

# Alaska Climate Change Strategy

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## **Cross-Cutting Issues Technical Work Group** **Alaska Mitigation Advisory Group** **Meeting #3: Conference Call Summary** **July 29, 2008**

### **Participants**

#### **TWG Participants**

Jeanne Carlson, Solid Waste Municipality of Anchorage & Green Star  
Scott Deveau, General Services Administration  
Lynda Giguere, AK Dept. of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)  
Maria Gladziszewski, City of Juneau  
Scott Sloane, ADEC  
Kate Troll, AK Conservation Alliance

#### **CCS Staff**

Nancy Tosta, Ross & Associates  
Lydia Dobrovolny, Ross & Associates  
Amy Wheelless, Ross & Associates

#### **Public Participants**

Francie Roberts, City of Homer  
Sally Schlichting, Juneau Commission on Sustainability

### **Meeting Summary**

#### **Meeting Materials**

All materials for the Cross-Cutting Issues Technical Working Group (CC TWG) are available on the CC TWG website: [http://www.akclimatechange.us/Cross\\_Cutting\\_Issues.cfm](http://www.akclimatechange.us/Cross_Cutting_Issues.cfm). For this meeting, the following materials were posted:

- Meeting Notice and Agenda
- Meeting Summary for Meeting #2
- Meeting #3 Presentation
- Cross-Cutting Issues Draft Catalog of State Policy Options
- Cross-Cutting Issues Draft Option Descriptions

These materials cover the majority of what was discussed at this meeting. The following notes summarize the discussion highlights and identified action items for TWG members.

#### **Discussion on Process for Prioritizing Mitigation Options**

The TWG discussed the process thus far for developing potential options and the steps forward for establishing priorities for the next MAG meeting.

- At the July MAG meeting, MAG members reviewed the CC TWG suite of potential state actions, accepting them with only minor revisions.

- During this call and the weeks immediately following, TWG members will review the options for clarity and for possible aggregation between options.
- Following this aggregation of options, the TWG members will prioritize the options based on a set of criteria.
- The prioritized options of all TWG members will be aggregated and a final set of priority options will be reviewed by the TWG for completeness and clarity and then sent along to the MAG for their September 22 meeting.
- Other TWGs are considering how the draft Alaska inventory and forecast affects their sectors; the CC TWG could consider the inventory and forecast as a part of a process of setting goals, which is already reflected in the options catalog.

A TWG member commented that, in order to fully consider the aggregation and prioritization of options, a more complete cross-section of TWG members should be present for the calls. It was decided that the work on review and aggregation would begin during the current call, and the CC TWG facilitators would attempt to connect with other members of the TWG about their interests and priorities for CC TWG options and aggregation of the options is reviewed and completed.

Action: The CC TWG facilitators will contact all the CC TWG members to discuss interests, priorities and any questions they have about the process or set of options thus far.

### **Aggregation of Potential Options**

Using an online tool, TWG members reviewed the major categories and options of the CC TWG to look for duplication, overlap and dependencies in order to determine where aggregation of options should take place. The intent of this exercise is not to eliminate any options, but find overlaps in order to create strong policy recommendations. Some options may be more suited for other TWGs, and they will be recommended to those TWGs, if necessary.

Major actions and discussion from this aggregation exercise include:

- The options in categories CC-1, CC-2 and CC-3 are grouped together into a new category, Baseline and Continued Measurement, and options that have overlap within this new category are combined.
- CC-4, Statewide GHG Emission Goals and Target, becomes Statewide Energy and GHG Emission Goals and Targets and includes any options in the catalog related to goals or targets that the state will make related to energy, greenhouse gas emissions, or related sectors, such as transportation, land use, waste or energy efficiency. This category could also include options related to coordination between goals related to energy and greenhouse gas emissions (e.g. Alaska State Energy plan).
- CC-6, Adaptation and Vulnerability to Climate Change, is not related to the activities of the MAG TWGs and will be referred to the Adaptation Advisory Group (AAG) and their TWGs.
- CC-9, Data and Climate Analysis Center, could be related to the new Baseline and Continued Measurement category, but could also be related to other CC TWG options, to other MAG TWGs, to the AAG TWGs, or could be an activity of the Research Needs Work Group. For now, it remains as a separate option for the CC TWG to consider.

Action: The CC TWG facilitators will continue to work on aggregating the options and will send out a draft version of the aggregated options to TWG members for review. Any comments or questions on these aggregated options should be submitted by August 14 so that they can be fully addressed at the next CC TWG meeting.

### **Government Lead by Example**

The CC TWG discussed whether there should be a separate workgroup for Government Lead by Example options. This is an option being considered by the Commissioner and DEC, and they are interested in input from CC TWG members. A separate Government Lead by Example effort could be housed within this current process or could be led by an organization in the state.

TWG member observations on this idea, and the Government Lead by Example options in general, included:

- Splitting these options into a separate work group could give them greater importance in this effort and make them less likely to get lost in a field of options.
- Having a separate work group may weaken the membership of the CC TWG, as many of those who are active are most interested in this topic.
- A mandate on GHG emission goals from the state is needed for any Government Lead by Example activities considered seriously by state agencies.

### **Public Comments and Announcements**

There were no public comments during the meeting, but Sally Schlichting shared comments after the meeting in an email. These comments are summarized below:

- CC-6, Adaptation and Vulnerability to Climate Change, should be referred to the AAG.
- CC-9: Greater Public Investment in Climate Data in Analysis should be referred to the Research Needs Work Group, or it should be renamed to characterize what it is that the CC TWG intends with this policy within Mitigation.
- Setting a state target should be established from the governor's level and is an issue that should be raised immediately with Commissioner Hartig. If the State does not set a target, how can the individual sectors set targets? Is the point moot, if the federal government eventually establishes a national target? The sooner that Alaska establishes its own target and starts working toward it, the better, but it should accept that goals may have to be revised down the road to comply with national goals.
- Setting specific goals for individual sectors seems best determined by experts in those sectors participating in the respective TWGs. The Forest Agriculture and Waste and Energy Supply and Demand TWGs both appear to be working towards setting emission reduction-related goals by identifying the reduction potentials in a range of alternatives, renewables, etc., for their sectors. These sectors include goals for land use, renewables in a variety of sector categories, and energy-efficiency measures, which may overlap with some of the CC TWG options.
- A separate work group for Government Lead by Example should be established, although it should be limited to state agencies. The Energy Supply and Demand TWG has very specific "Government Lead-by-Example" policy options listed, which may be duplicated within the CC TWG options.

- It seems that many of the options within CC-7, Financial Policies, overlap with the Energy Supply and Demand TWG, which is looking at a number of financial incentives including energy efficiency funds and programs including “fee-bates” for energy efficient building design, “green” mortgages, tax incentives, etc.
- As the CC TWG’s goal is to identify cross-cutting issues, the TWG should stay abreast of what the other TWGs are doing in order to avoid overlap, and perhaps even identify overlap among other TWGs.

### **Next Meeting**

Two meetings have been scheduled for the CC TWG:

- Thursday, August 21, 1:00p-3:00pm
- Wednesday, September 3, 2:00p-4:00p

Materials for these meetings will be posted on the CC TWG website. Members of the public can listen-in to the meeting by calling 1-800-704-9804, passcode 661 718.