

Welcome to New Mexico's first Climate Change  
Advisory Council Meeting (*Acknowledge VIPs*)

Thank you for being here and for your willingness to work together. This issue is incredibly important to the future of New Mexico's children, our economy and our precious water resources.

Introductions of Advisory Group Members, state agency representatives, members of the public (Go around and have each introduce him or herself?)

Why are we here?

- First and foremost, we are here because the governor asked us to be here. As an employee of Governor Richardson, that is not the sort of invitation I ignore.
- Seriously though, we are here because the issue of climate change cannot be ignored. It is here and it is happening. We must act now to protect our children's future.
- Science shows that increased greenhouse gas emissions will have serious effects, including higher temperatures and less water resources in New Mexico. We simply do not have any water to waste right now. Scientists like Dr. John Overpeck have lead nationally recognized research on climate impacts in the

Southwest, and we will hear more later from “Peck” on this.

- Second, this initiative is good for the economy. Clean energy creates jobs. The Governor has declared that New Mexico is THE clean energy state. Instead of exporting money to other countries we can keep it at home as we develop new technologies and strategies to address our energy needs.
- We must reduce our dependence on foreign oil. New Mexicans should have a say in their energy future, instead of sheiks in the Middle East. Reducing our greenhouse gas emissions will result in home grown solutions to our energy problems.
- By addressing climate change at the state level, New Mexico can also be “ahead of the curve” nationally on this issue. This will be good for business and it will also show once again that New Mexico is a national leader on energy and environmental issues.
- Governor Richardson is committed to finding the best path forward for the state. We don’t want to be left with solutions developed by others who may not fully understand our opportunities and needs here in New Mexico. In addition, we think our voice is critical to guiding national and regional policies.
- This is particularly important since many of the best opportunities for action may exist in coordination with future regional or national approaches.
- This is not impossible. Many cost effective solutions already exist. New Mexico has already undertaken a wide variety of actions that directly or indirectly

reduce emissions, and we will hear more about these later today from Craig O'Hare with the Energy Minerals and Natural Resources Department. States across the US have also undertaken a remarkable variety of cost effective actions that help us understand the many choices available.

- Many states – I believe 30 in total -- have successfully developed comprehensive climate action plans, giving us confidence that we can do the same or better for New Mexico.
- Regions also are taking action, not only in New England and the West Coast, but the Upper Midwest as well. Recently members of the Western Governor's Association Western Regional Air Partnership agreed to discuss the climate change issue due to its importance in the West.
- Congressional interest is also growing. The Senate recently passed a climate change resolution (included in your reading package) that was endorsed by both Senators Domenici and Bingaman. This is a particularly important time for states to show the way.
- US companies are already taking steps to address climate change here and in other nations where they operate. Some of these companies are represented here today.

### Open Process

- This group is designed to develop recommendations for reducing greenhouse gases in New Mexico through a comprehensive state plan.

- The process for developing these recommendations will be an open, transparent and inclusive one. **There is no predetermined outcome.** We don't know the best ways for reducing greenhouse gases in New Mexico and that is why we need your input.
- In a minute Tom Peterson, our facilitator will review procedures for how the Advisory Group will operate. Right now I want to summarize how the general public can get involved. The public is welcome to observe all meetings. The schedule will be posted on our web page ([www.nmclimatechange.us](http://www.nmclimatechange.us)) and email notice will be sent out to those who want it. At every meeting there will be a designated time for the public to provide comments. If you choose to make a statement today, please sign up in the back. The public can also get involved by participating in one or more of the advisory work groups. Tom will go over how that process is set up shortly. Lastly, there will be an opportunity for the public to comment on the final recommendations
- Of course, you, as Advisory Group members, will do the real work of this process over the next year and a half through our meetings and conference calls, and your contribution of specific proposals and data. The process has been carefully mapped out to achieve the goals of the Governor's Executive Order, and we'll be flexible on timing and workload as needed.
- We don't expect to have all the answers right away. We deliberately structured a long-term process to give everyone time to learn about the issue in depth and work in a stepwise fashion toward solutions. Don't

feel shy about raising questions, there is a lot of material to cover and no one is an expert on all of it.

### Advisory Group Membership

- We gave a lot of thought to the membership of this group. We had to balance the desire to include all interested parties with the need to have a manageable group size. I think we did a good job of putting together a group of people that will get the work done.
- As a reminder, we will talk later today about the formation of technical work groups, and ask you to identify your top preference for work group participation, as well as identifying additional expertise for these groups.

### The Science

- The Governor is not asking us to debate the science of climate change, but to come up with solutions for reducing greenhouse gases in the state. That will be the focus of the group.
- NMED will provide a briefing on some of the science today at lunch as well as later this evening in a public forum at the Runnels Building; however, this advisory group process will not be a discussion on the science of climate change.

### The Emission Reduction Targets

- The emission reductions established in the Governor's Executive Order are ambitious. Jim Norton will talk a bit more about these in a minute. These goals were

established after careful review of targets from other states, regions and nations and the projected increases of greenhouse gas emissions that would have occurred under a business as usual scenario.

- These are estimates of what we think we can do based on a full effort of this group. They are not based on specific reduction strategies. We are waiting for this group to tell which strategies will work best for New Mexico.
- Although a number of states are, or have, addressed climate change, none of them are like New Mexico. None of them are as rich in energy resources as we are and this sets us apart. The emission strategies that we develop will be unique and hopefully will influence any future national strategies.

Again, thank you for being here and I look forward to being involved with you all throughout this process.

Jim Norton will give an overview of the EO:

Executive Order

All the work that will be done over the next several months will be overarched by Governor Richardson's Executive Order.

- Governor Richardson signed the Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Executive Order on June 9.
- The Order:
  - Establishes a greenhouse gas reduction **target** of 2000 levels by 2012; 10% below that by 2020; and 75% below that by 2050.
  - Establishes the **Climate Change Action Council** consisting of 10 agency heads and a representative from the Governor's office.
  - Establishes this group, the **Climate Change Advisory Group**. The Advisory group will provide the Action Council with recommendations on how to achieve the emission reduction targets established by the Governor in the Executive Order. Those recommendations are due to the Action Council in December 2006.

- Requires NMED to convene a state agency **technical workgroup** to report on the impacts of global warming in New Mexico by Dec. 31, 2005.
- Requests that the State Engineer lead the effort to prepare an analysis of the impacts on water and water management in the state.
- Requires NMED to convene a science panel to support the Action Council and the Advisory Group. This panel will consist of local and regional scientists recognized in the field including Dr. David Gutzler with the University of New Mexico and Dr. John Overpeck with the University of Arizona. You will hear from Dr. Overpeck during lunch today.
- Mandates that NMED develop an inventory of greenhouse gases in the state including a forecast of projected increases over time. We will be discussing the first draft of this inventory later this afternoon.
- Requires NMED to produce an annual report starting in 2007 on progress towards achieving the emission reduction targets in the Executive Order.

Next I will turn the meeting over to Sandra Ely to address some logistics:

- Sandra says:
- Please sign in and if you want to be kept up to date on this process, please include your email address.
- Today there will be a working lunch. I will provide the details for that.
- There also will be a period for public comment, and an evening presentation for the public regarding climate change science in the West at the Runnels Auditorium from 7 – 9 PM.
- For those of you observing today, all of the information that will be presented is currently on our website, [www.nmclimatechange.us](http://www.nmclimatechange.us), and all future proceedings also will be on this site.

Introduce Tom Peterson to give a presentation on the history and status of climate change actions. Tom is a leading national expert in helping states to develop climate change plans and we are lucky to have him help with this process. He is the Director of the Center for Climate Strategies, a Senior Research Associate at Penn State University and has previous experience at both the EPA and the White House.