



MEETING SUMMARY
GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON GLOBAL WARMING
Cross Cutting (CC) Issues Technical Work Group (TWG)

Call #10, August 28, 2008
3:00-5:00 pm Central

Attendees:

TWG Members: Nick Brown, Joan Cash, Jerry Farris, Rob Fisher, Chris Ladner, Jeff Short

GCGW Members: Steve Cousins

Advisory Body Members: Karen Bassett

Arkansas Governor's Office: Jillian Hicks

Center for Climate Strategies: Ken Colburn, Randy Strait, Katie Pasko

Members of the Public: Jasmine Mar - MetroPlan

Background documents:

(all posted at <http://www.arclimatechange.us/cc.cfm>)

1. Meeting Notice and Agenda
2. Draft Summary of Call #9
3. PowerPoint for Teleconference
4. Draft Priority Policy Options for Analysis

Introductions and Review of Agenda

Randy Strait welcomed the TWG members, called the meeting to order, completed the roll call, and reviewed the agenda for the call.

Approval of Call #9 Summary

The TWG approved the draft summary for CC TWG Call #9 without any changes.

Dates and Times for Future GCGW and TWG Meetings

The GCGW is meeting September 9th and 25th. The CC TWG members agreed on two TWG meeting dates between these two meetings in order to finalize the POD and have ample time to discuss and deliberate CC-3 (Statewide Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goals or Targets). The meetings are scheduled for Friday, September 12th and 19th from 1-3 pm Central.

Goals for September 9 GCGW Meeting #9

The TWG should be working to complete its recommendations on the remaining pending priority policy options. This includes filling out the TWG's recommendations on the remaining elements of the template for each of the options.

When the cumulative quantification results for all policy options have been completed, the TWG can begin discussing this data in order to make its recommendation for CC-3 (Statewide Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goals or Targets).

Discussion Regarding Development of TWG Recommendations for Priority Policy Options

Changes from the last meeting are shown in the ‘track changes’ version posted on the website. Throughout the document, the change of Climate Change ‘Institute’ to ‘Center’ was approved by the TWG.

CC-1 Statewide Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goals or Targets

The TWG accepted all the changes shown and made no further changes. The TWG agreed to recommend this option to the GCGW for the GCGW’s final review and approval.

CC-2 State Greenhouse Gas Reporting and Registry

The TWG accepted all the changes shown. Under the Implementation Mechanisms section, last paragraph, change ‘rules’ to ‘program’. The TWG agreed to recommend this option to the GCGW for the GCGW’s final review and approval.

CC-7 Optimizing Best Scale of Reduction Policies - *Approved to present to GCGW*

The TWG discussed the addition of relevant examples, but decided to leave the text as written. The TWG agreed to recommend this option to the GCGW for the GCGW’s final review and approval.

CC-8 Creative Financial Mechanisms - *Approved to present to GCGW as amended*

The TWG agreed to add the following text to the Implementation Mechanisms section: *“The state should establish a board to identify and procure funding from a broad range of sources to support implementation of this policy recommendation. The state should survey options within existing state economic development plans appropriate to support greenhouse gas mitigation polices within Arkansas.”*

The TWG discussed potential funding mechanisms and whether to recommend a baseline, minimum level of funding necessary to implement and continue the program. Both seed money and long-term funding sources are necessary to support this program. Sources of funding can be public, private, non-profit or any combination. Sustainable business and foundation support is available in the state, but require focused efforts to secure that funding support. A non-profit model, functioning as a development office, is likely the best mechanism to achieve the goal. It was noted that the potential for this state funding exists, but is not guaranteed. The TWG felt that including a recommended baseline, minimum level of funding would be helpful to those involved with implementing this option to use as a starting point or initial funding goal. However, the TWG agreed not to include a suggested funding level for this option at this time as the funding level will depend in part on the outcome of the quantification results of options being analyzed by the other TWGs.

The TWG agreed to recommend this option to the GCGW for the GCGW's final review and approval.

CC-10 Climate Change-Related Economic Development - *Approved to present to GCGW as amended*

The TWG approved the language included under the Implementation Mechanisms section without any objections. The sentence in Key Uncertainties was changed to strike "for several well-substantiated reasons," and add footnotes to the documents cited below.

Rob Fisher will circulate a 'Green Jobs' study from the Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC) to be included as a reference to the policy option. The Apollo Alliance is another reference to green jobs, under Related Policies and Programs, which will be forwarded by Chris Ladner.

The Additional Benefits and Costs section should also contain a reference to these studies. Add a reference to the Arkansas biotech crops research and its relationship to economic development. Add 'Not applicable' to Feasibility Issues.

The TWG agreed to recommend this option to the GCGW for the GCGW's final review and approval after incorporating these revisions.

CC-11 Regulatory Realignment in Government To Encourage Constructive Climate Action

A TWG member noted that they had looked into the reason for the exemption of merchant plants from Act 1322 adopted during the 1999 state legislative session. The concern is that these plants would be able to locate in Arkansas without going through a review process to justify the demand for electricity sales to meet Arkansas demand, or would be able to export their electricity to other states while Arkansas would have to account for their emissions in its emissions account. The TWG member is working on language to include in this policy option to address this concern but will not have the language ready for the TWG to review until after the GCGW meeting on Sept. 9.

Under Key Uncertainties add 'None cited' and under Feasibility Issues add 'Not applicable'. Under Implementation Mechanisms, the TWG agreed to add the bridge language used in other options noting that the state would be responsible for implementing this option until the Climate Change Institute is established.

Agenda for Next Meeting

The TWG will continue review of outstanding policy options and development of a GHG reduction goal focusing on the completion of CC-11 and CC-3.

The next meetings are scheduled for September 12 and September 19, 2008, from 1-3 pm Central.

Public Comments and Announcements

None