

Chapter 1

Background and Overview

Action Team and Technical Work Group Deliberations

The Governor’s Action Team on Energy and Climate Change (the Action Team) held its first meeting of the Phase 2 process on February 1, 2008, followed by 9 months of intensive fact-finding and consensus building. During this period, the Action Team’s six Technical Work Groups (TWGs) were instrumental in developing specific findings and recommendations for Action Team consideration. The six TWGs are:

- Energy Supply and Demand;
- Cap-and-Trade;
- Transportation and Land Use;
- Agriculture, Forestry and Waste Management;
- Government Policy Coordination; and
- Adaptation Strategies.

The Action Team’s deliberations relied on a facilitated, stepwise consensus-building approach. With oversight by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the process was conducted by the Center for Climate Strategies (CCS), an independent facilitation and technical analysis team. The facilitated process was based on procedures used by CCS in a number of other state-level climate change planning initiatives, but adapted specifically for Florida.

CCS provided facilitation and technical assistance to each of the TWGs and the Action Team. The TWGs consisted of Action Team members as well as individuals with an interest in and expertise regarding the issues being addressed by each TWG. The members of the TWGs were appointed by the Action Team Chairman. The TWGs served as advisers to the Action Team and helped generate initial recommendations on priority policy recommendations for analysis. With the guidance and approval of the Action Team they developed draft proposals on the design characteristics and, where possible, quantified the proposed policy recommendations. Where members of a TWG did not fully agree on a recommendation to the Action Team, the summary of their effort was reported to the Action Team for further consideration and action. The Action Team then made all final decisions.

Through this process, the Action Team reached technical consensus on specific mitigation options and findings related to benefits, costs, and feasibility issues associated with the options, followed by the development of consensus on individual policy recommendations. The Action Team sought but did not mandate consensus, and it explicitly documented the level of support for individual recommendations and mitigation options.

The recommendations presented in this report underwent extensive scrutiny by both the Action Team, the TWGs, and through public comment. The TWG recommendations to the Action Team were documented and presented to the Action Team at each Action Team meeting. All meetings were open to the public, were properly noticed, and all materials for and summaries of the Action Team and TWG meetings were posted on the Web site of DEP as well as a special Web site set up by CCS.

Contents of the Report

This report presents the summation of the Governor’s Action Team on Energy and Climate Change Phase 2 work. The report is divided into eight chapters. Chapter 1 provides the reader with an overview of how the report is structured. Chapter 2 discusses the Inventory and Forecast data used and the assumptions behind that data. The next six chapters—Chapters 3 through 8—provide summaries of each TWG’s recommendations. A Glossary of technical terms has been provided following Chapter 8 to assist the reader.

Each TWG chapter summary has a companion Technical Appendix that provides a table listing all the proposed recommendations considered in each TWG along with the quantification of costs and benefits of each, where possible, and a descriptive definition of each recommendation. The Technical Appendixes are provided for those readers who want more detail on each recommendation. Following the Technical Appendixes is a listing of Acronyms and Abbreviations used in those documents.

Also, there is an Administrative Appendix that include Governors Crist’s three Executive Orders issued in 2007 and the Governor’s Action Team on Energy and Climate Change’s Phase 1 Report.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

CCS Center for Climate Strategies

DEP [Florida] Department of Environmental Protection

TWG Technical Work Group

[AU: These acronyms are here temporarily until we are ready to compile the acronym list for the whole report.]