

Cross-Cutting Issues Appendix

Summary List of Policy Option Recommendations

Option No.	Policy Option	GHG Reductions (MMtCO ₂ e)			Net Present Value 2007–2020 (Million \$)	Cost-Effectiveness (\$/tCO ₂ e)	Status of Option
		2012	2020	Total 2007–2020			
CC-1	GHG Inventories and Forecasting	<i>Not Quantified</i>					Unanimous
CC-2	GHG Reporting and Registry	<i>Not Quantified</i>					Unanimous
CC-3	Statewide GHG Reduction Goals and Targets	<i>Not Quantified</i>					Unanimous
CC-4	State and Local Government GHG Emissions (Lead-by-Example)	<i>Not Quantified</i>					Unanimous
CC-5	Public Education and Outreach	<i>Not Quantified</i>					Unanimous
CC-6	Tax and Cap Policies	<i>Not Quantified</i>					Being addressed by ES TWG
CC-7	Review Institutional Capacity to Address Climate Change Issues, Including Seeking Funding for Implementation of Climate Action Panel Recommendations	<i>Not Quantified</i>					Unanimous
CC-8	Participate in Regional, Multi-State, and National GHG Reduction Efforts	<i>Not Quantified</i>					Unanimous
CC-9	Promote Economic Development Opportunities Associated with Reducing GHG Emissions in Maryland	<i>Not Quantified</i>					Unanimous
CC-10	Create Capacity to Address Climate Change Issues in and “After Peak Oil” Context	<i>Not Quantified</i>					Unanimous
CC-11	Evaluate Climate Change Policy Options to Determine Projected Public Health Risks/ Costs/Benefits	<i>Not Quantified</i>					Unanimous

GHG = greenhouse gas; MMtCO₂e = million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent; \$/tCO₂e = dollars per metric ton of carbon dioxide equivalent.

CC-1. GHG Inventories and Forecasting

Policy Description

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventories and forecasts are essential for understanding the magnitude of all emission sources and sinks (both natural and those resulting from human activities), the relative contribution of various types of emission sources and sinks to total emissions, and the factors that affect trends over time. Inventories and forecasts help inform state leaders and the public on statewide trends, provide opportunities for mitigating emissions or enhancing sinks, and help verify GHG reductions associated with the implementation of action plan initiatives.

Policy Design

The Cross-Cutting Issues Technical Work Group (CC TWG) recommends that the state institute formal GHG inventory and forecast and GHG reporting functions.

Goals:

- Develop a periodic, consistent, and complete inventory of emission sources and sinks on a frequent basis. To the degree that data and methods allow, the inventory should include all natural and man-made emissions generated within the boundaries of the state (e.g., a production-based inventory approach) as well as emissions associated with energy imported into and consumed in the state (e.g., a consumption-based inventory approach). The inventory should, through performance metrics and differences in year-to-year emissions, provide a way of documenting and illuminating trends in state GHG emissions.
- Develop a protocol for preparing the statewide emissions and sinks inventory.
- Develop a periodic, consistent, and complete forecast of future GHG emissions in at least 5- and 10-year increments extending at least 20 years into the future. The GHG forecast should be updated periodically. The GHG forecast should reflect projected growth as well as the implementation of scheduled mitigation projects. In the forecast of future GHG emissions, the treatment of uncertainties should be transparent, be as consistent as possible across sectors and time and, to the extent possible, reflect multiple scenarios. The estimation methods should be consistent with those used to develop the emissions inventory and should reflect best practice.
- Develop a standardized protocol for the periodic forecasting of statewide GHG emissions.

Timing: This function should be implemented as soon as allowed by current funding and supplemented in 2008 with pertinent appropriation requests. The institutional capability should be created as soon as possible by Executive Order and by policy and budget legislation. A supplemental budget should be introduced in the 2008 session of the General Assembly. An Executive Order should be issued in 2008. To the extent necessary, legislation should be enacted in 2009.

Parties Involved: All GHG emission sources and sinks (both natural and those resulting from human activities) should be included in the inventory and forecast.

Other: Not applicable.

Implementation Mechanisms

Seek funding through an FY 2008 supplemental bill and full funding in the FY 2009 budget request. Current agency actions should be used as a basis for expansion of efforts. A standardized protocol should be developed. Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) does not currently track vehicle emissions, which should be included in the protocol. *The Climate Registry* is developing a protocol, but this process is happening slowly.

Related Policies/Programs in Place

MDE currently has 3 full-time equivalents (FTEs) working in the air quality planning and modeling program. The existing agency program staffing and financing need to be expanded to address GHGs (see Option CC-7).

Type(s) of GHG Reductions

Not applicable.

Estimated GHG Savings and Costs per tCO₂e

[tCO₂e = ton of carbon dioxide equivalent]

Not applicable.

Key Uncertainties

Long-term projections of GHG emissions may have uncertainties associated with them.

Additional Benefits and Costs

None identified at this time.

Feasibility Issues

Not applicable.

Status of Group Approval

Approved.

Level of Group Support

Unanimous.

Barriers to Consensus

None.

CC-2. GHG Reporting and Registry

Policy Description

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 a precursor for sources to participate in GHG reduction programs, to provide opportunities for recognition, and to create a GHG emission reduction registry, as well as to secure “baseline protection” (i.e., credit for early reductions).

A GHG registry enables recording of GHG emissions reductions in a central repository with “transaction ledger” capacity to support tracking, management, and “ownership” of emission reductions; establishes baseline protection; enables recognition opportunities; and provides a mechanism for regional, multi-state, and cross-border cooperation. Properly designed registry structures also provide a foundation for possible future trading programs.

Policy Design

- Develop and manage a common GHG emissions reporting system with high integrity that is capable of supporting multiple GHG emissions reporting and emissions reduction policies for its member states, tribes, and reporting entities.
- Provide an accurate, complete, consistent, transparent, and verified set of GHG emissions data from reporting entities, supported by a robust accounting and verification infrastructure.
- Assure that reporting occurs annually on a calendar-year basis for all six traditional GHGs and, to the extent possible, for black carbon.
- Require reporting of direct emissions; phase in reporting of emissions associated with purchased power and heat, and allow voluntary reporting of other indirect emissions.
- Make every effort to maximize consistency with federal, regional, and other states’ GHG reporting programs.
- Verify GHG emissions reports through current certification processes, including federal CFR Part 75 data quality assurance procedures where applicable. Data not subject to comprehensive protocols may need third-party certification.
- Include provisions to exclude de minimis emission sources, where appropriate.
- Allow project-based emissions reporting when properly identified as such and when quantified with rigorous consistency.
- Provide full transparency of reported emissions in the reporting program.
- Maryland has already joined the effort to develop a national GHG registry through *The Climate Registry*.

- Strive for maximum consistency with other state, regional, and/or national efforts; provide flexibility as GHG mitigation approaches evolve; and provide guidance to assist participants.

Goals: Implement a GHG registry for Maryland sources as soon as possible.

Timing: As soon as possible.

Parties Involved: Probably overseen by MDE; costs shared by participants benefiting from the registry.

Other: Not applicable.

Implementation Mechanisms

- Build the GHG emission reduction requirements into air quality permits
- Address all GHG emissions, not just carbon dioxide (CO₂). Develop protocols for reporting.
- Allow for calculation of GHG emissions, if the MDE determines that is appropriate.

Related Policies/Programs in Place

Annual emission certification requirements for large sources for criteria pollutants and acid rain sources are available. Need to expand them to more sources and all GHG emissions.

Type(s) of GHG Reductions

Not applicable.

Estimated GHG Savings and Costs per tCO₂e

Not applicable.

Key Uncertainties

The extent to which voluntary reporting will actually occur is unknown. Also there are reporting difficulties related to monitoring.

Additional Benefits and Costs

None identified at this time.

Feasibility Issues

Continued development of the technology and methodology is needed to accurately monitor and quantify sources and sinks, both natural and those resulting from human activities.

Status of Group Approval

Approved.

Level of Group Support

Unanimous.

Barriers to Consensus

None.

CC-3. Statewide GHG Reduction Goals and Targets

Policy Description

Governor O'Malley's signed [Executive Order 01.01.2007.07](#) in April 2007. It created the Maryland Commission on Climate Change (MCCC) and established the presumptive GHG reduction goals for the State. Maryland's GHG emissions are to be reduced to 1990 levels by 2020 and reduced to 80% of 2006 levels by 2050. An Interim Report to the Governor and General Assembly (December 2007) resulting from the first phase of the MCCC process recommends revised goals that are more ambitious than those in the original order. (These proposed goals are described below.)

After reviewing recent reports issues by the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and a summary of studies compiled by the Scientific and Technical Working Group, the Mitigation Working Group has concluded that it is absolutely necessary to adopt "stretch" goals for reducing Maryland's GHG emissions. Reductions occurring earlier in time have much more mitigation value than reductions occurring later in time. Reductions in the 20% to 50% range by 2020 (2006 base) appear to be needed to avoid the IPCC's most catastrophic forecasts. Specific targets for GHG reductions by 2012–2015, 2020, and 2050 are essential to provide a framework for Maryland's reduction efforts. These goals should be relative to Marylanders' consumption-based GHG emissions. Because new data, information, and studies will become available in future years, the Mitigation Working Group recommends in-depth review of the targets every 4 years.

The goals presented below reflect the recommendations included in the MCCC's Interim Report to the Governor.

Policy Design

Goals: By Executive Order and legislation, the Governor and General Assembly should adopt the following specific goals for reducing Maryland's GHG emissions:

- 10% below 2006 GHG emission levels (using a consumption-based approach) by 2012
- 15% below 2006 levels by 2015 (both **2012 and 2015 goals** to be used as reduction goals for Maryland's Climate Action Plan.)
- 25%–50% below 2006 levels by 2020 (25% to be used as the "minimum" enforceable regulatory driver for the Global Warming Solutions legislation; 50% to be used as a science-based, nonregulatory reduction goal for Maryland's Climate Action Plan.) Programs to implement the legislation would reward market-based reductions above 25%.
- 90% below 2006 levels by 2050 (a science-based regulatory goal in the Global Warming Solutions legislation that would provide a driver for research and development of climate neutral technology, programs, and innovations.)
- Mid-course reviews (conduct a science-based review of the goals at least every 4 years starting in 2012).

- Track progress from 1990 levels.

Timing: The goals should be adopted in 2008.

Parties Involved: All state and county governments and the citizens of Maryland.

Other: The Executive Branch should issue a report to the public every second year, beginning in 2010, summarizing Maryland's programs and activities for GHG reductions and evaluating Maryland's progress in achieving the state's mitigation targets.

Implementation Mechanisms

Propose a legislative initiative in the 2008 session with these goals included. Include a definition of GHG in the legislation.

Related Policies/Programs in Place

Governor's Executive Order and the MCCC Interim Report.

Type(s) of GHG Reductions

Not applicable.

Estimated GHG Savings and Costs per tCO₂e

Not applicable.

Key Uncertainties

General Assembly adoption of the goals during the 2008 session is not assured. Citizens embracing their roles in altering habits and choices as needed to achieve the reduction targets. The degree to which the assumptions to meet targets will hold true is un-determined. Will need to review underlying assumptions in the biennial reviews and adjust them accordingly in order to make progress toward achieving targets.

Additional Benefits and Costs

Establishing state GHG reduction goals in Maryland and many other states will encourage the federal government to adopt a national GHG program. It will give Maryland a head start on implementing any national program that is eventually put in place. There may also be unforeseen economic costs associated with implementation of the measures recommended herein.

Feasibility Issues

Timely implementation of all recommendations. Availability of new technology essential to several GHG reduction programs.

Status of Group Approval

Approved.

Level of Group Support

Unanimous.

Barriers to Consensus

None identified at this time.

CC-4. State and Local Government GHG Emissions (Lead-by-Example)

Policy Description

The State of Maryland and municipal and county governments can provide leadership in moving the state forward by adopting policies that improve the energy efficiency of public buildings, facilities, and operations. Recognizing that governments should “lead by example,” the option presented here provides energy use targets to improve energy efficiency in new and existing state and local government buildings, facilities, and operations. The proposed policy provides energy efficiency targets that are much higher than code standards for new state-funded and other government buildings, facilities, and operations. This option sets energy-efficiency goals for the existing government building stock, as well as for new construction and major renovations of government buildings, facilities, and operations. Taken together, these measures can result in significant reductions of GHG emissions.

The following are potential elements of this policy:

- Ensure that state and local governments consider comprehensive environmental and public health impacts as well as energy efficiencies.
- Set a goal for state and local governments to purchase goods from companies that practice energy use reduction and sequestration of carbon dioxide.
- Encourage citizens to place less emphasis on consumption and promote the use of materials that are compostable, recyclable, and reusable.
- Ensure that contracting procedures do not discriminate against reusable, recycled, or environmentally preferable products with sufficient and specific justification.
- Review environmentally preferable products to determine the extent to which they may be used by state and local governments and their contractors.
- Review and revise contracting procedures to maximize the specification of designated environmentally preferable products where practicable.
- Adopt purchasing specifications that comply with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines for preferred products.
- Use Recovered Materials Advisory Notices (RMAN) as a reference for determining the recycled content specifications for these products.
- Make sure that these initiatives do not adversely impact public health.

Policy Design

Goals: State and local government lead-by-example initiatives described here and in the RCI TWG **Appendix** will serve as models for achieving significant GHG reductions through procurement and other processes.

Timing: See above.

Parties Involved: State and local governments, Maryland Municipal League, Maryland Association of Counties, Public Service Commission, and environmental advocacy organizations.

Other: Keep public health issues in mind.

Implementation Mechanisms

- Evaluate and minimize GHG emissions along the entire supply chain, and increase the efficiency of operations through purchasing and end-of-life disposal or recycling. Establish policies for purchasing only energy efficient products and services by specifying ENERGY STAR–certified and other efficient equipment and appliances, by stocking only energy efficient and environmentally preferable products in Central Stores, and by planning for end-of-life disposal of equipment and other goods when initial purchase is made. Purchase items that can be recycled rather than thrown away.
- Develop and use renewable energy resources. Evaluate the potential for direct use of solar, wind, biomass, geothermal, and hydro power to meet the needs of state government operations. Take advantage of these renewable resources whenever it is cost-effective to do so and as a means to lead by example in investing in these systems when it is practical to do so.
- Implement by December 31, 2008, a requirement that state-owned or leased facilities use life cycle costing, including full consideration of future energy costs, in the selection and implementation of building designs and components for both new and renovated space or for the selection of replacement components. Require that the most cost-effective design, equipment, or component options be chosen.
- Evaluate and minimize GHG emissions along the entire supply chain, and incorporate consideration of comprehensive environmental impacts into state and local government purchasing and contracting practices.
- Purchase items that can be composted, recycled or reused rather than thrown away.
- Purchasing and contracting practices should consider comprehensive environmental impacts as well as energy efficiency. (Such as products’ embodied carbon and recycled content; products that are produced and available locally and the GHG track record of suppliers.)

Related Policies/Programs in Place

Montgomery County Government and Board of Education, Bill 17-06, and Green School Focus.

Type(s) of GHG Reductions

Not applicable.

Estimated GHG Savings and Costs per tCO₂e

Data Sources: Not applicable.

Quantification Methods: Not applicable.

Key Assumptions: Not applicable.

Key Uncertainties

Government determination to adopt and implement the required practices.

Additional Benefits and Costs

Helps establish and stimulate a green services and products industry in Maryland.

Feasibility Issues

Implementation costs of start-up for public–private sectors, depending on the level of certification and life cycle costs.

Status of Group Approval

Approved.

Level of Group Support

Unanimous.

Barriers to Consensus

None.

CC-5. Public Education and Outreach

Policy Description

Public education and outreach is vital to fostering broad awareness of climate change issues and effects (including co-benefits, such as clean air and public health) among the state's citizens. Such awareness is necessary to engage citizens, businesses, and institutions in actions to reduce GHG emissions. Public education and outreach efforts should be designed to reinforce state climate change policies and build upon existing outreach on climate change and related issues.

Due to the positive-feedback nature of climate change, massive, early actions are imperative. For example, a ton of carbon dioxide emission reduction this year is more effective in slowing warming than the same reduction the next year and is *much* more effective than the same reduction 5 years later. For this reason, the proposed efforts focus on energy conservation and efficiency—which can be implemented now and have immediate effects—and purposely leave out renewable energies and new climate-friendly technologies. These technologies may require substantial investments and may not be economically viable at present. The TWG recommends that they be considered when the policies are updated in the future. Furthermore, because early actions are important, the TWG recommends that the state not wait to perfect its plans before implementation. Quick implementation requires that the state plan a little, do a little, and let actions, results, and mistakes help stimulate more widespread actions.

Achieving a meaningful reduction in GHG emissions requires substantial efforts in conservation and energy efficiency. This means behavioral and life style changes in a broad spectrum of the public. State-sponsored public education and outreach alone will not result in behavioral and life style changes in the public. Repeated community actions, combined with economic incentives and disincentives provided by other state climate change policies, are the foundation for behavioral and life style change. This public education and outreach policy is designed to provoke such actions.

Policy Design

Segments of the public engaging in different activities have different concerns about climate change; the TWG recommends that public education and outreach efforts deliver messages to them in different ways. Many elements of the education and outreach efforts described below are either underway or ready to go. The state should consider forming a task force on climate education and outreach to fast-track implementation of many of these items.

The TWG recommends that the state build upon current educational efforts and action campaigns of state agencies, utilities, and nonprofit organizations. These organizations understand their offerings; enhanced resources from the state will reinforce their efforts to encourage Maryland residents and businesses to take action. The combination of efforts by the state, nonprofits, educational institutions, and utilities should ensure that public education and outreach efforts reach all segments of the public. Organizations should also ensure that they provide scientifically based factual information to users.

The TWG recommends that the state tap into the science and technology expertise from institutions in the state (e.g., The Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health, Goddard Space Flight Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and The University of Maryland) to develop information needed for public education and outreach. Many scientists from these institutions are deeply concerned about climate change and are disappointed at the lack of visible leadership on this issue from all levels of government thus far. They will be eager to volunteer their services when they are called upon.

Environmental nonprofits and environmental organizations within the faith communities are also poised to support action initiatives from the state when it shows visible leadership and the urgency that climate change calls for. The TWG recommends that the state tap into their support to organize massive community actions in conservation and energy efficiency.

1. State, County, and Local Government Initiatives

Educate and coordinate legislatures and agencies on climate change, conservation, and energy efficiency for government facilities, operations, and transportation. For example, achieve measurable GHG reduction through

- Lighting, indoor temperature, insulation, hot water temperature, and water consumption;
- Reducing paper consumption (e.g., by printing multiple slides on a page and using both sides of the paper);
- Reducing consumption of single-use containers (e.g., drinks in plastic bottles and cans);
- Using fuel-efficient vehicles; and
- Growing trees in place of lawns.

Goals: Legislatures and government agencies reinforce and further the state goals and serve as role models for citizens in conservation and energy efficiency; measurable GHG emission reduction.

Timing: Complete a plan in 1 month, and start implementation in 3 months.

Parties Involved: State, county, and local government agencies and legislatures.

Implementation Mechanisms:

- Develop informational material (brief, specific, and actionable guidelines) appropriate for this target audience.
- Deliver information and guidelines on climate friendly measures to department secretaries, managers, and building and grounds managers to stimulate actions in conservation and energy efficiency.
- Conduct periodic inspections to reinforce guidelines.

Cost: Not available at this time.

2. State K-12 Education Initiative

Develop Maryland-specific lessons on climate change, energy conservation, and energy efficiency aligned with the Voluntary State Curriculum and Core Learning Goals. The modules will reflect age-appropriate inquiry and problem-based learning concepts and activities that result in actions in conservation and energy efficiency. Modules or lessons may include

- Climate change science,
- Climate change and its implications on natural and human systems (e.g., social, political, and public health impact),
- Renewable energies and climate-friendly technologies, and
- Individual and group actions that positively and negatively affect natural systems.

Encourage schools in other states to adopt these teaching modules.

Goals: High awareness in climate change and climate-friendly behavior in students and their families.

Timing: Complete the plan in 2 months, issue grants to develop teaching modules in 4 months, and start delivering teaching in the 2009 school year.

Parties Involved: Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), MDE, and county school boards.

Implementation Mechanisms: Delegate the MSDE to coordinate this initiative. Issue grants to experts to develop Maryland-specific teaching modules. Identify existing teaching materials that address general climate change concepts and make these available through the MSDE Environmental Education Web site. Set up a Web site (e.g., as part of the MSDE Web site) to host modules for teachers to download to eliminate distribution costs.

Delegate community colleges and state public colleges and universities to train teachers.

Cost:Not available at this time.

3. Governor's Regional Environmental Education Network (GREEN)

The MSDE has been planning for the formation of this group (the plan has not yet been presented to the Governor). This group, with county and local chapters, can coordinate environmental groups into concerted efforts and draw higher visibility to climate actions from the public. This group will attract volunteers from

- Environmental nonprofits,
- Faith communities and social and civic groups,
- K-12 school students in fulfilling community services,
- College voluntary interns, and
- Adult volunteers.

This group will call on and coordinate environmental nonprofits (e.g., Sierra Club, Chesapeake Bay Foundation) and environmental organizations in the faith communities (e.g., The Eco-Justice Program, Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light) to educate and organize the larger populations for widespread conservation and energy efficiency actions.

Goals: High awareness on climate change and climate-friendly behavior in citizens and widespread community actions on sustainability and energy conservation; measurable GHG emission reduction.

Timing: Complete the plan in 1 month, and start implementation in 3 months.

Parties Involved: State and county departments of environment and environmental groups.

Implementation Mechanisms: Start the implementation with a conference of parties interested in GREEN (e.g., environmental organizations) and establish its charter. With some financial support from the state government for coordination, the group will be mostly sustained by volunteers and private donations. Involve the group in other public education and outreach efforts. Seek support from utilities for training members to conduct energy audits, demonstrate conservation and energy efficiency, and analyze and present cost savings. Aim to nurture the group to a level of maturity so that it no longer needs state government support in 3 years.

Cost:Not available at this time.

4. Higher Education Initiative

Recommend guidelines to higher education institutions for

- Including climate science and climate-friendly technologies (such as renewable energy development) in their curricula,
- Partnering with industries to transfer climate-friendly technologies from research to industries, and
- Applying climate-friendly measures (conservation and energy efficiency) on campuses.

Goals: High awareness of climate change and climate-friendly behavior in students, widespread institutional and student actions on conservation and energy efficiency, and measurable GHG emission reduction.

Timing: Complete the plan in 1 month, and complete the development of guidelines within another 4 months; deliver the guidelines to higher education institutions within 6 months of start.

Parties Involved: Statewide higher education institutions.

Implementation Mechanisms: Joining the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) will satisfy the above goals. College and university presidents signing the Commitment are pledging to eliminate their campuses' GHG emissions over time, which involves

- Completing an emissions inventory;

- Within 2 years, setting a target date and interim milestones for becoming climate neutral;
- Taking immediate steps to reduce GHG emissions by choosing from a list of short-term actions;
- Integrating sustainability into the curriculum and making it part of the educational experience; and
- Making the action plan, inventory, and progress reports publicly available.

All the institutions within the University System of Maryland have agreed to join the ACUPCC. However, most private institutions and almost all community colleges are not members of ACUPCC yet. Establish a state goal for all higher education institutions in the state to join the ACUPCC within 6 months. Delegate early ACUPCC adopters like Frostburg State University and University of Maryland at Baltimore (UMBC) to coordinate a statewide effort to encourage all higher education institutions to join ACUPCC.

Cost:Not available at this time.

5. Public Media Initiative

Organize an annual 1-day conference for regional (Maryland and neighboring states) public media representatives on

- The state of climate change mitigation in Maryland and the level of attainment of state GHG reduction goals;
- Latest climate science and observations;
- Climate change impacts on public health, regional environment, the Chesapeake Bay, and the economy; and
- Applications of climate-friendly technologies.

Develop a Web site to host voluntary experts to answer climate-related questions from journalists.

Goals: Media information consistent with accepted climate science and latest technologies; high awareness in climate change and climate-friendly behavior in citizens.

Timing: Complete the plan in 1 month, and organize the first annual conference within 6 months.

Parties Involved: MDE and University of Maryland College of Education at College Park.

Implementation Mechanisms: Delegate the College of Journalism at College Park to plan and organize this annual conference. Invite authoritative panelists in climate science, climate impacts on public health, environment, industries, economy, renewable energy, and climate-friendly technologies. These experts can be tapped from institutions such as The Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health, Goddard Space Flight Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, renewable energy industry, insurance companies, and the University of Maryland.

Cost:Not available at this time.

6. Commercial and Homeowners Initiative

Collaborate with county departments of environment and utilities to educate and stimulate commercial organizations (Chamber of Commerce, business owners, building industry, and building owners and tenants), apartment tenants, and homeowners to adopt climate-friendly measures and promote climate-friendly products. Deliver information (e.g., short seminars) on the climate crisis and call for citizens' actions in conservation and energy efficiency. Perform energy and environment audits of homes and buildings and provide specific recommendations for improvements such as

- Lighting, indoor temperature, insulation, and hot water temperature with measurable GHG emission reduction;
- Reducing paper consumption (e.g., by printing multiple slides on a page and using both sides of the paper);
- Reducing consumption of single-use containers (e.g., drinks in plastic bottles and cans); and
- Growing trees in place of lawns.

Goals: High awareness of climate change and climate-friendly behavior in these organizations; measurable GHG emission reduction.

Timing: Complete the plan in 1 month, and start implementation in 3 months.

Parties Involved: State and county departments of environment, utilities, and students.

Implementation Mechanisms: Collaborate with utilities to develop informational material and guidelines that target different audiences (e.g., commercial office buildings, homes, and apartments). Organize members of GREEN to conduct energy audits, demonstrations, and cost-saving analysis for business organizations, commercial buildings, and homes. Identify students to do community service projects.

Cost: Not available at this time.

7. Transportation Initiative

Educate and encourage transportation operators (buses, taxis, limousines, trucks, boats) to adopt climate-friendly measures such as

- Planning routes and avoiding traffic congestion using global positioning system (GPS) devices,
- Turning off the engine while waiting, and
- Using renewable fuels.

Goals: High awareness of climate change and climate-friendly behavior in transportation operators; measurable GHG emission reduction.

Timing: Complete the plan in 1 month, and start implementation in 3 months.

Parties Involved: State and county departments of transportation.

Implementation Mechanisms: Collaborate with transportation trade associations to develop informational material and guidelines that target different audiences (truck drivers, bus drivers, etc.). Organize members of GREEN to conduct demonstrations and cost-saving analysis.

Cost: Not available at this time.

8. Agriculture and Forestry Initiative

Develop and distribute guidelines to encourage farmers and forestry operators to practice climate-friendly measures. Develop a Web site to host voluntary experts to answer climate-related questions from this target audience.

Goals: High awareness in climate change and climate-friendly behavior in agriculture and forestry, measurable GHG emission reduction, carbon capture.

Timing: Complete the plan in 1 month, and start implementation in 3 months.

Parties Involved: State and county departments of agriculture, State Cooperative Extension.

Other: Not applicable.

Implementation Mechanisms

Collaborate with the Agricultural Cooperative Extension Office (at the University of Maryland at College Park) to develop and distribute climate-friendly guidelines.

Related Policies/Programs in Place

See above descriptions and note that education and outreach initiatives are also included with selected policy options of other TWGs.

Type(s) of GHG Reductions

Not applicable.

Estimated GHG Savings and Costs per tCO₂e

Not applicable.

Key Uncertainties

None identified.

Additional Benefits and Costs

None identified at this time.

Feasibility Issues

Not applicable.

Status of Group Approval

Approved.

Level of Group Support

Unanimous.

Barriers to Consensus

None.

CC-6. Tax and Cap Policies

Assigned to Energy Supply Technical Work Group.

CC-7. Review Institutional Capacity to Address Climate Change Issues, Including Seeking Funding for Implementation of Climate Action Panel Recommendations

Policy Description

Addressing myriad challenges posed by climate change and implementing the numerous recommendations emanating from this process will be a long-term endeavor for the State of Maryland. To do this in a strategic and cost-effective way, it is important to review the state's capacity in areas such as finances, governance, authority, expertise, and technology.

Enactment of legislation and adoption of policies to mitigate GHG emissions is the essential first step for Maryland. Additionally, it is necessary that the State create the governance and organizational capacity to execute GHG mitigation policies, implement programs, monitor and analyze results, and modify and update policies and programs as necessary over time.

Additional agency resources will likely be required to implement some aspects of the Maryland climate protection strategies. The state needs to identify appropriate governance mechanisms, agency capabilities, staffing, and funding for effective implementation and enforcement of GHG mitigation programs. Financial mechanisms will also be needed to stimulate investment in developing cost-effective climate solutions.

Policy Design

Goals: The governance structure requires involvement at the highest levels of the Executive **Branch.** Agency organizational and staffing capacity must be adequate to oversee and carry out comprehensive GHG mitigation programs and activities. To this end, successful state institutional capacity might include the following elements:

- A member of the Governor's staff assigned as liaison for GHG policies.
- A department secretary assigned as the lead official for coordinating GHG mitigation activities.
- A sub-cabinet committee for coordination of GHG programs and activities across departments and agencies.
- A departmental agency that is tasked with implementing key GHG mitigation programs and activities, serving as a coordinating point with respect to programs and activities housed in other agencies, analyzing and evaluating the overall effectiveness of GHG mitigation efforts, recommending changes and improvements to the efforts, and generally exercising primary responsibility for promoting successful GHG mitigation.
- Assignment of responsibility to all departments to consider GHG consequences when making decisions about departmental policies, programs, and activities.
- Full funding for the lead agency and all departments to carry out GHG responsibilities.
- An innovative state funding mechanism to stimulate investment in cost-effective climate change solutions.

- Identification of impediments that lenders place on financing climate-friendly projects.
- A research and development (R&D) program to address pertinent GHG technical issues in Maryland.
- Creation of institutional capacity and R&D efforts that remain in place to carry through to achievement of the 2050 goals.

Timing: 2008 and 2009.

Parties Involved: Governor’s Office, General Assembly, MDE, and other Executive Departments and agencies within the state?

Other: In the office of every department secretary or agency head, a staff member must be assigned responsibility for ensuring that GHG mitigation objectives are integrated into the decision-making process of that department or agency.

The Department of Economic Development should be assigned responsibility for developing (for legislative enactment) a funding mechanism to stimulate investment in cost-effective climate change solutions.

Implementation Mechanisms

- The institutional capability should be created as soon as possible by Executive Order and by policy and budget legislation during 2008–2009.
- A supplemental budget should be introduced in the 2008 session of the General Assembly with a full funding request submitted for the FY 2009 budget cycle.
- Legislation should be enacted in 2008 and/or 2009.
- During 2008 the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED) should develop cost-effective proposals for innovative financing programs such as the Revolving Loan Fund and loan guarantees. To assist in this effort, a public–private partnership process should be convened to analyze potential creative funding mechanisms. It should examine creative funding solutions such as using Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) funds, aligning investors, financing up-front costs with out-year savings, creating incentives and other stimulus ideas, removing barriers and formulating financial policies that promote GHG reductions.

Related Policies/Programs in Place

Existing statutes and budgets.

Type(s) of GHG Reductions

Not applicable.

Estimated GHG Savings and Costs per tCO₂e

Not applicable.

Key Uncertainties

Commitment of state officials to make funds available for all GHG reduction programs during a period of tight budget constraints. Support of citizens for funding all programs during a period when taxes have increased and other programs are subject to funding reductions.

Additional Benefits and Costs

None identified at this time.

Feasibility Issues

None identified.

Status of Group Approval

Approved.

Level of Group Support

Unanimous.

Barriers to Consensus

None.

CC-8. Participate in Regional, Multi-State and National GHG Reduction Efforts

Policy Description

Regional approaches undertaken in collaboration with partner states or other organizations can offer broader and more economically efficient opportunities to reduce GHG emissions across Maryland's economy. Maryland is already a member of the Northeast States RGGI. There are other options for broadening Maryland's regional, market-based GHG reduction strategies that should be considered, such as the Clean Cars Initiative.

The Governor and the Maryland General Assembly should aggressively push for federal action to reduce GHGs. Global warming is a problem that requires national and international action. An aggressive approach to GHG reductions within the United States would have a significant effect on the international reductions needed to begin reversing global warming trends. Ultimately, many of the climate protection issues need to be addressed at the national level, and Maryland needs to help shape those national initiatives.

Policy Design

First, work through the RGGI process to address CO₂ emissions from power plants, and then address GHG emissions from other sources.

Goals: Develop a regional cap-and-trade program for GHGs in the northeast.

Timing: June 2008 auctions and January 2009 RGGI start-up.

Parties Involved: Nine states in the RGGI.

Other: Not applicable

Implementation Mechanisms

Maryland is planning to participate in June 2008 RGGI auctions and is developing the regulations needed to do so.

Related Policies/Programs in Place

RGGI.

Type(s) of GHG Reductions

Not applicable.

Estimated GHG Savings and Costs per tCO₂e

Not applicable.

Key Uncertainties

There are many unknowns about what types of federal programs will eventually be developed in 2009 and beyond.

Additional Benefits and Costs

It is acknowledged that regional efforts typically are more effective than individual states acting alone.

Feasibility Issues

Feasibility depends on the nature of future federal legislation or implementation of regional initiatives such as the RGGI.

Status of Group Approval

Approved.

Level of Group Support

Unanimous.

Barriers to Consensus

None.

CC-9. Promote Economic Development Opportunities Associated With Reducing GHG Emissions in Maryland

Policy Description

There are numerous economic and business opportunities that can arise from implementing a comprehensive GHG reduction strategy for Maryland. A variety of job creation possibilities are implicit in the MCCC recommendations for new approaches to transportation, land use, green construction, recycling and reuse, and energy-efficient products and services. The state should work with public and private entities to identify, promote, and finance these opportunities for economic development and job creation. The state should also work to keep existing green jobs in Maryland and prevent them from moving off-shore.

The growth of the “green industry” has the potential to benefit low- to mid-skill workers who can no longer depend on traditional manufacturing jobs. Since green jobs require applied technical skills, they generally pay decent wages. Unlike blue-collar jobs, many green-collar jobs require local employees and cannot be outsourced.

Another component of economic development is the promotion of buying locally produced foods and products. Consumer support for the local economy helps sustain Maryland businesses, jobs, and the tax base while reducing the consumption of fuel (and carbon dioxide emissions) in the transportation of foods and products over great distances.

Policy Design

Targeted business promotion and job creation should be a part of Maryland’s effort to mitigate GHG emissions. Maryland should make every effort to establish itself as a leader in developing green industry.

In Maryland, job creation opportunities include designing and constructing green buildings; weatherizing existing buildings; retrofitting older buildings with energy efficient appliances and technologies; expanding the construction, maintenance, and operation of common-carrier and public transportation networks and systems; designing, constructing, and operating windmills, biomass generators, and solar collectors; and R&D on a wide array of new practices and technologies that can abate GHG production.

Promoting consumption of locally produced foods and goods will strengthen the Maryland economy.

Goals: By 2012 create 2,500 new jobs tied to green industry and energy efficiency.

Timing:

2008—Maryland DBED and task force develop recommendations.

2009 and 2010—Implementation of recommendations and delivery of training programs, financing mechanisms and loans to stimulate targeted businesses.

Parties Involved: Maryland DBED, county development offices, state and local chambers of commerce, labor unions, technical and trade schools, community colleges, Job Opportunities Task Force, Chesapeake Sustainable Business Alliance.

Implementation Mechanisms

Immediately, the Maryland DBED should be assigned responsibility for establishing a task force to identify and promote green industry opportunities, markets, and financing mechanisms. The task force should include economic development officials and representatives from business, industry, labor unions, think tanks, community colleges, and other institutions that offer job training. The task force should also include others with appropriate interest in and knowledge about labor and industry, energy efficiency and environmental conservation, skills development, and business finance and loan programs. The task force should promote use of public-private partnerships and should issue its initial report and recommendations by December 31, 2008.

Maryland DBED should also initiate staff activities to

- Emphasize a green-collar jobs component of employment development,
- Promote job training for green-collar jobs,
- Work with labor unions and technical schools to encourage green skills training,
- Identify new financing mechanisms and sources of seed money to stimulate and incubate green business development,
- Examine the potential for economic development opportunities of promoting energy efficiency,
- Promote consumer choice for foods and goods produced in Maryland,
- Identify what measures the state can take to promote greater R&D in the field and to attract green industries.

Related Policies/Programs in Place

Maryland and county economic development programs.

Type(s) of GHG Reductions

Not applicable.

Estimated GHG Savings and Costs per tCO₂e

Not applicable.

Key Uncertainties

The speed with which businesses and consumers will adopt green practices.

Additional Benefits and Costs

Provides training to the green-collar work force. If selected industries are forced to move off-shore, then global GHG emissions may rise due to a lack of comparable controls outside the United States.

Feasibility Issues

Sources of funds to pay for job training programs.

Status of Group Approval

Approved.

Level of Group Support

Unanimous.

Barriers to Consensus

None.

CC-10. Create Capacity to Address Climate Change in an “After Peak Oil” Context

Policy Description

Oil is a finite resource, and many respected scientists and industry analysts project that we will reach the top of the bell curve of oil production—the “peak” of oil production—soon, if we have not already done so. Once we have passed the peak, termed *after peak oil*, oil will become ever more costly. This cost will be manifest in higher prices for a barrel of crude oil as well as in the higher environmental and health costs of extracting oil from nontraditional sources, such as tar sands, which require far more energy to extract and will result in even greater GHG emissions.

Because our society has been constructed to depend on an endless supply of inexpensive oil, the eventual lack of inexpensive oil will have profound impacts on all aspects of our society. In particular, GHG emissions could greatly increase as a result of society’s reliance on the least expensive alternative to oil, which would be coal. Moreover, projections of GHG emissions over time have generally not factored in the increased emissions from the use of more coal or the increased emissions from the use of nontraditional fossil fuels as the demand for energy outstrips the supply of oil.

Any hope of successfully achieving the state’s GHG emission reduction goals will depend on effectively avoiding the easy energy shortage solutions of relying on more coal or encouraging the use of nontraditional fossil fuels.

Maryland should take a strategically proactive stance to deal with after peak oil by establishing a State After Peak Oil Advisory Council of experts and stakeholders to review and evaluate all proposed climate change and energy-related policies and legislation for their appropriateness and sensibility in the context of shrinking supplies of affordable oil.

Policy Design

Goals: By 2010, the State of Maryland will have an After Peak Oil Advisory Council that reviews and evaluates all proposed climate change and energy-related policies and legislation. The recommendations of the Council should be considered and concerns addressed before the proposed policy or legislation moves forward.

Timing: By 2009, the Governor will appoint a core group of Council members representing major stakeholders and content experts. Additional Council members will be recruited by a nonpolitical process. By 2010, the Council will have finalized their mechanism of operation.

Parties Involved: All state agencies, energy producers, consumers, environmentalists, and health professionals.

Other: Examine both short-term and long-term aspects of this challenge.

Implementation Mechanisms

Create the Advisory Committee and make it operational.

Related Policies/Programs in Place

None.

Type(s) of GHG Reductions

Not applicable.

Estimated GHG Savings and Costs per tCO₂e

Not applicable.

Key Uncertainties

The timing of peak oil and the rate of decline once peak oil has been reached are uncertainties.

The rate of change and the price of the remaining supplies of oil will depend on many factors, including global demand, stability of certain geopolitical regions that currently have oil supplies, development of new technologies, and other factors that the state will have little control over. However, planning now for how to handle these events will help the state determine reasonable alternatives. There will be uncertainties associated with the currency exchange as it relates to the value of the dollar.

Additional Benefits and Costs

None identified at this time.

Feasibility Issues

No barriers to feasibility except an initial need to explain the situation and the need for planning and action on a topic that is not well known or understood by many.

Status of Group Approval

Approved.

Level of Group Support

Unanimous.

Barriers to Consensus

None.

CC-11. Evaluate Climate Change Policy Options to Determine Projected Public Health Risks/Costs/ Benefits

Policy Description

Climate change will have profound and largely negative effects on the health of Maryland's citizens. Dealing with these negative effects will be costly in terms of actual dollars spent for health care by state government, private businesses, and individuals; increased burden of disease on individuals; time off work and out of school; and lost productive years of life. However, many strategies for reducing GHG emissions have beneficial effects on health, such as improved air quality.

Because the potential risks to health of unmitigated climate change are so extreme and the potential benefits to health of certain policies to reduce GHG emissions are significant, these risks, costs, and benefits should be considered for all climate change and energy policies. It is also conceivable that policies to reduce GHGs could have unintended negative side effects on health.

To ensure that these risks, costs, and benefits are evaluated in a systematic manner, Maryland should establish a State Climate Change Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council of content experts and stakeholders to review all climate change and energy-related policies and legislation for health benefits and risks to all Maryland's citizens. Careful attention should be given to vulnerable populations such as children and older people.

Policy Design

Goals: By 2010, Maryland will have a State Climate Change Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council to review and evaluate all proposed climate change and energy-related policies and legislation. The recommendations of the Council should be considered and concerns should be addressed before the proposed policy or legislation moves forward.

Timing: By 2009, the Governor will appoint a core group of Council members representing major stakeholders and content experts. Additional Council members will be recruited by a nonpolitical process. By 2010, the Council will have finalized their mechanism of operation.

Parties Involved: All state agencies, energy producers, consumers, environmentalists, and health professionals.

Other: Note that the Maryland Adaptation process is also addressing public health related issues associated with climate change.

Implementation Mechanisms

Create the Advisory Council and make it operational.

Related Policies/Programs in Place

Public health is also being addressed in the Adaptation process.

Type(s) of GHG Reductions

Not applicable.

Estimated GHG Savings and Costs per tCO₂e

Not applicable.

Key Uncertainties

There are many uncertainties regarding the health effects of climate change. Forming an Advisory Group that is charged with exploring data as they become available and using its collective expertise to protect the public's health will likely improve outcomes.

Additional Benefits and Costs

None identified at this time.

Feasibility Issues

No barriers to feasibility.

Status of Group Approval

Approved.

Level of Group Support

Unanimous.

Barriers to Consensus

None.