



Governor's Action Team on Energy and Climate Change
State of Florida

FLORIDA ENERGY and CLIMATE ACTION TEAM

Agriculture, Forestry, and Waste Technical Work Group (TWG)
Notice of Teleconference Meeting, Call #7
June 24, 2008
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM EDT

Attendance:

1. Technical Working Group members:
Marc Bruner, Doria Gordon, Jay Levenstein, R. David McConnell, Gary Peter, Dan Roach, Kevin Robertson, Andrew Walmsley, Celeste White
2. Center for Climate Strategies (CCS) staff:
Steve Roe, Rachel Anderson
3. Florida Department of Environmental Protection: James McNeil
4. Florida Agency Observers: Steve Jennings
5. Public Attendees: none.

Background documents:

(all posted at <http://www.flclimatechange.us/AFW.cfm>)

1. Meeting Notice and Agenda
2. Summary of Call #6.1
3. Power Point Presentations for Teleconference
4. Draft Straw Proposals

Discussion items and key issues:

1. Steve Roe called the meeting to order, Rachel Anderson completed the roll call, and Steve reviewed the agenda and plans for the call.
2. Steve reviewed the Call 6.1 summary. During Call 6.1 the group covered the first five Straw Proposals. A TWG member suggested clarifying the public comments in the call summary regarding waste incineration. He suggested adding that the source is from a report from the Institute for Local Self Reliance. The Call summary was accepted with that change.



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3. We are currently on the Straw Proposal design step in the process. This includes the Policy Description and Policy Design, which should include a quantifiable goal with an associated timeline.
4. The group began reviewing the draft Straw Proposal document beginning with AFW-6 as follows:
 - a. AFW-6: Reduced Rate of Agricultural Land and Open Green Space Conversion to Development. A member suggested removing the phrase "Forest Retention" from the title since the straw proposal seems to apply to land types besides just forest. The members agreed and it was removed from the title. A member noted that 50% reduction in losses is lofty and questioned if is attainable. There was a discussion between the members about whether the group wants to specify where the protected land should be. Land that is proximate to development is more expensive. Land that is far from development is cheaper but maybe less in need of protection. A member noted that the proposal gets more "bang for the buck" if more land that is cheaper can be protected, rather than less land on the urban fringe that is more expensive but is likely to be developed within the policy period. It was decided that the proposal would not specify where the protected land should be. It was also suggested that the straw proposal should include some data about what current rates of development are.
 - b. AFW-7: In-State Liquid/Gaseous Biofuels Production. A member asked what biodiesel feedstocks could be used in Florida. Members noted that waste grease, landfill gas (converted to biodiesel), jatropha and algae are appropriate feedstocks for the state. CCS mentioned that for the purposes of quantifying GHG benefits, we have to have some assumptions about what fuels these biofuels would be replacing. CCS also noted that the second goal of petroleum displacement might not match up with the first goal, which is based on the amount of biomass usage. A member suggested looking at the biofuels section of the University of Florida report "Opportunities for GHG reduction through Forestry and Agriculture in Florida," noting that we probably don't want to overshoot their suggested upper limits with our goals. Member suggested adding the following goals in addition to replacing 25% of fossil-based liquid fuels with bio-based fuels by 2025: replace 2% of diesel consumption with biofuels by 2012 and replace 10% of gasoline consumption with ethanol by 2010. A member noted that the proposals need to include a statement about not utilizing invasive species, such as e-grass, in an attempt to meet the goals under both AFW-4 and AFW-7. A member suggested that the list of feedstocks to consider include forest products and crops since we don't necessarily want to limit it to just non-merchantable wood.
 - c. AFW-8: Promotion of Advanced Municipal Solid Waste Management Technologies (including Bioreactor Technology). A member noted that after talking to bioreactor experts, the greatest impact under this option



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would be to improve efficiency of landfill gas collection rather than focus just on improving bioreactor technology itself. The phrase “cradle-to-grave” was included to emphasize GHG reductions in every phase of solid waste management. It was agreed that some of the items initially included under policy design would be moved to implementation mechanisms.

- d. AFW-9: Improved Commercialization of Biomass to Energy Conversion & Bio-Products Technologies. Members commented that methane digesters are a proven technology and wanted to open this straw proposal to include community digesters, noting that there might be some overlap with AFW-8 Bioreactor Technology. Members noted that it is difficult to set goals on technologies that aren't mature such as plasma arc technology. For immature technologies, the group could focus on incentivizing technologies such as providing funding for R&D. CCS noted that the group can also include recommendations for the Action Team that may not be quantifiable. Members suggested utilization of 50% of solid MSW and 50% of wastewater treatment plant biosolids by 2025. This number may be adjusted later in the process during quantification.
- e. AFW-10: Programs to Support Local Farming/Buy Local. A TWG member noted that Florida already maximizes ‘buy local’ in terms of providing local products to Florida and that there is not a lot of room for improvement in this area. A discussion ensued on the potential for improving food-miles from meat and dairy production. A member noted that Florida sends meat out of state for packing and that part of the year Florida has to import milk. It was also mentioned that there are no feedlots for Florida calves. Florida calves are sent out of state to be fed then brought back in as meat. A member noted that if the calves are kept in Florida then feed would have to be brought in to feed them. The proposal could focus on “maintaining” local food production, but there isn't a feeling that Florida's market share is at risk. The group could transmit to the Action Team the challenge of trying to come up with a way to design this, or could write a policy to globally encourage production of local products in the state. A member suggested a policy that removes barriers to local production, noting that dairies are shutting down and their land is being developed, so Florida is losing some in-state milk production. Others noted that preservation of agricultural production, whether the products are consumed in-state or not, can help remove barriers to in-state production.
- f. AFW-3: Forest Management for Carbon Sequestration. The group did not have an opportunity to go through AFW-3 on the last call, so it was covered during today's call. A member noted that there have been reports from the University of Florida on the role of production forests in carbon sequestration. It was noted that 2025 is a relatively short timeframe in terms of achieving GHG benefits through changes in management in long-



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rotation forests. U. of Florida papers say switching from low-intensity management to high-intensity management of silvicultural land (production forests) can increase carbon sequestration from 27 tons of carbon/acre to 37 tons of carbon/acre. The group decided to have two separate goals: one for forest plantations and another for state-managed forests.

5. CCS will update the Straw Proposal document with the changes discussed here, alert the group when it is re-posted to the website, and transmit these Straw Proposals to the Action Team on July 9th at their next meeting. We will fill in any missing details during our next Technical Working Group call on July 15th as well as report any feedback from the Action Team.
6. Public comments: none.

Next steps and agreements:

1. The next TWG meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 15th from 10:00 am- 12:00 pm.
2. Next FL Action Team meeting is Wed-Thu, July 9th-10th. The AFW TWG straw proposals will be presented on the 9th.
3. Dates for upcoming TWG conference calls:
 - a. July 15th, 10 am – 12 pm
 - b. July 29th, 10 am – 12 pm
 - c. August 12th, 10 am – 12 pm
 - d. August 26th, 10 am – 12 pm