

# Chapter 3

## Goals and Cross-Cutting Issues

### Overview of Cross-Cutting Issues

Some issues relating to climate policy cut across multiple or all sectors. The CCAG addressed such issues explicitly in a separate technical work group as “cross-cutting” issues rather than assigning them to any individual sector. These issues include the reporting of GHG emissions by entities, the registering of any GHG reductions achieved by entities for possible future credit and/or recognition, and a variety of public education and outreach activities regarding climate change. The Cross-Cutting Issues Technical Work Group (CC TWG) developed policy options for each of these issues.

### Key Challenges and Opportunities

The GHG reporting and registry programs referenced above present special challenges and opportunities. Any regional or national effort involves reconciling the interests and perspectives of different states. The states – even in the West – are at much different stages of the learning curve with respect to these and other climate actions. This situation, however, provides New Mexico with unusual opportunity to influence how regional or national cross-cutting programs will be designed and implemented, and correspondingly, how effectively the State’s interests will be reflected in these policies. New Mexico will also benefit, of course, from the enhanced effectiveness of GHG reporting and registry programs if implemented on a broad regional or national basis instead of through separate, state-by-state efforts. Public education and outreach programs can be difficult to develop and measure, but successful climate action will ultimately hinge on the public’s awareness of climate risks and solutions.

### Overview of Policy Recommendations

Cross-cutting issues include policies and measures that apply across the board to all sectors and activities. Cross-cutting recommendations typically encourage, enable, or otherwise support emissions mitigation activities and/or other climate actions. The CCAG recommends three such policies be adopted and implemented by the State.

First, a rigorous GHG emissions reporting program is vital to understanding where GHG emissions are coming from and thus where mitigation opportunities lie. A GHG reporting program is also crucial in measuring future progress. Second, a GHG Registry can help recognize and share emission reduction accomplishments. It can also protect entities’ interests by rigorously recording their early GHG reduction efforts and accomplishments. Finally, public

awareness of climate change is essential to the public’s acceptance of concerted climate action, so a comprehensive public education and outreach program is warranted. Detailed descriptions of the individual Cross-Cutting Issues policy options as presented to and approved by the CCAG can be found in Appendix **XXX**.

**Table 3-1. CCAG Recommended Policy Options and Results for Cross-Cutting Issues**

**Cross Cutting Issues Technical Work Group  
Summary List of Policy Options**

| <b>Option Number</b> | <b>Policy Name</b>                          | <b>Status</b> |
|----------------------|---|---------------|
| CC-1                 | State Greenhouse Gas Reporting              | Pending       |
| CC-2                 | State Greenhouse Gas Registry               | Pending       |
| CC-3                 | State Climate Public Education and Outreach | Pending       |

## **Cross-Cutting Issues**

### **CCAG Policy Descriptions**

#### **CC-1 State Greenhouse Gas Reporting**

GHG reporting reflects the measurement and reporting of GHG emissions to support tracking and management of emissions. GHG reporting can help sources identify emission reduction opportunities and reduce risks associated with possible future GHG mandates by moving “up the learning curve.” Tracking and reporting of GHG emissions can also help in the construction of periodic state GHG inventories. GHG reporting is typically a precursor for sources to participate in voluntary GHG reduction programs, opportunities for recognition, a GHG emission reduction registry, and to secure “baseline protection.” Further, developing a GHG reporting program could enable the state to influence the development of GHG reporting practices throughout the region and nation and build consistency with other state or regional GHG reporting programs.

Accordingly, the CCAG recommends that New Mexico develop and implement a GHG reporting program as soon as possible. In order to encourage GHG mitigation activities from all quarters, GHG reporting should not be constrained to particular sectors or sources. Mandatory reporting should be phased in as standardized quantification protocols, base data, and tools become available, and other entities should be allowed to report GHG emissions voluntarily. The state, municipalities, and other jurisdictions should be allowed to report emissions associated with their own activities and programs. Reporting should be applicable to all sources, targeting organization-wide emissions within New Mexico with greatest possible “granularity” in order to facilitate baseline protection. Every effort should be made to maximize consistency with federal, regional, and other states’ GHG reporting programs. GHG emissions reports should be verified through self-certification and NMED spot-checks, but to qualify for future registry purposes, reports should undergo third-party verification. Project-based emissions reporting should be allowed when properly identified as such and quantified with equally rigorous consistency. Finally, the reporting program should apply common sense with respect to de minimis emissions and provide for appropriate public transparency of reported emissions.

#### **CC-2 State Greenhouse Gas Registry**

Building upon a rigorous GHG emissions reporting program, a GHG emissions reduction registry reflects measuring and recording GHG emissions reductions in a central repository with a “transaction ledger” capacity to support tracking, management, ownership, and exchange of emission reductions. Having a GHG Registry can encourage GHG reductions, enable potential recognition, provide baseline protection, and assist in the crediting of actions. A GHG Registry can assist in measuring progress toward emissions reduction goals and provide a mechanism for regional, multi-state, and cross-border cooperation.

Building on the GHG reporting program recommended in CC-1, the CCAG recommends that New Mexico participate in the development of a regional or national GHG registry or develop and implement a state GHG registry as soon as possible. The GHG Registry should strive for maximum consistency with other state, regional, and/or national registry efforts, provide maximum flexibility as GHG mitigation approaches evolve, and require adequate verification to ensure quality. The registry should allow participants to go as far back chronologically as good data exists – as affirmed by third-party verification – and it should allow registration of project-based reductions or “offsets” that can be rigorously quantified. The GHG Registry should provide guidance to assist participants; incorporate safeguards to ensure that reductions aren’t double-counted by multiple participants; provide appropriate transparency; and allow the State, counties, and municipalities to be a valid participants for reductions associated with their programs, direct activities, or other efforts. Program costs should be borne primarily by participants.

### **CC-3 State Climate Public Education and Outreach**

Public education and outreach is vital to fostering a broad awareness of climate change issues, effects, and opportunities among the State’s citizens (including co-benefits, such as clean air and public health). Such awareness is necessary to engage citizens in actions to reduce GHG emissions. Public education and outreach efforts should integrate with and build upon existing outreach efforts involving climate change and related issues in the State. Ultimately, public education and outreach will be the foundation for the long-term success of all the mitigation actions proposed by the CCAG as well as those which may evolve in the future.

The CCAG recommends that New Mexico lead by example in its own education and outreach activities by establishing a pro-active public education and outreach capability and using it to target education and outreach activities to five specific audiences: (a) policymakers (legislators, regulators, executive branch, agencies); (b) younger generations; (c) community leaders and community-based organizations; (d) the general public; and (e) industrial and economic sectors (such as professional training, licensing, and certification programs). Included in the numerous actions recommended are: (1) the creation of one or more “Outreach Coordinator” positions; (2) annual agency-specific reports on GHG reduction progress; (3) educating policymakers on climate change and the CCAG’s recommendations; (4) using “best practices” in public schools so as to educate students and parents first-hand; (5) promoting climate research and solutions efforts at state universities; and (6) educating the media about climate change risks and opportunities.