

Washington Climate Change Challenge Draft Climate Advisory Team Charter

Purpose

The Climate Advisory Team (CAT) will recommend to the Directors of the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) and Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED) the range of policies and strategies for the state of Washington to adopt or undertake to ensure the economic and emission reduction goals in Executive Order 07-02¹ are achieved.

Process

- The CAT is comprised of participants from business, the energy sector, agriculture, forestry, local governments, tribes, environmental groups, state agencies, members of the state legislature, and other stakeholders. CAT members represent a wide range of experience and sectors, and demonstrate enthusiasm for devising the solutions to climate change that result in greenhouse gas emission reductions, increased energy security and sustainable prosperity for Washington communities. Members of the CAT will participate directly and fully in the entire process as detailed in this Charter.
- The Directors of Ecology and CTED will co-chair the process and oversee its facilitation and management. The CAT will recommend a nonbinding set of specific actions to achieve the goals of the Executive Order to the Directors of Ecology and CTED for their consideration in developing recommendations for the Governor. The CAT process will seek but not mandate consensus on specific recommended actions, and reach for convergence to deliver the most powerful collective statement possible. If consensus cannot be reached on specific proposals, opinions of individual members will be respected as they emerge and will be reflected in the final recommendations to the Directors of Ecology and CTED. The CAT will use voting to determine the strength of any recommendation that does not have full consensus. The results of voting and specific barriers to consensus for actions will be documented in the final report, as needed.
- In addition to recommendations on achieving the goals of the Executive Order, the CAT and TWGs will also be expected to analyze and make recommendations on how to ensure that Washington can fully implement policies already undertaken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.²

¹ These goals were established through Executive Order 07-02, the Washington Climate Change Challenge announced by Governor Christine Gregoire on February 7, 2007:

- By 2020, reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the state of Washington to 1990 levels, a reduction of 10 million metric tons below 2004 emissions;
- By 2035, reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the state of Washington to 25% below 1990 levels, a reduction of 30 million metric tons below 2004;
- By 2050, the state of Washington will do its part to reach global climate stabilization levels by reducing emissions to 50% below 1990 levels or 70% below our expected emissions that year, an absolute reduction in emissions of nearly 50 million metric tons below 2004;
- By 2020, increase the number of clean energy sector jobs to 25,000 from the 8,400 jobs we had in 2004; and
- By 2020, reduce expenditures by 20% on fuel imported into the state by developing Washington resources and supporting efficient energy use.

² Many of these existing policy actions are enumerated in Section 2 of the Executive Order.

- A neutral and expert facilitation and technical analysis team by Ross & Associates Environmental Consulting and the Center for Climate Strategies will provide facilitation, information, analysis, and management necessary to support the CAT's deliberations.
- The CAT is supported by Technical Working Groups (TWGs). It is expected that members of the CAT will participate directly in one or more TWGs or designate staff to participate.
- The CAT will provide the Directors of Ecology and CTED with initial recommendations by October, 2007, and its final recommendations by December, 2007, and deliver a final report by January 2008 that details its recommendations for achieving the goals of the Executive Order.
- The process is anticipated to consist of approximately five one-day CAT meetings, and a sufficient amount of interim TWG meetings over the same time period.

Scope and Objectives

In developing its recommendations, the CAT will consider Washington's unique emission portfolio and economic opportunities, build on work done previously to address climate change in Washington, take into account relevant solutions that have been accomplished regionally and nationally, and give priority to policy actions that:

- Maximize the efficiency of emission reductions, including market-based systems, allowance trading, and incentives;
- Meet multiple goals both within and across sectors; and
- Make sense for Washington and for Washington's economy.

The CAT will not debate the science of climate change or the goals, but will instead focus on identifying actions that allow Washington to reach the goals, and provide leadership and a long-term vision for how Washington will rise to the challenges and opportunities of addressing climate change.

External and Internal Communication.

All meetings of the CAT and TWGs will be open to the public and announced in advance on the Ecology/CTED climate change website (www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange). All of the meeting information and work products will be posted to the website, including agendas and minutes.