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MEETING SUMMARY
MARYLAND CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY GROUP
Agriculture, Forestry, and Waste Management Technical Work Group
(AFW TWG)

Call #1, September 4, 2007

Attendance:

Technical Working Group: Gary Allen, Joel Dunn, George Kelly, Laura Miller, Cindy Parker, James Remuzzi, Eric Sprague

Maryland Department of Environment: Brian Hug, Renee Fizer

Center for Climate Strategies (CCS): Gloria Flora, Stephen Roe, Brad Strode

Public Attendees: none

Background documents: (www.mdclimatechange.us/GHG_Agriculture_Forestry.cfm)

1. Meeting Notice and Agenda
2. PowerPoint for Teleconference.
3. AFW Policy Option Descriptions
4. AFW Catalog of State Actions

Discussion items and key issues:

1. Roll call and introductions of TWG, State and CCS contacts.
2. CCS reviewed the Agenda for the call.

Purposes and Outcomes

1. CCS described the Maryland Climate Change Committee (MCCC) process convened by Governor O'Malley. Three Work Groups were convened to assist the MCCC: Science and Technical; Adaptation and Response; and Greenhouse Gas and Carbon Mitigation (MWG). Their role focuses on guiding and compiling specific recommendations from multiple sectors fleshed out by Technical Working Groups (TWG's) and providing subsequent recommendations to the MCCC.
2. Agenda, background and current materials for the MCCC and MWG meetings, including location and dates are available at www.mdclimatechange.us/GHG_Carbon_Mitigation_WG.cfm.
3. The public and all members of the AFW TWG are welcome at all meetings as observers. Observers will be given opportunities to contribute views and ask questions.
4. CCS gave an overview of the purpose and key outcomes of the process.
5. **Milestones** are November 1 for an Interim Report with general recommendations and/or draft legislation. The Final Report is targeted for April 20, 2008.

Roles and Process

1. The role of the TWG's is:
 - a. analyzing potential state actions recommended by the MWG,
 - b. drafting straw proposals (policy concept, description and design) of those options,
 - c. assisting with compilation of MWG reports and supporting documentation,
 - d. reviewing and refining the state GHG Inventory and Forecast.
2. The 10-Step CCS Work Plan was discussed. The AFW TWG is currently working on the first two steps: help inform the Inventory and Forecast of emissions, and identify a range of possible actions for the MWG meeting on September 7.
3. Each TWG follows a similar policy design template. For each policy option, the TWG is eventually responsible for determining the timing, goals, and coverage of the option. CCS quantifies these options and presents these estimates for review by the TWG. The analysis conducted by CCS takes into account related programs and policies already in place in MD. Once each option has been completed by the TWG, they are reviewed and approved by the MWG and then the CCC.
4. The MCCC process is open and comprehensive. All GHG's, sectors, potential implementation mechanisms, state and multi-state actions, local government and community actions, and short and long-term actions are considered.

Inventory and Forecast

1. See PowerPoint Presentation for Call #1 for graphs and summary (on website).
2. CCS reviewed the MD GHG inventory approach and initial results. The electrical sector contains two sets of data on GHG emissions, one based on the consumption of electricity in state and the other based on production of electricity by in-state sources (this provides context on the importance of electricity imports/exports; consumption-based emissions are relevant to policy development related to energy efficiency).
3. The inventory includes the most current data and back to 1990. Forecasting makes assumptions from past practices and current regulations and projects emissions trends to 2020 and beyond. Many factors influence these projections including population dynamics, economic growth, transportation system management, land use patterns, etc.).
4. Estimated GHG emissions from all sectors in MD are reported and compared to US emissions from the same sectors.
5. Gross emissions do not include the counterbalancing effect of carbon sinks (in the agriculture and forestry sectors).
6. CO₂ Equivalents is a way to use the same unit of measurement for all GHG's. The Global Warming Potential (GWP) of carbon dioxide equals 1. The GWP's of other GHG's are significantly higher and become the multiplier to accurately assess effects of non-carbon dioxide gas emissions.
7. CCS will post the AFW Inventory & Forecast appendices to the website when completed and the entire I&F draft will be available at <http://www.mdclimatechange.us>. CCS will provide TWG members with notification of posting of Draft I&F documents.

Catalog of State Options

1. CCS introduced the Catalog of State Actions and accompanying state action descriptions. The Catalog of State Actions is a growing compilation of over 300 options

from nine states (so far) which CCS has worked with, encompassing both implemented and proposed actions that reduce GHG emissions.

2. CCS requested that TWG members review the AFW portion of the Catalog in advance of the next TWG meeting and be ready to discuss policy actions that might be missing from the catalog, as well as recent regional, state or local actions that relate to one or more of the options in the catalog that need to be added (e.g. recent legislation or initiatives).

Regional Initiatives

1. The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is a cooperative effort by 10 Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic states to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. There are five approved offset areas so far:
 - a. Landfill methane capture and destruction
 - b. Reduction of sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆ - which has a CO₂ equivalent multiplier of 23,900)
 - c. Sequestration of carbon through afforestation (conversion of non-forested land to forest cover)
 - d. Reduction or avoidance of CO₂ emissions from natural gas, oil, or propane end-use combustion due to end-use energy efficiency; and
 - e. Avoided methane emissions from agricultural manure management operations
2. Two other options are under consideration, but not yet approved:
 - a. Urban tree canopy carbon offsets; and
 - b. Sequestration of carbon due to salt marsh restoration and conservation.
3. The MD Climate Change Action Plan could augment existing approved actions/offsets or compliment them, but meeting Maryland's needs will be first priority.

Next steps and agreements:

1. The next TWG meeting will be held on **September 11, 2007 from 1:00 to 3:00 EST.** The purpose of the next call will be to work with the policy options identified by the MWG as worthy of further investigation.
2. TWG members should review the Catalog of State Actions and the Descriptions of Catalog Items documents. Input for additions or revisions to the catalog will be discussed during the next MWG meeting.
3. Future Calls are scheduled for:
 - a. Call #3: September 25 from 3:00 – 5:00
 - b. Call #4: October 4 from 1:00 – 3:00
 - c. Call #5: tentatively October 16 (time to be determined)Team members who cannot make the calls can request a personal update in addition to the meeting notes.
4. Materials for each call will be posted at the Maryland Climate Change website (see address above). CCS will notify the TWG members when the materials are available for review.
5. CCS will send a distribution list of all TWG members with email and telephone to each member. CCS will also investigate the possibility of a face-to-face meeting for the AFW TWG.