



Connecticut Climate Change

Governor's Steering Committee on Climate Change MEETING MINUTES June 11, 2008

Meeting Participants

GSC Attendees/Designees: DEP Commissioner McCarthy, DPUC Commissioner George, OPM Undersecretary Mengacci, CCEF Chairman Bowles, Ned Hurle (DOT).

C4 staff participants: Don Casella (DAS), Bob Wall (CCEF), John Ruckes (OPM), Steve DelPapa (DOT), John Ruckes (OPM), Steve DelPapa (DOT), Lynn Stoddard (DEP), Tracy Babbidge (DEP), Paula Gomez (DEP)

Agenda and Notes

1) Public Comments

There were no public comments.

2) Approve Minutes

March 6, 2008 minutes - approved

May 21, 2008 minutes - approved

3) Engaging other agencies in climate action

- Draft letter from Governor to key agencies – change wording to “challenging economic climate.”
- List of key agencies – There are a few key agencies that will be essential in creating structural changes to how the state does business: DAS, DOT, DPW. These agencies will need to rethink contracts with significant impact on climate. In addition, there are key agencies that are big users of energy (80% of state electricity load comes from 5 agencies): Departments of Corrections, Higher Education (i.e., UConn, state universities, UConn Health Center), Public Works. Engaging agencies can be a tiered approach; 1) start with key agencies that can create structural changes – meet with these commissioners one-on-one, 2) meet with agencies that are big energy users, perhaps as a group, 3) meet with agencies that currently require significant travel to clients, such as DCF, DMR. Other agencies to add: DOIT.

- Technical assistance needed – Creating significant change in the way state does business will require more than a meeting with key commissioners. Agencies do not see it as their “business” to understand and rethink energy use, transportation, etc. They will need technical assistance. GSC discussed a number of ways that technical assistance could be provided: a technical assistance group, a best practices document (look at campus sustainability initiatives), advice on best practices and approaches from a steering committee made up of operations people with successful climate programs, hire people and embed them in key agencies to work within the system to create change.
- Coordination needed - There are many current initiatives that perhaps should be combined, such as DAS meeting with agencies to address fuel use, OPM meeting with agencies to address electricity use. Would be better to team up and address all of these issues comprehensively through one coordinated initiative. Start by working with DAS to coordinate meetings.
- Other strategies – Need to connect this to agency budgets in order to institutionalize the changes. Consider meeting with SEBAC and union to get them on board (changing the way we do business may lead to employee resistance) – maybe do this after structural changes and potential roadblocks have been identified. Need to look for outside funding and set a model for other states.
- Next steps
 - Develop tiered list for agency outreach.
 - Develop list of key issues to accompany Governor’s letter.
 - 1) Revise Governor’s letter and Commissioner McCarthy will talk with Governor. 2) Send Governor’s letter to key agencies (structural changes and big energy users) with a list of key issues to be used as a starting point for discussion (e.g., have you done an energy audit, do you have recycling program, does your agency provide incentives for public transit/carpooling). 3) C4 will meet with key agency staff people before the commissioners meet to provide an understanding of climate issues and develop an understanding of the agency. 4) Commissioners will meet.
 - Coordinate with DAS on meetings with agencies to address fuel use.
 - Establish a best practices steering committee – get names of people from GSC members.
 - Research best practices – green campus initiatives, etc.

4) **Strategy for implementation of PA 08-98**

- Adaptation subcommittee – This effort will involve people with expertise in natural resources, public health, etc. GSC does not want to stretch current resources (initiatives on GHG mitigation) too thin and agree that is it best to wait until RGGI rules have been adopted first RGGI auction has taken place before starting work on adaptation. This will allow for a

continued current focus on successful adoption of RGGI and availability of RGGI funds to support climate/adaptation initiatives.

- DEP is doing additional analysis on the GHG quantities, environmental benefits, and costs of actions listed in the stakeholder matrix. The analysis also includes research on GHG strategies and corresponding metrics from other states.
- NY and MD are currently developing GHG inventories, models, and co-benefit analysis. DEP will continue to learn from and coordinate with other state climate processes.

5) **Other**

- Federal climate legislation – One promising approach is to focus on the MA vs EPA court decision that requires EPA to regulate carbon dioxide as a pollutant. Federal regulation of carbon will push climate programs towards a SIP like process. CT should look for funding to use PA 08-98 as an entrée to develop a statewide carbon SIP program.

Next GSC meeting is September 10, 2008