community climate impact assistance
- D. Create a liquid funding source to provide immediate assistance
- E. Provide assistance in complying with the NEPA process

Function 3: Develop a process to regulate subsistence access

- The coordinating entity should work to facilitate interaction between subsistence users and regulatory bodies (such as the Federal subsistence Board, the Marine Mammal commission, and the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game)
- Create a citizen-based reporting and surveillance system to identify and document changes in water bodies, changes in range, density, and health of subsistence food species, and monitoring for pathogens

Function 4: Develop guiding principles

- A. Provide resources to ensure cross-cultural communication and understand within traditional languages
- B. Reduce community burden during sensitive times
- C. Provide for local input and community involvement

Thank you!

<http://climatechange.alaska.gov/>

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