



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

Call #11, September 12, 2008
1:00-3:00 pm Central

Attendees:

TWG Members: Jerry Farris, Chris Ladner, Betty Martin, Jeff Short

GCGW Members: Nancy Ledbetter, Steve Cousins, Teresa Marks

Advisory Body Members: Karen Bassett

Arkansas Governor's Office: Andrew Parker

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

Members of the Public: None

Background documents:

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

1. Meeting Notice and Agenda
2. Draft Summary of Call #10
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 #10 Summary

The TWG approved the draft summary for CC TWG Call #10 without any changes.

Dates and Times for Future GCGW and TWG Meetings

The next GCGW is September 25th. The last CC TWG meeting will be Friday, September 19th from 1-3 pm Central.

Review of Results of GCGW Meeting #9

The GCGW did not have time to address Cross Cutting policy options at its meeting on September 9th, so all currently pending policy options remain pending.

Goals for September 25th GCGW Meeting #10

Strait reviewed the status of the Cross Cutting policy options:

- CC-4, CC-5, CC-6, and CC-9 were approved by the GCGW at its July 31th meeting
- CC-1, CC-2, CC-7, CC-8, and CC-10 have been approved by the TWG for review and approval by the GCGW
- For CC-3 and CC-11, the TWG needs to develop its final recommendations for review and approval by the GCGW at the final GCGW meeting on September 25th

Discussion Regarding Development of TWG Recommendations for Priority Policy Options

Changes from the last meeting are shown in the ‘track changes’ version of the draft policy option description file that is posted on the website.

CC-1 Statewide Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goals or Targets

There were no revisions to this option.

CC-2 State Greenhouse Gas Reporting and Registry

The TWG accepted all the changes shown. Based on comments made at the GCGW meeting, the TWG agreed to add ‘adaptive’ to the Types of Greenhouse Gas Reductions section, to read: *“This recommendation is an enabling policy to encourage adaptive management...”*

CC-7 Optimizing Best Scale of Reduction Policies

There were no revisions to this option.

CC-8 Creative Financial Mechanisms

The TWG accepted the changes as shown.

CC-10 Climate Change-Related Economic Development

The TWG accepted the changes as shown, including the addition of references to three recently released reports in the “Additional Benefits and Costs” section.

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

The TWG accepted the changes as shown. This option was not discussed during the call.

Statewide Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goals and Targets

Act 696; Section 5 of Arkansas law charges the GCGW with the responsibility to recommend a “A global warming pollutant reduction goal” for Arkansas.

There are four areas to consider in setting goals and targets:

- Gross vs. Net – “Gross” emissions exclude carbon sinks where “Net” emissions are calculated as gross emissions minus carbon sinks.

- Production vs. Consumption basis – Production-based emissions reflect GHGs emitted by all emission sources and sinks within the borders of the state, even if the products produced are consumed by others elsewhere (and vice versa). Consumption-based emissions accounting is prepared for the electricity generation sector only because data are readily available to support these estimates. For Arkansas, consumption-based and production-based emissions are the same for the purpose of how the final forecast was constructed based on input and approval of the GCGW.
- Timing and Levels – these refer to the GHG reduction levels to be achieved over a specified time period. As noted in the examples provided in the slides, many US states and Canadian Provinces (identified in the slides) have adopted short-term and/or medium-term and long-term goals or targets. The goals or targets are typically expressed as a percent reduction from the emissions for an index or base year (e.g., 1990 or 2005). Some states feel that they have better emission estimates for later years (e.g., 2005) so they elect to use a base year that is later than 1990.

Strait and Colburn also presented a summary of the GHG reduction goals or targets that have been adopted by many US states and several Canadian provinces (as presented in slides 10 and 11). Draft results of the approved and proposed policy option quantifications are presented in slides 13 through 16. Consumption-based gross (excluding carbon sinks) and net emissions are presented graphically. Both production- and consumption-based emissions, for net and gross emission reductions, are shown in tabular form on slides 14 and 15. On the graphs, the blue lines represent the baseline, business-as-usual, case; the red line represents the projected emissions after recognizing the impact of recent actions; the green line shows the impact of the fully implemented, quantified, proposed policy options.

Cumulative results are listed on slide 16, broken out by each sector. The disposition of overlaps between options is described on slides 17 and 18. The weighted-average cost per ton of GHG reduction for each policy option is shown on slide 19, with the total projected GHG reductions for each option compared on slide 20. Strait emphasized that the results presented today are draft and likely to change based on the comments that the other TWGs have on their pending priority policy options.

Strait noted that during a prior GCGW meeting, a Commission member asked that the TWG consider a target goal of 20% below 2000 levels by 2020 and 80% below 2000 levels by 2050.

The TWG had an extensive discussion on these data, as well as current and future actions by other countries (e.g., China and India). A TWG member also noted that Arkansas' per capita emissions are higher than the nation as a whole, and asked if the TWG should consider a per capita emissions goal to bring Arkansas in line with the national average per capita emissions. The TWG agreed to review and consider this data, as well as other sources, in preparation for the next meeting on September 19th.

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-3 and CC-11.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 19, from 1-3 pm Central.

Public Comments and Announcements

None