



New Mexico Climate Change Advisory Group

Description of the Process

The New Mexico Climate Change Advisory Group (CCAG) process is based on successful planning templates developed for comprehensive state climate change action plans adapted specifically to New Mexico by the Center for Climate Strategies (CCS, www.climatestrategies.us). CCS was formed to assist states with the development and implementation of climate change mitigation plans and policies based on experience with many climate change plans and related policy processes. The New Mexico CCAG process is designed to address multiparty, multi-issue, science intensive, consensus-building issues inherent to comprehensive climate policy action plans. It combines techniques used successfully in Alternative Dispute Resolution, Community Collaborative Based Decision Making, and Strategic Planning.

Purpose and Goals

The purpose and goals of the CCAG are expressed in Executive Order 05-033, and include the following provisions related to work of the CCAG:

- Formation of the New Mexico CCAG, including the development of recommendations for a comprehensive New Mexico Climate Change Mitigation Action Plan by December 1, 2006 to achieve emission reduction targets established in the Executive Order.
- Formation of an interagency Climate Change Action Council to be overseen by NMED to receive the recommendations of the CCAG.
- Formation of an interagency technical work group to be chaired by NMED to assist the Climate Change Action Council and develop a report on the impacts of global warming on New Mexico.
- Development of comprehensive greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventories and reference case projections for all sectors.
- Transmittal of a final report with stakeholder recommendations to the Climate Change Action Council.

Process Design

Activities of the CCAG process will be:

- Stepwise: The process will iterate to consensus and require continuity among participants. Stakeholder and technical work group participants will be expected to regularly attend meetings. Alternates should attend only as needed due to

schedule conflicts.

- Fact based: Technical analysis and policy design will be achieved through preliminary and joint fact-finding and, ultimately, joint policy development by stakeholders and technical work groups assisted by a facilitation and technical consulting team.
- Consensus driven: The state will seek but not mandate consensus through this process, and final decisions by stakeholders will be made through agreed upon decision criteria and voting procedures that allow a full expression of viewpoints.
- Self-determined: The process starts with no pre-commitments to particular policies. Priorities for analysis and final recommendations will be self-determined through informed judgments by stakeholders and working groups.
- Informal and nonbinding: The process will be advisory and nonbinding to the state to provide public input for potential future policy decisions. It is structured as an informal consensus building effort to provide a full opportunity for stakeholders to make voluntary decisions on recommended policies.
- Transparent: The processes will be transparent. Policy options will include clear design parameters such as levels, timing, coverage, and implementation mechanism. Technical analyses will include clear disclosure of data, methods, sources and assumptions. All proceedings will be posted to the project website, www.nmclimatechange.us.
- Inclusive: The process will include stakeholders, work group participants, and opportunities for public input.
- Flexible: Throughout the process the facilitation team will check with participants and the state on progress and any potential need for revision. Proposed changes will be shared openly with the group.

Key steps and parameters of the process include the following:

- Stakeholder and technical work groups will explore solutions in all sectors, covering: energy supply; commercial, industrial and residential energy use and process related emissions; transportation and land use; agriculture and forestry; waste management, and cross cutting issues.
- The process will start with examination of a compendium of related policy actions undertaken in New Mexico as well as other states and regions, with adaptation and initial prioritization for New Mexico based on CCAG preference.
- Mitigation of all GHG's will be examined, including carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, synthetic gases and, potentially, black carbon. Units will be expressed in carbon dioxide equivalents (CO₂e).
- Historical emissions inventories and reference case projections will be developed for years 1990-2020.
- Recommendations for action will cover future Executive Order targets for years 2012 (at 2000 levels), 2020 (at 10 percent below 2000 levels) and 2050 (at 75 percent below 2000 levels).
- Recommendations may include state level and multi-state actions, as well as voluntary and mandatory approaches.

- Recommendations will include both quantified and non-quantified actions, with emphasis on numerical analysis of GHG reduction potential and cost effectiveness for as many options as possible under available funding and project timetables. Secondary impacts and ancillary issues will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis pending CCAG input.
- Stakeholder discussions will iterate to consensus and explore alternative policy designs and additional analysis as needed to reach final consensus with assistance from the facilitation team and work groups.
- The final report will document CCAG recommendations and views on each policy option, including alternative views as needed.

Facilitator Guidelines

As a part of its role as evaluative facilitator, CCS voluntarily abides by the model standards of conduct by the American Arbitration Association, American Bar Association, and Association For Conflict Resolution as applicable to the advisory process as an informal, consensus building initiative.

Participant Guidelines

Stakeholders and technical work group members are expected to follow certain codes of conduct during the process, including:

- Attendance is required at all meetings to provide continuity to the stepwise process. Alternates may be named when absolutely necessary.
- Active involvement in proposals and evaluations is needed to fully support the process of joint policy development.
- Good faith participation and full support of the process is needed to respond to the Governor's request for comprehensive policy recommendations to meet the targets established in Executive Order 05-033.
- In exchanging information and views, CCAG members should make fact based offers and statements, and refrain from personal criticisms.
- Do not represent the state or stakeholders in contacts with the media.

Timing

The first stakeholder meeting is scheduled for July 27, 2005, with six stakeholder meetings to be held from July 2005 to November 2006. Interim working group conference calls will be held between stakeholder meetings as needed. A draft inventory and projection of state greenhouse gas emissions will be provided to CCAG members for discussion at the July 27 meeting, with a final version produced by December 31, 2005. Final review of the CCAG report will be completed by November 17, 2006. The final report with CCAG recommendations will be transmitted to the Climate Change Action Council by December 1, 2006. See the master schedule for the process for more detail on the timing of specific activities.

Funding

Funding for CCS support of the CCAG process has been provided predominantly through private donors and is sufficient to complete the process. Funds in support of CCS are not contingent on process outcomes, and CCS provides no funding to participants in the process.

Roles and Responsibilities:

Leadership and Management

Governor Bill Richardson has convened the CCAG through Executive Order 05-033 and invited stakeholders to participate as members of the CCAG. NMED will organize and coordinate the process under the direction of Secretary Ron Curry. The Center For Climate Strategies (CCS) will provide facilitation and technical support under the direction of Tom Peterson. CCS will report to NMED and provide a final CCAG report to the Climate Change Action Council overseen by Secretary Curry.

Advisory Group Members

A group of New Mexico stakeholders has been selected by the state to form the CCAG. This group is tasked with developing final recommendations to the Climate Change Action Council with the assistance of technical work groups and an evaluative facilitation team.

Technical Work Groups

Technical work groups will be formed from subgroups of stakeholders, augmented as needed by other technical representatives and experts designated by the state. These groups will cover the following sectors: energy supply (including oil and gas and waste energy recapture); transportation and land use; commercial, industrial, and residential; agriculture and forestry; and cross cutting issues (such as reporting, registries, and education). Technical work groups will be tasked with providing guidance to the CCAG on priorities for analysis, technical analysis and design of options, and potential options for recommendation. They will be advisory to the CCAG group and will participate in facilitated discussions by conference call between stakeholder meetings.

Public Participation

CCAG meeting notices, advance materials, and minutes of previous proceedings will be made available to the public through the project Web site or other means. Public input will be provided as a part of stakeholder meetings.

Evaluative Facilitation

The stakeholder and technical work group facilitators will serve as impartial experts with the role of facilitating decisions and providing evaluative assistance for consensus building. Tom Peterson will serve as facilitator of the stakeholder group and coordinate an experienced technical facilitation and evaluation team. CCAG facilitation responsibilities include:

- Reporting to NMED
- Facilitation and management of stakeholder meetings
- Coordination of technical work group leaders and oversight of the facilitation of work group discussions
- Oversight of advisory group documents
- Oversight of editing and production of the final report
- Conducting public meetings as needed

Technical Evaluation

Technical work group leaders will provide facilitation and consulting support to the advisory group to support consensus building. Technical consultants will perform analyses and provide support based on work group and stakeholder input. The team includes work group leaders covering key sectors and other consultants as needed for specialized analysis or additional capacity.

General responsibilities of work group leaders include:

- Assistance to CCAG members and technical work groups with fact finding and policy development
- Development of work group technical plans
- Development of work group agendas, documents, and presentations
- Analysis of policy options and scenarios to CCAG specifications
- Coordination with work group leaders, advisory and work group members, consultants, agency staff and outside technical experts as necessary
- Development of final report language, tables, and graphs

Specific analysis by technical consultants will include:

- GHG emissions inventories and reference case projections for all sectors
- Lists of potential mitigation options and assistance with development of initial priorities for analysis
- Open technical guidance to the CCAG related to policy design, data sources, methods and assumptions for analysis of policy options
- Initial quantification of direct GHG impacts and cost effectiveness, including advanced modeling for sectors, as necessary
- Revisions of options and development of alternative design proposals as requested by the CCAG

- Assistance to the CCAG in identifying potential implementation mechanisms and scenarios
- Final quantification of GHG impacts, cost effectiveness, and ancillary issues, including economic modeling, as necessary

In addition to providing technical consulting team support for policy analysis and development, CCS will manage a project website for use by participants, www.nmclimatechange.us. The website will be used for document sharing throughout the process. CCS will be responsible for posting documents and managing the site.

Key Members of the CCS Project Team:

Thomas D. Peterson - Executive Director, The Center For Climate Strategies, Advisory Group Facilitator

Dr. Karl Hausker – Senior Advisor; CCS Transportation and Land Use Work Group Leader

Maureen Mullen – Senior Chemical Engineer, E.H. Pechan & Associates, Inc.; CCS Transportation Issues Consultant

Michael Lazarus - Senior Scientist, Climate and Energy Program, Tellus Institute; CCS Residential/Commercial/Industrial Work Group Leader

Alison J. Bailie - Associate Scientist, The Tellus Institute, CCS Residential/Commercial/Industrial Work Group Leader

Eric Williams – Consultant; CCS Energy Supply Work Group Leader

Stephen Roe – Senior Scientist, Director Of California Operations, E. H. Pechan And Associates; CCS Registry and Emissions Modeling Consultant, Agriculture and Forestry Work Group Leader

Kenneth A. Colburn - Consultant; CCS Cross Cutting Issues Work Group Leader

Wiley Barbour - Executive Director of Environmental Resources Trust; CCS Registry and Markets Consultant

Dr. Adam Rose - Professor, Department of Geography, Penn State; CCS Economic Modeling Consultant

For biographies of the CCS team members, please see the CCS web site at www.climatestrategies.us.