



**Cross-Cutting (CC) Issues Technical Working Group  
Description of High Priority Mitigation Options – November 3, 2008**

#	Option Name	Description
<p><b>CC-1</b> (1.1 &amp; 1.2)</p>	<p><b>Establish GHG Reporting and Inventory Program</b></p>	<p>GHG reporting includes the measurement and documentation of GHG emissions to support better tracking and management on a statewide, sector, or sub-sector basis. GHG reporting can help sources identify emission reduction opportunities. GHG reporting is generally a requirement for participation in GHG reduction programs (including trading programs) and a means to secure “baseline protection” (i.e., credit for early reductions). Inventories and forecasts can be aided through a mandatory system for reporting GHG emissions. GHG emissions inventories and forecasts contribute to understanding the types and magnitude of emission sources and sinks (both anthropogenic and natural), the relative contribution of various types of emission sources and sinks to total emissions, and the factors that affect trends over time. Inventories and forecasts can help to inform state leaders and the public on statewide trends, opportunities for mitigating emissions or enhancing sinks, and verifying GHG reductions associated with implementation of action plan initiatives. Mandatory reporting efforts in Alaska will be coordinated with mandatory requirements expected to be released soon by the U.S. EPA. Establishing a mandatory reporting system will establish Alaska’s leadership in GHG management and reduction efforts</p> <p><b>Goals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a mandatory GHG reporting system to be populated periodically (annually?) that includes, to the extent feasible, all natural and man-made emissions generated within the boundaries of Alaska (production) and all emissions associated with energy imported and consumed within the state (consumption).</li> <li>• Provide means to manage and oversee the system in a rigorous and systematic way (e.g., within the Air Quality Division of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation)</li> <li>• Establish consistent, verifiable, transparent methods for reporting and verifying Alaska’s GHG emissions data.</li> <li>• Establish a baseline (starting with the existing 2002 inventory) against which to measure changes in Alaska emissions.</li> <li>• Publish periodic reports on changes in the inventory and forecasts (in 5 year increments at least 20 years into the future). The GHG forecast will project growth, and changes due to climate and implementation of mitigation projects.</li> </ul>

#	Option Name	Description
CC-2 (2.1)	<b>Establish GHG Emission Reduction Goals</b>	<p>Formally establish goals for statewide GHG emission reductions, which should include establishing secondary goals for energy efficiency, renewable energy generation/ consumption, waste, land use, transportation, government energy use and others sectors. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recommends 80% reduction in GHG emissions by 2050 to keep CO<sub>2</sub> levels below 450 parts per million. The United States Climate Action Partnership, an alliance of 28 major companies including BP America, DuPont, and General Electric, has agreed to achieve a peak of emissions by 2012, with reductions up to 10% by 2017, and 80% reductions by 2050. Some U.S. states and U.S. cities have set similar GHG emission reduction goals. Establishing Alaska's GHG emission mitigation goals by Executive Order or other legally binding mechanism will ensure that the State of Alaska implements and enforces its goals across all sectors and into the future.</p> <p><b>Goals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish Alaska's mitigation goals for anthropogenic GHG emissions by Executive Order, legislative action, or other legal foundation.</li> <li>• Establish secondary goals for energy efficiency, renewable energy generation and consumption, waste, land use, transportation, government energy use and other sectors that can contribute to emissions reductions (NOTE: This work will be coordinated with other Technical Working Groups).</li> </ul>

#	Option Name	Description
CC-3 (2.2)	<b>Identify and Implement State Government Mitigation Actions</b>	<p>The State of Alaska can lead by example in meeting State GHG emissions goals by making specific and tangible changes in its operations. Reducing GHG emissions and responding to climate change will require identifying and implementing potential GHG reduction activities. Leadership on the part of the State by identifying these early actions – and then proceeding to implement them – will accomplish several goals. First, the state can quickly make meaningful reductions in GHG emissions. These successful actions can be used to incentivize actions for private citizens, businesses, NGOs, and local governments. Initial successes will help convince the public and Legislature to move forward with other actions that may require more significant changes in behavior, regulation and public funding. Identifying early actions and then doing them is the essence of “leading by example” and a necessary first step for more ambitious goals.</p> <p>A list of actions will be developed that identify potential time frames for actions, needed resources and authorities, potential GHG reductions, and potential savings. The CC TWG will develop a preliminary matrix outlining such actions. Examples of immediate and low-cost actions include energy reductions that could result from use of LED holiday lights on state owned buildings and venues (rather than conventional lights), energy audits and response for the governor’s mansion, requirements for setting all state computers to “sleep” mode, and incentives for use of public transportation for commuting. Alaska can learn from the examples of other State governments that have taken steps to reduce State government GHG emissions in developing this list of actions.</p> <p><b>Goals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The State of Alaska to “Lead by Example” by implementing “Early Actions” in the immediate future to reduce its GHG emissions.</li> <li>• Identify no cost and low cost actions that can be taken without new funding or legislative approval.</li> <li>• Divide these actions into two categories: (1) actions that will directly reduce GHG emissions through immediate changes in the way the state does business and (2) actions that must be completed as a first step toward implementing more complex and expensive goals.</li> <li>• State agencies implement actions within their purview and authority, with a priority toward immediate and meaningful reductions in GHG emissions by changes in day-to-day state activity.</li> <li>• Publicize successes quickly to encourage others to act and to generate political momentum.</li> <li>• More complex and expensive goals will be implemented by appropriate officials and departments through Executive Order or Legislative action.</li> </ul>

#	Option Name	Description
CC-4 (2.4)	<b>Coordinate with the Alaska State Energy Plan</b>	<p>Coordinate the climate change mitigation options/policy recommendations with the State Energy Plan being developed by the Alaska Energy Authority to develop and meet energy goals and targets. The State Energy Plan will be released in December and should have a conceptual link to the Alaska Climate Change Strategy. After the Alaska Climate Change Strategy is released, these plans should be integrated so that they are both conceptually and technically linked. Integrating Alaska's climate protection and energy policies will allow Alaska to achieve its GHG mitigation goals and result in a sustainable, profitable, less-volatile, fixed-price, carbon-based economy.</p> <p><b>Goals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the short-term, establish sector specific GHG emission reduction goals within Alaska's Climate Change Strategy, and integrate these GHG mitigation goals into the State Energy Plan.</li> <li>• In the longer term, integrate Alaska's Climate Change Strategy and State Energy Plan into one strategic plan that will establish and plan to achieve Alaska's GHG mitigation, energy, and economic goals through the year 2050. This plan would be updated every two years to ensure Alaska is meeting its energy and GHG emissions mitigation goals.</li> </ul>

#	Option Name	Description
CC-5 (3.1)	<b>Identify Incentives for GHG Reductions, Green Technologies, and Energy Efficiencies</b>	<p>Incentives designed to affect Alaska’s GHG emissions profile must be considered in the context of Alaska’s GHG emission goals (which do not currently exist), and economic and environmental goals. Incentives must also consider the possibility of a federally imposed cap and trade system that could influence or subrogate Alaska’s GHG emissions goals and mitigation methods. There are many existing approaches in the U.S. that might help model AK’s efforts to reduce GHG emissions through energy efficiency improvements and the installation of renewable energy. The “Energy Trust” established in Oregon is one such model that effectuates improvements in end use energy efficiency and the installation of renewable energy systems. The Energy Trust is the culmination of a variety of policy decisions, including the implementation of a System Benefit Charge to raise the funds that pay for the program. In Alaska, funds for a substantial energy efficiency retrofit and renewable energy grants were paid for out of state general funds. This highlights the need to identify successful models, but consider implementation in the context of a homogeneous and complimentary system of policies that work toward the State’s GHG goals.</p> <p><b>Goals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate the mitigation of GHG emissions by existing state programs such as the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation home energy efficiency rebate and weatherization program and the renewable energy grant program.</li> <li>• Evaluate and consider implementing the recommendations contained in the State of Alaska Energy Efficiency Policy Review.</li> <li>• Use and enhance successful AHFC programs as a model for the commercial and industrial sectors</li> <li>• Initiate a “Green Star” home rating that includes recognition for a reduction of GHG emissions. This star rating achievement can be incentivized through interest rate reduction or rebates.</li> <li>• Initiate statewide residential/commercial building code that includes a consideration of factors that result in GHG emissions.</li> <li>• Continue to fund and operate the renewable energy fund</li> <li>• Allocate state funds to an ESCO (Energy Service Company) model that enables investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency projects based on projected cost savings.</li> <li>• Encourage programs like GVEA’s SNAP (Sustainable Natural Alternative Power) or renewable energy net metering to incentivize individual contributions of low/zero GHG power to electrical grids.</li> <li>• Continue to fund research into the best practices and products for use in building in the Arctic</li> </ul>

#	Option Name	Description
CC-6 (3.2)	<b>Advocate for and Participate in Cap and Trade and Other Market-Based Systems</b>	<p>Currently, various cap and trade systems and other market based initiatives to manage carbon are under development (<a href="http://www.westernclimateinitiative.org/ewebeditpro/items/O104F19865.PDF">http://www.westernclimateinitiative.org/ewebeditpro/items/O104F19865.PDF</a>). Alaska will eventually require a public entity to oversee and manage revenues generated by a future cap-and-trade program.</p> <p>A cap and trade system creates incentives to reduce emissions by setting a limit on emissions and providing a market to sell or trade “allowances” or permits to regulated sources. The regulated sources are required to match allowances with reported emissions. They may sell unused allowances.</p> <p><b>Goals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Become an active participant in the Western Climate initiative</li> <li>• Participate in discussions on and implementation of a cap and trade system for Alaska</li> <li>• Advocate for a federal cap and trade system</li> <li>• Examine how a cap-and-trade program interacts with existing and proposed emission reduction measures including regulations, performance-based standards, price subsidies, tax credits, and other technology promoting initiatives.</li> <li>• Integrate Alaska’s cap-and-trade program with the WCI and federal programs.</li> <li>• Consider creation/management of a “Carbon Trust Fund” using carbon emission allowance revenues to encourage carbon reductions in sectors inside and outside the cap, while encouraging R&amp;D efforts, and promoting jobs for Alaskans.</li> </ul>

#	Option Name	Description
CC-7 (4.5)	<b>Establish a State Coordinating Program for Addressing Climate Change</b>	<p>Successful response to climate change will require a dedicated and coordinated effort on the part of the State with sufficient funding and staff. This policy option envisions establishment of a permanent entity to provide coordination overall to State climate change efforts. Tasks would include: providing access to information and education resources, coordinating and tracking climate change policy in Alaska, and supporting the education of students and the general public about climate change strategies and impacts. Many efforts are currently underway in Alaska that address climate change mitigation or adaptation, but often, these activities are not coordinated</p> <p><b>Goals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify optimal mechanisms to ensure the longevity of the Climate Change Strategy efforts (e.g., Advisory Groups and Technical Working Groups) and bring agencies together to coordinate efforts. Explore the options of maintaining the energy of the effort by formally establishing a body or office</li> <li>• Build staffing from what DEC and other Alaska state government agencies have in place and are planning. Ensure that evolution of a cross-reaching government agency effort on climate change is coordinated for outreach and education.</li> <li>• In Year 1, create and populate a Web Portal dedicated to the Alaska Climate Change Strategy. The Web Portal effort could be supported by a team that includes agency Public Information Officers and Special Assistants for relevant State agencies, along with existing departmental staff who work on climate change issues. The Web Portal could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A clearinghouse of climate change information and resources, education materials etc, that brings together and shares results from all the Alaska/Arctic climate change research and monitoring by universities, agencies and other groups</li> <li>○ Identification and reporting of the “early actions”</li> <li>○ Practical and doable strategies – “what you can do” – for private citizens, businesses and industry sectors, and local governments</li> <li>○ Coordination of technical advisory groups and a means to share their recommendations with state leaders and the public</li> </ul> </li> </ul>