

Governor's Sub-Cabinet on Climate Change

Organization Meeting – May 22

#1: Assembly of scientific research modeling and mapping information in ways that will help the public and policymakers understand the actual and projected effects of climate change in Alaska including the timeframes in which those effects are likely to take place

Extract key findings on Alaska from scientific reports;

Meet with lead scientist, learn what refinements may produce projections for local and regional impacts for:

- permafrost thawing;
- severity of coastal storms;
- storm rainfall events / river flood flows;
- glacial melting and land re-bounding;
- sea level changes / estuary ecology
- shifts in plants, wildlife, disease, and pests
- forest fires;
- ocean acidification;
- marine shifts

#2: Prioritization of climate change research in Alaska to best meet the needs of the public and policymakers;

- Prioritize highest value research needs;
- Outreach with others on scope for research needs;
- Work sessions with federal agencies to learn of existing or funded research projects;
- Align projects where federal funding potential is strong;
- Use intra-agency process to periodically re-fresh ranking and funding sources;
- Consider cataloging major research underway or funded;
- Leverage new federal funds

#3: Effective means of informing, and generating a dialogue with, the public on climate change issues, needs and opportunities

- Interface with communities, tribes, NGO organizations;
- News releases after each Sub-cabinet meeting;
- Develop web page;
- Work Groups to embrace broad participation;
- Seek speaker forums
- Public review of Sub-Cabinet's recommendations

#4: Early assessment and development of an action plan addressing climate change impacts on coastal and other vulnerable communities

- Establish a list of highly impacted and high risk communities;
- Assess additional research needs;
- Determine monitoring to track change;
- Examine engineering options to mitigate subsidence problems, coastal erosion and flooding;
- Work with high impact and risk communities;
- Develop Vulnerable Community Action Plan;
- Look for federal assistance;

#5: Potential policies and measures to reduce the likelihood or magnitude of damage to infrastructure in Alaska from the effects of climate change

- Categorize moderate risk areas / communities;
- Assess changes in engineering design standards for new construction projects
- Assess beneficial results of intervention in high impact areas;
- Assess how best to implement new standards.

#6: Potential policies and measures addressing anticipated changes to the marine environment due to climate change

- Assemble existing scientific knowledge;
- Hear from experts;
- Assess research underway; research needs;
- Evaluate monitoring underway, needs, knowledge gaps;
- Decide if better projections of fisheries harvest for sub-regions can be done;
- Assess which climate change forces will dominate changes to marine environment / productivity;
- Work with fisheries managers and harvesters on adaptation planning.
- Assess prevention / intervention that may succeed
- Decide where adaptive management is needed in agency decisions

#7: Potential policies and measures addressing anticipated changes in the quantity, quality and location of fish and game in Alaska due to climate change

- Assess changes in distribution, species and quality of fisheries and marine mammals;
- Steps to assess changes to game and wildlife abundance and distribution may be similar to Element #6;
- Determine if management decision making needs to change – adaptive management;
- Does discharge or use permitting also need to change

#8: Potential policies and measures addressing anticipated changes in the productivity of forests and agricultural lands in Alaska due to climate change

- Are models capable of regional Forestry and Ag projections;
- Can we improve projections of climate change forces for sub-regions of Alaska;
- Prepare regional biological analyses assessing forestry and Ag opportunities and impacts;
- Assess potential economic and community opportunities and impacts;
- Change agency policies and permitting reflecting new opportunities and impacts.

#9: Evaluating and responding to the risks of new, or an increase in the frequency or severity of, disease and pests due to climate change

- Assess current state of the science on actual or projected changes in disease vectors;
- Assess threats from dormant or controlled diseases, pests and invasive species;
- Based on review, determine need for new research;
- Evaluate serious risks - develop adaptation or intervention strategies;
- Integrated with Forestry and Agricultural Element
- Change policies, procedures and staffing in response to new threats.

#10: Identification of federal and state mechanisms for funding climate change activities in Alaska, including research and adaptation projects

- Prepare a project staffing / budget proposal for FY 08;
- Rationalize and prioritize the various needs for research, impact adaptation / preparedness from all Elements
- Research existing and possible funding sources; and
- Explore emerging State / Federal forums for consensus building on research gaps, urgent adaptation / preparedness projects.

#11: The wisdom of Alaska participating in regional, national and international climate policy agreements and greenhouse gas registries

- Track progress of new national Climate Registry re benefits, consequences and commitment;
- Prepare white paper for the Governor re pros and cons of joining Western Regional Climate Action Initiative
- Track Congressional bills on climate change, vehicle efficiency standards, clean and alternative energy
- Solicit “lessons learned” speakers from leaders in other countries and states.

#12: Potential and beneficial opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from Alaska sources through expanded use of alternative fuels and forms of energy

- Develop an Energy Conservation Strategy / Plan stimulating voluntary actions for individuals, businesses and industry operations;
- Develop Energy Strategy / Plan for renewable, clean & alternative energy sources
- Develop a Clean Fuels Strategy / Plan for Alaska gas and coal derived fuels to displace carbon heavy fuels in others states and in Alaska.

#13: Potential and beneficial opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the operations of Alaska state government

- Inventory emissions from State government operations and its major contractors;
- Explore low hanging fruit - carbon reductions from energy conservation, alternative fuels and others;
- Develop a proposed Action Plan to reduce emissions

#14: Potential opportunities for Alaska to beneficially participate in carbon-trading markets, including through carbon sequestration

- Decide which forums will dominate setting the carbon trading rules;
- Perform in-depth research on whether state and private forest operators can economically benefit from sequestration;
- Assess economic and technical aspects of carbon sequestration in mature oil fields.

**#15: Such other potential policies and measures that the Climate Change Sub-Cabinet believes will help achieve the purpose of this
Administrative Order**

- Discussion