

**SEPA IWG: Summary of Outcomes
CAT Meeting, September 18-19, 2008**

The SEPA IWG will have three types of “outcomes” to bring forward to the CAT: 1) policy and other recommendations for CAT consideration, 2) information products to help implement SEPA and climate, and 3) ideas for productive areas of future work. The attached table summarizes these outcomes for each of the six active IWG work areas covering SEPA measurement, disclosure, and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions; SEPA-related incentives and disincentives for “climate friendly” development; and treatment of climate change vulnerability and adaptation under SEPA.

The SEPA IWG will summarize its outcomes for the CAT in a report that describes the goals and process of the IWG, the IWG’s recommendations and products, main areas of discussion, and next steps. Key products will also be included as appendices. This final report will identify any needs for additional funding and identify areas for potential statutory or rule changes. The IWG also plans to prepare initial draft outlines or frameworks for two resources that can be used for implementing SEPA and climate in the future:

- A “roll up” framework that links emissions sources with measurement tools and mitigation strategies for projects and non-projects (e.g., plans and policies), and
- An outline of Ecology guidance on measuring, disclosing, and mitigating greenhouse gas emissions.

In addition to the future work in each work area outlined in the attached table, the SEPA IWG will be identifying cross-cutting issues that merit further work by the IWG, Ecology, or others. These include:

- Approaches to minimizing burden on small local lead agencies across all aspects of SEPA measurement, disclosure, and mitigation;
- Treatment of “avoided emissions,” “net emissions,” “sinks,” and related concepts across SEPA measurement, disclosure, and mitigation;
- Further development of strategies across all work areas for incentives and disincentives for climate-friendly development including exemptions, “green lists”, and upstream SEPA work that informs/influences SEPA at downstream project level (possibly building on decisions made by the LUCC group); and
- Further development of approaches across all work areas for addressing climate vulnerability and adaptation.

Summary of SEPA IWG Products in Active Work Areas

Bucket/Sub-bucket	Potential Recommendations	IWG Products Likely to be Developed by September 30 (Items with an “*” could be pulled together into a “roll-up table”)	Possible Post-September Work
<p><i>“What do we measure” (Sub-bucket 1.A)</i></p>	<p>Recommendation for development of Ecology guidance that would, at a minimum, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance and tools (e.g., worksheets) on what types of emissions sources are most relevant to measure for certain types of projects and non-projects. Guidance on how to make “pragmatic” decisions about what to measure at different stages of the SEPA process (e.g., determination of exemptions, threshold determination, EIS) for different types of projects and non-projects. References to external resources for determining what sources to measure for projects and non-projects (e.g., IPCC guidance, ISO, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of ghg emissions sources, including examples*¹ Test cases illustrating what emissions sources are most relevant for certain types of projects and non-projects (could be used for illustrative case studies)² Initial list of criteria for making “pragmatic” choices about what sources to measure for project and non-project proposal³ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise SEPA checklist (drafted by Ecology and reviewed by IWG) Develop or review additional components of SEPA measurement guidance

¹ See: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/2008CATdocs/IWG/sepa/0827081b_5th_revised_draft_table_of_emission_sources_v2.pdf

² See slides 5-20 of: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/2008CATdocs/IWG/sepa/082808_1a_what_do_we_measure.pdf

³ See: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/2008CATdocs/IWG/sepa/082808_1c_final_draft_criteria_for_types_of_emissions.pdf

Bucket/Sub-bucket	Potential Recommendations	IWG Products Likely to be Developed by September 30 (Items with an "*" could be pulled together into a "roll-up table")	Possible Post-September Work
<i>Measurement tools (Sub-bucket 1.B)</i>	Recommendation to develop simple emissions and mitigation measurement tools and resources in key areas.	Tools matrix showing available tools and their applicability/characteristics* ⁴	More detail on focus and functionality of simple tools the IWG is recommending

⁴See: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/2008CATdocs/IWG/sepa/082808_2a_tools_matrix.pdf

Bucket/Sub-bucket	Potential Recommendations	IWG Products Likely to be Developed by September 30 (Items with an “*” could be pulled together into a “roll-up table”)	Possible Post-September Work
Threshold Determination (Sub-bucket 1.C)	<p>Recommended approaches (along with pros/cons, examples, etc.) for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statewide consistency, and • Type(s) of significance standards 	<p>Descriptions and illustrations of options for statewide consistency and types of significance standards⁵</p>	<p>If necessary, further identification of recommended approaches for threshold determination (e.g., if not recommending one single approach approved by the IWG)</p> <p>Recommended approaches to exemptions, green lists, etc. as basis for making determination of DNS.</p>

⁵ See: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/2008CATdocs/IWG/sepa/082808_4c_sepa_threshold_standard_app_a_draft.pdf and, for a visual representation of threshold options: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/2008CATdocs/IWG/sepa/080827_4a_standards_decisions_thresholds.pdf

Bucket/Sub-bucket	Potential Recommendations	IWG Products Likely to be Developed by September 30 (Items with an “*” could be pulled together into a “roll-up table”)	Possible Post-September Work
<i>Mitigation (Bucket 2)</i>	<p>Recommendation for guidance and measurement tools to help lead agencies and project proponents select mitigation strategies. At a minimum, this would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effectiveness of strategies (i.e., how many tons are mitigated) • Cost and cost-savings from each strategy • Criteria/approach for assessing “new” strategies not already in the guidance • Approach for qualitative analysis of mitigation strategies in absence of quantification 	List of mitigation strategies linked to greenhouse gas emissions sources ⁶	Recommendations or resources on mitigation policy issues (e.g., use of offsets, mitigation sequencing, cap and trade, etc.)
“Leveraging SEPA” (Bucket 3)	Possible recommendations on which “leveraging SEPA” ideas have the most promise.	List of “leveraging SEPA” ideas ⁷	Further development of specific leveraging SEPA ideas

⁶ See: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/2008CATdocs/IWG/sepa/082808_3c_ghg_emissions_mitigations.pdf

⁷ See idea summary: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/2008CATdocs/IWG/sepa/summary_of_sepa_iwg_bucket_3_draft2.pdf

Bucket/Sub-bucket	Potential Recommendations	IWG Products Likely to be Developed by September 30 (Items with an "*" could be pulled together into a "roll-up table")	Possible Post-September Work
<p>Vulnerability and Adaptation (Cross-cutting)</p>	<p>Possible recommendation that vulnerability/adaptation be added to the SEPA checklist</p>	<p>Initial collection of resources describing likely changes to climate in Washington State. (These resources are on the SEPA IWG SharePoint site.)</p>	<p>Policy development and information resources on "vulnerability" measurement and adaptation strategies</p>