



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

www.flclimatechange.us

DRAFT TELECONFERENCE MEETING SUMMARY
Government Policy
Technical Working Group Call #8
July 17, 2008

Members Attending:

Rich Unger	Tommy Burroughs	Pam McVety
R.E. LeMon	Brian Traylor for Carolyn Dekle	Rep. Dan Gelber
Robert Armstead for Susan Glickman	Joe McClash	Keisha Rice
Yvonne Arens for Kevin Thibault		

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP): Bruce Deterding

Florida Department of Transportation: Wei Chen

Center for Climate Strategies (CCS): Jeff Wennberg and Linda Schade

Members of the Public: Alisa Brown, Workforce Florida, Lisa Scoles, Isabel Cosio-Carballo, Steve Urse

Agenda Item#1: Introductions and Review of Agenda.

Jeff Wennberg welcomed the technical working group members, DEP and Florida staff, and the public. Jeff then called the roll of the TWG members and invited Florida State staff and the members of the public to introduce themselves and their association.

Agenda Item#2: Review Purpose and Goals.

Jeff Wennberg reviewed the meeting agenda, purpose and goals of the call which was to review Action Team #4 feedback on the TWGs work and move forward on Straw Policy Option development.

Agenda Item#3: Review and Approval of Call #7 Summary.

Jeff Wennberg asked for corrections to the draft summary of Meeting #7.

There were two name corrections and then the summary for Meeting #7 was approved.

Agenda Item #4: Review, Revise, and Approve Straw Policies

Jeff Wennberg reported that the main task of Call #7 is to incorporate the input from Action Team Meeting #4 and draft the Implementation Mechanisms and Related Policies and Programs sections for each policy.

GP-1 GHG Emissions Targets, Reporting and Accountability Measures

The Action Team discussed public benefits charges as an example of a funding mechanism. Jeff explained that the policy did not recommend a system benefits charge, but did recommend a dedicated funding source with the SBC cited as an example. Tommy Burroughs is involved in a study of this mechanism.

Discussion: A clearinghouse is needed through which local governments could report and share information. It could possibly be housed at DEP in coordination with the Florida Energy and Climate Commission (FECC). Coordination with local governments is also important. It was suggested that the language on page 14 could be incorporated here. That language is”

- Work with the Florida Association of Counties (FAC), Florida League of Cities (FLC), Florida League of Mayors (FLM), local governments and regional leagues of cities, and the RPCs to reach agreement on one or more standardized methodologies for emissions measurement and reporting (e.g., the ICLEI method), and fund software licenses. Encourage regional collaborations, particularly in more rural areas.

Discussion on data sources for tracking GHG emissions:

Bruce Deterding said he would check with DEP and report the current energy use or emissions tracking and reporting capabilities.

In coordination with GP-2 there needs to be a set of reporting systems to show Florida’s energy use and emissions progress to the general public. Florida could establish a KW per hour reporting system to track electricity consumption and GHG emissions. Information should be conveyed in a very simple graphic, such as a “United Way” type thermometer showing progress. Utilities would also be interested in a measure of demand charge (KW vs. KWH).

There is also a need to track liquid fuels and natural gas. Available data may include annual measures of congestion in urban areas (DOT) and transportation fuel sales (Department of Agriculture, Department of Revenue).

Does the state track types of vehicles? CCS through TLU TWG is creating a spreadsheet model (VEGA) that would take inputs like vehicle registration and characterize the whole state vehicle fleet. Florida does not have anything like that now – they use national data. And the fleet is likely to shift. The model allows the user to change inputs over time –

use and types of vehicles are factors which will be converted into fuel consumption estimates.

This should be available very soon as part of this process. VEGA tool is being created by CCS for this project.

Related Policies and Programs is already well completed.

GP-2 Public Awareness and Education

Jeff Wennberg pointed out that the Action Team requested religious leaders be added to target audiences.

Implementation Mechanisms:

R.E. LeMon volunteered to redraft text on a Public Awareness and Education Committee under the new Commission. He'd like to populate it with business, religious, state and local government officials, Florida legislators and communications people. The committee should be a state level entity that is charged with following the three step process – audience identification, determine what and how to communicate with them, and then measure which messages and tools work and which do not. R.E. will draft something that would move toward a coordinated effort. It would be an accountable program.

The initiative would live in the new Commission (FECC) rather than DEP.

A public relations firm should be hired to consult, set up a statewide campaign and test the effectiveness.

The Florida Climate Challenge concept should be added into this. Pam McVety proposed the idea and will resend R.E. her proposal.

Do we have specific information from the Department of Education? They need to be included as part of an education and awareness committee. Is there a curriculum for eco-literacy? Eco-literacy can be taught across the curriculum, i.e. economics, business, literature, etc. This will require a query to the Department of Education. Jeff asked Bruce if he could contact the Department of Education for a summary of their current efforts. Jeff suggested that this sounds like a related program in place.

Another possible related program is in the field of water management and conservation in science and biology courses. Materials and the curriculum are highly regarded and include a webinar.

Is this a place where we can document and promote for local governments the most effective strategies for reducing emissions? The work local governments are doing is

constrained by the fact that they don't know what the most effective steps are. There are gaps in information regarding the efficacy of different approaches.

GP-3 – Inter-Government and Inter-Sector Planning, Coordination and Assistance

Jeff Wennberg explained that the Action Team requested an implementation mechanism under GP-3 for religious institutions.

The Florida Council of Churches has been active and working with the National Council of Churches climate campaign, but the effort has dropped off. A Miami group called FUSE has formed is also working elsewhere in Florida. They do action plans for groups and do general education.

After some discussion it was decided that this concept may be more appropriate for GP-2. To clarify the role of each of the policies it was decided that the title of GP-3 would be changed to 'Inter-Governmental Coordination and Assistance.'

Implement the near-term proposals as soon as possible, perhaps relocating highlighted in the Implementation Mechanisms section. There needs to be more specificity on the types of implementation mechanisms that are recommended.

It was decided that the regional level was inconsistently referenced in the PODs. All references should be "state, regional and local."

It was suggested that the RPC's could play a role in gathering and coordinating information on the experience of local governments and serve as a clearinghouse for identifying and promoting the most effective measures.

It was decided to move the 'notes' text from description and design to implementation and related policy programs as appropriate.

There was a discussion about what is short and long term. Language in the Goals section should be moved to near-term Implementation Mechanisms but more specificity is needed. There was a concern about imposing underfunded mandates on local governments.

It was agreed to clarify the policy title by removing 'inter-sector' from name of GP-3.

GP-4 "Green" Business Development Policies

It was suggested that this clearinghouse function might be performed by Florida's network of Small Business Development Centers, or perhaps coordinated through them.

Implementation should include green training standards, i.e., LEED. This is a 3 year process to accomplish. Another implementation measure would be to require the use of green standards when awarding contracts for state construction projects.

‘Green jobs’ needs to be defined. There are already skilled labor shortages, so we will need to define what we mean and then provide training. Worker training and public education will be a key attracting these industries.

The Greener Pathways report from Wisconsin could be a resource. The report proposed a strategy for workforce development to support the same goal.

Jeff Wennberg commented that the bulleted list under ‘Types of GHG emission Reductions’ should be moved to policy design or implementation.

Robert will take a shot at redraft.

GP-5 – Introduce Core Competencies on Climate Change Into Professional Licensing Programs

Jeff said the Action Team had decided to move ESD-15a to the GP TWG since they were very similar. It was pointed out that the ESD TWG had identified a number of implementation mechanisms under 15a which could be incorporated into the ESD-5 policy. Rich Unger volunteered to redraft the policy to merge this with ESD-15a.

Agenda Item#5 Next Steps

Jeff Wennberg reviewed the next steps in the policy development process and the items the Action Team would be reviewing in their August 6 and 7 meeting.

The next meeting of the GP TWG is scheduled for Thursday, July 24, from 9:00 am – 11:00 am EDT.

Public Comment:

Bob Krasowski asked for clarification on Religious organizations in GP-3. Jeff explained that the section would be moved to GP-2. Bob expressed concerned special focus on religious groups to the exclusion of other civil society groups with similar environmental goals and purposes. Bob agreed to generate list of organizations.

Jeff Wennberg thanked TWG members for their excellent work. There being no further comments or announcements, Jeff Wennberg adjourned the call at 11:27 am.