Overview of the Washington Climate Change Challenge

Governor Chris Gregoire declared Washington’s commitment to address climate change on February 7, 2007, by signing Executive Order No. 07-02. The Executive Order establishes goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs), increasing clean energy jobs, and reducing expenditures on imported fuel. It also specifies objectives for preparing for climate change impacts, coordinating regionally and nationally, and advancing public outreach and awareness. The Executive Order directs the Washington Departments of Ecology (Ecology) and Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED) to lead the Washington Climate Change Challenge, a process that will engage business, community and environmental leaders in considering the full range of policies and strategies that may be adopted to achieve the goals established by Governor Gregoire.

Ecology and CTED have formed the Washington Climate Advisory Team (CAT) to assist with the development of specific action-oriented recommendations for climate change mitigation and GHG reduction policies for Washington. This broad-based group of Washington leaders is charged with developing a comprehensive set of state-level policy recommendations to deliver to Ecology and CTED by January 2008.

The Makeup of the Climate Advisory Team

The Climate Advisory Team includes: co-chairs Jay Manning (Ecology) and Juli Wilkerson (CTED); and members Rod Brown (Washington Environmental Council), Reverend Alexander J. Brunett (Archbishop of Seattle), Vicky Carwein (WSU Tri Cities), Senator Jerome Delvin (Washington State Legislature, ex-officio), Representative Doug Ericksen (Washington State Legislature, ex-officio), KC Golden (Climate Solutions), Dennis Hession (City of Spokane), Sara Kendall (Weyerhaeuser), Bill Kidd (BP), Mike Kreidler (Office of the Insurance Commissioner), Jim Lopez (King County), Dennis McLerran (Puget Sound Clean Air Agency), Representative Kelly Linville (Washington State Legislature, ex-officio), Bill Messenger (Washington State Labor Council), Chad Kruger (WSU Center for Sustaining Agriculture & Natural Resources), Steve Nicholas (City of Seattle), Larry Paulson (Port of Vancouver), Senator Craig Pridemore (Washington State Legislature, ex-officio), Michael Rawding (Microsoft), Aaron Reardon (Snohomish County), Steve Reynolds (Puget Sound Energy), Rich Riazzi (Chelan County
PUD), Mike Rousseau (Alcoa), Doug Sutherland (Department of Natural Resources), David Moore (Boeing), Terry Uhling (Simplot), and Terry Williams (Tulalip Tribe).

Each caucus of the House and the Senate has named liaisons to the CAT. Representative Doug Ericksen and Senator Jerome Delvin have been appointed to represent the Republican Caucus, and Representative Kelli Linville and Senator Craig Pridemore have been appointed to represent the Democratic Caucus.

Project management for the CAT is being provided by Janice Adair (Ecology) and Tony Usibelli (CTED).

Meeting Objectives and Attendance

The Climate Advisory Team (CAT) held its seventh meeting on December 4 and 5, 2007, at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center in Seattle, WA. The meeting was open to the public.

All members were present at the seventh meeting except Rev. Alexander J. Brunett (Sister Sharon Park, alternate), Kelli Linville (Maralyn Chase, alternate), Michael Rawding, Bill Kidd (Ralph Moran, alternate) and Mike Kreidler (Chris Carlson, alternate). Members of the public and interested stakeholders in attendance included private citizens and representatives from the Technical Working Groups, Preparation and Adaptation Working Groups, Avista Corporation, National Wildlife Federation, Washington State University, Cascadia Center, Seattle-King County Public Health, King County Labor Council, Sustainable West Seattle, Washington Environmental Council, Climate Solutions, Chelan Public Utilities, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Alcoa, Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility, Sierra Club, City of Seattle, Northwest Energy Coalition, Prima Technology, Washington Forest Protection Association, Nucor Steel, WSDOT, Weyerhaeuser, Transportation Choices Coalition, The Nature Conservancy, Cascade Land Conservancy, Association of Washington Cities, League of Women Voters of Washington, Episcopal Church, Lutheran Church, Earth Ministry, and Business Leaders for Climate Progress.

In advance of this meeting, CAT members began to organize and sort the reviewed and affirmed Technical Working Group (TWG) policy options in order to elucidate powerful statements about what will have to occur to ensure that the State of Washington achieves the economic and emissions reduction goals in Executive Order 07-02. At this meeting, the CAT discussed, amended, and agreed to the powerful themes, or ‘headlines’, which best described the CAT’s conviction around what will have to be accomplished and the set of strategies necessary to advance each headline. The CAT also refined draft directional recommendations, and discussed a path forward for codifying the CAT’s conviction around a Comprehensive Climate Approach for Washington.

Welcome

Juli Wilkerson and Jay Manning welcomed CAT members and the public, and emphasized that this particular CAT meeting would be the most important thus far. They thanked CAT members for their efforts and expressed anticipation about the work of the next two days.
Option Revisions and Draft Integrated Analysis

Michael Lazarus of the Center for Climate Strategies (CCS) provided an overview of the completion of the Technical Working Group (TWG) work, and results of the integrated analysis.

Following the November 14-15 CAT meeting, the TWGs revised some of the policy options to reflect CAT member input. The work of the TWGs is largely complete. The TWG policy option description documents and the overall matrix of options have also been updated to include those changes.

The integrated analysis of the GHG emissions reductions of the TWG options has been conducted, accounting for major overlaps within and between sectors, and accounting for recent actions. The result of anticipated GHG emissions reductions from all quantified options and recent actions is nearly 50 MMTCO₂e reductions, which is a 20% reduction below the 1990 levels of 88.4 MMTCO₂e. Part of the reason for this significant potential reduction is that Washington’s significant hydro-based emissions profile makes it easier to get relatively deeper percentage reductions. The productive farms and forests in Washington also provide a resource base that can reduce more GHG emissions on a state and per-capita level. It is important to remember that this anticipated total assumes complete and fairly immediate implementation of all options and recent actions. Implementation delays could reduce the anticipated reductions. In addition, these tons will require hard work to accomplish. Several of the policy actions representing significant emissions reductions are politically challenging and will require a sustained effort to implement.

In conducting the integrated analysis, two types of overlap between options were addressed: overlap between options within a sector, and overlap between sectors. For example, the Agriculture and Forestry TWGs both looked at producing cellulosic biofuels. If these fuels are produced within the State, they would contribute toward transportation option T-11, a low carbon fuel standard.

Electricity supply and demand interactions were analyzed using a series of scenarios to estimate how the power system might respond to different resource mixes. This analysis is available at the conclusion of the Energy Supply TWG policy options description document. The integrated analysis did not include the potential positive or negative impacts that the options might have on each other; this would be the next level of analysis.

The integrated cost analysis of overlap among quantified policy options has been started, and will be completed within a few weeks. CCS has been examining other studies which use a bottom-up approach in assessing costs, and the results are roughly comparable to those in other recent US studies. The CAT noted that as part of the discussion of costs and cost savings associated with emissions reductions, the costs of inaction should be made explicit.

Fuels Goal Analysis

The fuels goal baseline analysis and projections has been completed. Executive Order 07-02 includes the goal of reducing expenditures on fuel imported into the State by 20% by 2020. Gross consumer expenditures for fuel consumption in 2004 (excluding fuels consumed for electricity) were approximately $10 billion per year. Under a business-as-usual scenario, this figure is estimated to increase to $14 billion per year in 2020 (assuming a price of $50 per barrel of oil). Recent mitigation actions taken in Washington could achieve a 12% reduction in
expenditures on imported fuels, and recent actions and CAT strategies combined could achieve a 28% reduction in expenditures, assuming that biofuels are grown and manufactured in-state, as described in the Forestry and Agriculture options. The CAT commented that in the discussion of the fuel import goal, the trade-offs between food and fuels needs to be noted. If more crops are grown for fuel this may result in an increase in imported food products. In addition, because Washington agriculture is driven by specialty crops as opposed to commodity crops, the role and opportunity for biofuels may be limited.

**Jobs Goal Analysis**

The jobs goal baseline analysis and projections has also been completed. Executive Order 07-02 includes the goal of increasing the number of clean energy jobs to 25,000 by 2020. For consistency, the jobs analysis specifically examines jobs created in the clean energy sector as defined by the 2004 report referenced by the Executive Order, and does not include indirect impacts to other sectors, direct jobs from CAT options outside the clean energy sector, indirect job gains from increased consumer spending, job losses due to shifts away from emissions-intensive activities, or regional impacts. Assuming the same relationship between spending, efficiency, and jobs that exists today, the number of clean energy jobs resulting from recent actions and strategies is expected to increase to approximately 31,000, with the most significant growth projected to occur in the energy efficiency services sector.

CAT members requested that potential job creation that falls outside of the clean energy services sector be included, even though it falls outside of the specific jobs goal definition. CAT members commented that the analysis seemed conservative, and expressed hope that as analytical work continues beyond the January timeframe, the additional anticipated job gains from the proposed strategies can be reflected.

**Discussion of Headlines and ‘Most Promising’ Strategies**

The CAT reviewed and discussed the results of the homework assignment. Prior to the meeting, CAT members revised and refined “headlines” to capture the essence of the bold statements members wish to make, and identified associated policy strategies which might accomplish the headlines if implemented, and ranked which strategies are ‘most important’ under each headline. Sixteen homework responses were received and collated. Responses demonstrated significant convergence around headlines and strategy placement, and notable convergence around ‘most promising’ strategy selection and justification.

The CAT will present these headlines along with the draft recommendations, below, for public review and comment in December. In the interim report, each headline will be described in further detail using the associated priority strategies and justifications identified by CAT members. The CAT discussed the balance between fully capturing the substance and thinking of the group, and having more concise messages. The CAT noted that the final report should err on the side of more description and that communications pieces assembled for public outreach can be shorter. CAT members agreed on the importance of ensuring that the final interim CAT report is accessible and compelling.

The CAT discussed each revised headline and the aggregated results of the ‘most promising’ priority strategies under each:
Headline #1: Plan and build livable communities in which options such as walking, biking and public transit are affordable, efficient and reliable alternatives to the single occupancy vehicle for many of the trips people now make in their daily lives

The first three headlines address transportation. The first headline received the most suggestions for rewording in the homework responses, and has been revised to capture the notion of creating livable communities with multiple transportation alternatives. The CAT discussed additional revisions to the headline to underscore the notion of continuing to build and re-design existing communities. The headline will be updated to incorporate CAT member input. The CAT expressed support for the associated strategies.

Headline #2: Ensure Washington has vehicles that get better mileage and use non-carbon or lower carbon intensity fuels developed sustainably from Washington’s crops and forests

In addition to referencing Washington State forests and crops, CAT members suggested including more general Washington resources as well, such as academic resources and research and development. To consider Washington participation in regional and national systems, CAT members discussed broadening the headline to encompass regional resources while acknowledging in the description the need to emphasize the State’s particular areas of competitive advantage.

Headline #3: Shift Washington’s transportation investments from moving vehicles towards moving people and goods and make the most efficient use of our existing transportation infrastructure and capacity

The CAT discussed the need for some transportation capacity expansion but emphasized that a more important goal is improving the efficiency of the existing transportation system. The CAT noted that funding and pricing are critical elements of the transportation strategy, and are important messages to communicate.

Headline #4: Design, build, upgrade and operate new and existing buildings and equipment to maximize energy efficiency

CAT members agreed with the headline, and noted that all the options prioritized as ‘most promising’ supported the headline, with the exception of RCI-11.

Headline #5: Meet power supply requirements through the efficient use of fuels and from non-carbon or lower carbon intensity fuel sources

To accommodate homework discussions, the fifth headline was rewritten to more accurately reflect non- and low-carbon fuel sources, but during the meeting, CAT members suggested adding thermal or non-transportation energy, and suggested a rewording of the headline that is closer to the original version. CAT members also recommended adding ES-3 to the list of promising strategies under this headline.

Headline #6: Restore and retain the health and vitality of Washington’s farms and forest lands to increase the sequestering and storage of carbon, to reduce the release of greenhouse gas emissions and to support the provision of biomass fuels.

Based on homework responses, the word “restore” was added to emphasize the need to reverse the degradation of agriculture and forest lands, especially within the context of a changing climate. The concept of restoration and the importance of natural systems will also be included more broadly as a theme in the report.

Headline #7: Reduce waste and Washington’s global warming pollution through improved product choices and committed environmental stewardship
CAT members suggested amending the headline in order to place more focused emphasis on product and resource stewardship rather than environmental stewardship generally.

**Headline #8 (Suggested): Build villages that have smart, integrated and networked energy supply and use patterns**

CAT member Jim Lopez suggested an eighth headline that presents a vision of an integrated future in which the CAT's strategies populate a vision of a carbon-constrained economy and how it would assist local communities. CAT members commented that this was more of a visionary statement than a headline recommendation, and noted that the concept is also contained under headline number one. CAT members agreed to incorporate the seven headlines and strategies, and use this concept as an overarching vision in the report, challenging the readers to “imagine a future”.

**Review and Discussion of Draft Directional Recommendations**

The CAT reviewed an annotated outline for the report and discussed the draft directional recommendations for a Comprehensive Climate Approach for Washington. These recommendations were drafted on the basis of CAT discussions at the October and November meetings. At these meetings, the CAT discussed and embraced the concepts, such as the use and role of markets, the need for emissions reporting, and the importance of developing and training the workforce.

CAT members provided general comments on themes to highlight in the report. The CAT discussed emphasizing that there are many options that create cost savings or net economic benefits, and these should be pursued as ‘low-hanging fruit’. It is important for the CAT to emphasize collateral benefits to air quality and habitat protection, among others. The CAT also supports a balanced approach across all sectors.

Washington’s role should be considered not only regionally in WCI, but also in a national context. Washington needs to help define what happens nationally so that Washington’s unique strengths will be recognized. The CAT can emphasize the uniqueness of Washington's GHG footprint in order to demonstrate why Washington's solutions are different, not only from other states but internationally as well. There is an opportunity to highlight Washington’s uniqueness in creating jobs and fostering trade.

The CAT emphasized the need to address equity issues. Many of the strategies may have a disproportionate impact on the poorest and most disadvantaged citizens. Impacts to tribal culture should also be considered. The State should identify what these impacts are and devise strategies and mechanisms to alleviate them.

The CAT discussed, refined, and affirmed the specific directional recommendations:

**Draft Directional Recommendation #1: Build Market-based Mechanisms to Unleash Investment in the Creativity and Innovation of Washington’s Economy to Deliver Cost-Effective Emission Reductions**

The CAT suggested that Washington’s participation in the development of national climate change legislation and cap-and-trade be made explicit under this headline. The CAT also noted that the limits on GHG emissions are needed in order to create a market for carbon. The discussion should reference the intersection of government regulation and free-market
innovation, and note that market mechanisms will play a large role, but are predicated on the constraint of carbon. In addition, a functioning carbon market will be dependent upon businesses seizing investment opportunities and pursuing options that enhance their ability to maximize business objectives within the new economy. The CAT noted the interdependence between the various elements of business, regulations, individuals, and academic and research institutions in moving forward with market-based mechanisms.

Draft Directional Recommendation #2: Establish Emissions Reporting so that Progress in Emission Reductions Can be Tracked and Acknowledged
CAT members emphasized the importance of a uniform reporting system that would interface with other initiatives. There is a potential concern that by designing emissions data collections, the State may inadvertently make program design decisions, and that the broader requirement to periodically inventory the State’s emissions needs to be referenced.

Draft Directional Recommendation #3: In Reviewing and Approving Significant Development Projects, Consider Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Mitigation Options Early in the Planning Process
The CAT discussed broadening the wording of the recommendation, and including transportation projects explicitly since they fit within the scope of governmental actions. The CAT expressed interest in using the lessons learned in California in order to avoid similar pitfalls. Responsibility for regulating required actions for climate change and GHG emissions is currently a controversial issue in California, and the CAT recommends that Washington be proactive in avoiding similar challenges.

Draft Directional Recommendation #4: Invest in Worker Training for The Emerging Clean Economy to Ensure Having the Skilled Workforce and to Provide Meaningful Employment Opportunities Throughout the State
This particular section highlights the directional nature of these recommendations as a roadmap for going forward as opposed to specific implementation. It is not necessarily the CAT’s role to define what the job opportunities will be, but that the CAT can be an important voice of support for the infrastructure that will be required, such as strategies to develop the workforce training, science curricula and resource prioritization. A systematic approach to building a new economy should be brought forward in a powerful way. The CAT noted that workforce development is an important component of the CAT’s strategy of bringing together government policy, entrepreneurial investment, and capital development.

Draft Directional Recommendation #5: Give the State Sufficient Resources To Stay A Leader Regionally and Nationally and to Fulfill Its Responsibilities for Structuring Implementation of Emission Reduction Strategies
CAT members suggested that this recommendation be made more forceful by plainly stating the urgency associated with accomplishing GHG reductions and the need for sufficient resources to deal with the issue that is already upon us. In particular, the window for influencing cap-and-trade design is available now, and therefore must be funded now. The Governor’s emphasis on limiting new spending during the upcoming legislative session should not impede the CAT from prioritizing its recommendations, even those with potentially large associated costs. In addition, the CAT should bear in mind that its recommendations are not a single, isolated request for funding from the legislature, and that resources can be reallocated for important priorities.

Draft Directional Recommendation #6 (proposed): Accelerate the transition to the Clean Economy by raising self-sustaining investment revenue to stimulate the next generation of progress
CAT members discussed that supporting the transition to the clean economy will require specific actions, such as transportation pricing, that will be necessary in order to generate revenue and jumpstart investments. The CAT discussed other options to generate revenue, such as shifting taxes to redirect revenue from areas that exacerbate the problem of GHG emissions to areas that contribute to solutions. The CAT agreed that several of the concepts put forward have great potential, but a longer and more detailed effort will be necessary in order to parse the issues and options for the 2009 Legislative session and will therefore be a major agenda item for the CAT going forward in 2008. CAT members suggested highlighting this as a major issue in the interim report and the need to find new, creative revenue sources to support solutions.

Discussion of 2008 Early Actions

The CAT discussed whether to recommend any strategies for consideration by the Legislature in the 2008 session, next steps, and the approach by which the CAT can harness its 2008 efforts most productively.

CAT representatives from the environmental community briefly recapped the process through which the environmental community determines its annual legislative priorities. Two of the 2008 priorities are climate related. The representatives noted that they consider these actions essential and supporting, but that they are not meant to be comprehensive or exclude other efforts. The first is the creation of the framework for a cap-and-trade system through the WCI and the second involves land use and GMA. Several different CAT members expressed interest in discussing the legislative proposal, and suggested that CAT members have a leadership responsibility to engage in a dialog that moves business and the environmental community forward together. The CAT Co-Chairs offered to convene a meeting for those members interested in discussing the framework legislation further outside of the CAT forum, given that this effort represent an additional level of activity, and that the CAT will not reconvene again until January 25, when the legislative session will already be underway.

The CAT noted that early action can be thought of more broadly than just in the context of the 2008 Legislative Session. Early action can be seen as work that needs to be accomplished in preparation for additional work, and can include crafting a well-thought out plan for implementation in the near term. It will not be possible for the CAT to draft a specific workplan by January, but it will be possible for the interim CAT report to discuss the need to move forward in a broader sense, and to call on Ecology and CTED to set priorities and a timeline for the CAT's work going forward in 2008. The CAT wants to be responsive to the public's sense of urgency. The CAT wants to send a message to the public that the CAT is not going to arrive at all of the answers in 2008, but it will work to continue to work to engage with citizens and translate technical and policy elements that will allow for meaningful action to proceed.

The CAT discussed making full use of its next meeting on January 25th to discuss the path forward for the CAT's work in 2008. CAT members who volunteer to continue will reconvene in April to focus on translating the CAT's recommendations into specific policies. An important consideration in preparing for this work will be securing funding, and aligning funding with the needs identified in the CAT's recommendations. Moving forward with the CAT's strategies will require additional resources and staffing. A stop-gap strategy to continue working on climate change and the CAT's recommendations may be necessary, since any requests for additional staff and resources authorized by the Legislature will not be available until July 1. It will also be important to bring in resources from other state agencies and work with committed partners in order to continue the CAT's work.
Recommendations from the Preparation and Adaptation Working Groups

Janice Adair (Ecology) summarized the outcomes from the Preparation and Adaptation Working Group (PAWG) process and draft recommendations on how Washington can prepare and adapt to the impacts of climate change. The PAWG effort in Washington is unique; Washington is one of the first states that has attempted to address adaptation through such a broad effort. Themes that have emerged among the recommendations made by the various PAWGs include emergency preparedness and planning, monitoring and research, education and outreach, and institutional flexibility. While the cost of adaptation is overwhelming, there are investment and public policy decisions that the State can make to put itself in a better position in the long run. The PAWG report will be released for public comment at the same time as the CAT report. The CAT report will not explicitly endorse the recommendations in the PAWG report, but it will acknowledge the connections between the two reports and the importance of preparation and adaptation.

Recommendations for Education and Outreach

Janice Adair also provided an update on the education and outreach effort that has been conducted in response to Executive Order 07-02. Ecology and CTED met with several stakeholders around the State who are engaged in public education efforts around climate change in order to get a better sense of what is currently being done. Strategies for public education and engagement are still evolving.

Next Steps and Future Work of the CAT

The CAT discussed completion of this phase of the process, and the continuation of the CAT through the end of 2008. The first draft of the interim CAT report will be posted online in late December for a public comment period. The draft interim report will also be sent to CAT members for review at the same time. An updated and revised draft will be provided to CAT members following the public comment period, along with a high-level summary and links to the public comments for CAT members to consider. A final updated report will be sent to members before the January 25 meeting.

The CAT thanked the TWGs for their hard work in crafting the strategies, which formed the foundation of the CAT’s recommendations. The commitment and hard work of the TWG members who participated on calls, conducted analysis, and drafted documentation, made the CAT successful. The CAT also thanked the TWG facilitators from the Center for Climate Strategies and Michael Lazarus in particular for heading up the team.

The CAT also discussed its continued role to advise the State on policy direction, and its work continuing in 2008 to refine viable climate strategies into programs to be implemented in 2009 and beyond. Jay Manning repeated the invitation to any CAT members who are interested in continuing to work in 2008 to translate the CAT recommendations into policy. The proposal is to create “translation” working groups around either CAT recommendations or sectors. Work will begin in April, when these groups will be asked to engage substantively with businesses and
citizens to refine the policies. The State will consider which additional entities should also be invited to participate. In particular, State agencies with relevant technical knowledge could play an important role in vetting the options under their purview. The CAT will continue to be a leadership role.

Public Comment

Members of the public provided comments to the CAT in the early afternoon on December 4 following the headline discussions:

Jim Lauinger, Mayor of Kirkland, pointed out that Kirkland set a standard by signing Mayor Nickels’ climate protection initiative several years ago and has enacted other policies such as those relating to density. However, Mayor Lauinger emphasized the need for State leadership to put real teeth into GMA planning policies. Kirkland’s comprehensive plan, for example, barely covered global warming, and the Regional Council’s plans did not include climate change. Mayor Lauinger stressed that it is critical to endorse policies that utilize green design and construction, and progressive farm and forest policies.

Doug Howell of the National Wildlife Federation delivered two messages on behalf of NWF’s constituency. First, support is broad, and action is urgent. For example, NWF counts twelve sportsmen’s groups in Washington State that support the need for action. Secondly, new scientific information has emerged demonstrating that the IPCC’s estimates are conservative. Arctic sea ice studies now find that summer ice in the Arctic will disappear by 2020. In other words, the tipping point is now, and the actions of the CAT will define this society’s legacy.

Carla Pryne, an Episcopal priest, commented that there are many people of faith who consider climate change to be a huge issue. In Grays Harbor and elsewhere, churches are providing food and shelter to those displaced by flooding and will continue to do so as disasters become more frequent. Climate change is a moral issue. The sources of the problem are not new and are found in the relationship between all things that are made and within nature. The solution is to call people to a right relationship with all things living. If climate change is something that has a solution, than all people are going to have to find the languages that speak to their constituencies. She urged the CAT to be bold, not to procrastinate, and know that there are thousands of people of faith supporting this effort.

Margaret Kitchell, from Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility, addressed the CAT in order to bring the language of health into the conversation. The CAT’s work will affect the health of the State of Washington, and in addition to the economic benefits there will also be co-benefits to health from measures to address climate change, such as decreased air pollution, promotion of physical activity, and decreased heart disease and diabetes. Ms. Kitchell encouraged the CAT to involve the Department of Public Health and health care workers.

Toni Potter of the League of Women Voters of Washington thanked the CAT for its work and expressed support for its strategies and concepts. Ms. Potter stressed that time is of the essence and suggested picking some items for immediate action. She hoped that the legislators present would push for something to be done in the upcoming legislative session. For example, the legislature could push efficiency standards for appliances and send a message to the Washington Utility Commission that decoupling is a good idea and could happen quickly.
Marian Wineman found many of the recommendations promising and wanted to emphasize that she disagreed with any delays. Ms. Wineman hopes that her daughter will have the opportunity to live in the same Pacific Northwest that is known today. She is a skier and outdoor enthusiast and has been somewhat disappointed in the decreased snowpack. She is also concerned with the impacts of global warming on human health. Noting that many of the proposals and processes that are going on around the country have suggested further study, Ms. Wineman urged the CAT to pass strong, aggressive, early action in the next session and emphasized the strong social and health costs associated with a delay. She also urged the CAT be a leader in the regional process and stated that delays in action are detrimental to economics. She concluded by stating that there are TWG strategies that could clearly be implemented in the 2008 session.

Doug Johnson of the Consumer Electronics Association commented that the CEA has appreciated the focus on products and looks forward to contributing to this discussion. CEA has been strong supporters of efficiency and consumer education and is also looking at how much energy can be saved and emissions reduced. CEA is concerned about references to appliance standards and does not believe this is the best approach to the electronics industry because of the industry’s dynamism. CEA looks forward to sharing its concerns with respect to the data contained in the CAT report. The data is from mid to late 1990’s and CEA believes the CAT should have the most recent information.

John Merrell of Prima Technology (a member of CEA), commented that Prima builds around 5% of the world’s television sets, yet under the e-waste law that was enacted, Prima is not considered a manufacturer. Prima believes that a manufacturer should be defined as a company that represents a television manufacturer.

Aden Kohr, a fifth grade student, commented that global warming is one of the most dangerous trends that humans have encountered and there are many solutions. Mr. Kohr has a project that he has been working on and is also making a petition to send in to elected officials. He is building support and asked for the CAT’s support.

Adrian Miller of the Washington Forest Protection Association commented that generally speaking WFPA supports the Forestry TWG document, with three suggestions. First, WFPA believes that cap-and-trade should be voluntary, not regulatory. Second, it is important that the breakout of landowner conversion rates be done by landowner category, essentially splitting between large and small. The current breakout misrepresents where land conversion is greatest. Third, WFPA supports reforestation but feels that restoring forests to historic patterns is not accurate, and should be defined as reforestation in any manner.

Mark Haggert, a fisherman, commented that he appreciated the CAT’s efforts. Mr. Haggert commented that in 2006 in Washington State there were 745,000 sport fishermen that added millions of dollar to the economy. However, state and world fisheries are in trouble, faced with global warming in addition to other stressors. Given Governor Gregoire’s commitment to protect the ecological and economic heritage of salmon, she needs to combat climate change, to show leadership and serious commitment to limits on carbon. This will be her legacy to Mr. Haggert’s children and grandchildren.

Dick Burkhart, a retired Boeing engineer, commented that he had not heard much discussion on the oil situation. Most petroleum geologists believe that by 2020 world oil production will be in serious decline and the price of oil will be increasing and will possibly reach two to three hundred dollars per barrel. Mr. Burkhart believes that in many ways this will help the CAT’s
efforts. The price of driving will go up, and demand for alternative transportation will go up. Renewable demand will increase. The most difficult issue is coal, as there are still significant reserves and demand for coal will increase, which is worse for global warming. There are other consequences such as the stagnation and eventual contraction of the global economy. There will be less wealth to go around, less jobs, resistance to taxes, and fewer resources to finance new initiatives. In addition, there are a couple of proposals being discussed with respect to cap-and-trade. In Europe there is currently a discussion about a global cap-and-trade system between countries. In England there is a discussion about individual carbon allowances. Finally Mr. Burkhart stated that the CAT needs to think longer-term about how to engage the populace.

Carol Jensen, a Pastor at Saint John Lutheran Church, commented that the Lutheran denomination views global warming as a threat to God’s creations. She emphasized that everyone needs to partner together to reduce carbon emissions for the sake of all things on the planet. Churches also have a significant role to play in terms of educating members on steps to reduce energy consumption. It is important for government leaders to consider various ways in which all religious organizations can help with this cause, not only liberal organizations but also conservative. Of particular concern to the religious community is the impact of climate change on the poorest and most vulnerable populations.

Rogers Weed of Business Leaders for Climate Progress commented that clean technologies, businesses, and services can make an impact on global warming. Clean technology is seen by the business community as a huge opportunity, and a combination of well crafted policy, capital, and entrepreneurial energy can unlock this potential. If Washington adopts strong policies supporting clean energy, as has been done in California, the clean technology sector can move forward.

Members of the public provided comments to the CAT at the close of the meeting on December 5:

Sister Linda Haydock gave the following statement:

“As the Executive Director of the Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center I represent over one thousand religious leaders as well as a faith-based constituency whose concern is the common good of people and our planet.

“We are grateful to Governor Gregoire, the Climate Change Team and advisors for their proactive engagement of the Climate change issue and for setting goals for a reduction of green house gas emissions.

“I would like to speak to both the urgency and the necessity of bold action to reduce green house gas emissions. For us it is a moral imperative to approach the issue from the perspective of interdependence. Any and all planning and funding must take into consideration those who are poor and vulnerable. They already suffer from environmental degradation and they must not incur a disproportionate economic burden as we address solutions to green house gas emissions.

“We concur with the U.S. Catholic Bishops and the Washington State Catholic Conference that the moral measure of our movement forward in addressing the issue of a people and planet in peril is the care of all God’s creation and the common good.
“We recommend an integral approach to the debate and policies for climate change which encompasses an analysis of the social, economic, cultural, and political systems. As a faith community we support and are working for solutions to green house gas emissions that promote economic, social and environmental justice.”

Stephen Grumm gave the following statement:
“I am Reverend Stephen Grumm, a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, living in the northwest quadrant of the city of Seattle, known today as Ballard and serving Our Redeemer’s Lutheran Church.

“A foundation that informs Hebrew and Christian lives of faith in the Lutheran Church, comes from the Judeo-Christian tradition, the Bible, and begins with these words, ‘First this: God created the Heavens and Earth – all you see, all you don’t see – and God saw that it was good.’ We understand all life, all that sustains life, to come from a God who continues to be fully present in the renewal of that life.

“In spite of this understanding and trust in the source of life, it is becoming abundantly clear that life, sustainable life on this earth, is more and more at risk each day. The warming of our planet threatens life as we know it: whether breached levies in southern Louisiana that brought death and untold destruction to flora, fauna, human life and a way of life; or a tsunami in Indonesia that destroyed lives, villages and economic sustenance; wild fires that scorch the land and communities in southern California; or the rains of the last three days that threatened the living spaces of my neighbors (For the third time now in the last seven years I hear weather reports describing present conditions as the one hundred year flood. Is the next description, the five hundred year flood?) Climate change and global warming is a serious problem to all...in the City of Seattle, the County of King and the State of Washington.

“The people I serve in Ballard are taking this threat to life and community seriously. In 2003 residents created Sustainable Ballard, a non-profit resident driven organization which includes over one thousand households of participants receiving a newsletter, and over thirty organizations committed to creating the town of Ballard to be energy interdependent. Urgent action is needed. The people I serve at Our Redeemer’s are conducting an energy audit, recycling program, and car-less worship Sundays as we act to make our lives more sustainable.

“In the last State legislative session our elected representatives passed legislation to create Clean Air/Clean Fuels, cleaning up and preserving the Puget Sound, millions of dollars to preserve wildlife habitat and eliminating Toxic Flame Retardants as well as the creation of this Action Team. As you know this is the tip of the melting iceberg. People who make up the Christian Faith Community in Washington are making the connection between God’s gift of creation, sustainable living and care for the most vulnerable. This is a serious problem and mandate. It will take deep change, community support and governmental action. I urge you to act now as we work together through a life-threatening crisis toward a sustainable way of life for all creation.”

Mike Ruby gave the following statement:
“Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I must confess that I’ve been ignoring you. Some months ago I looked at the membership of the Climate Advisory Team and its advisory groups and concluded we had good people doing this job so just stay out of their way. More recently some of my friends asked me to look over some of the materials being produced. Unfortunately I have come away from that quick look with some concerns. Let me make three points in the short time I have.
“First, I believe one of your tasks was to be willing to tell the emperor that he doesn’t have any clothes on. As near as I can tell, you have not commented on the goals for greenhouse gas reductions adopted by the State legislature. These goals were the result of inevitable legislative compromise. They show leadership by the standards of our federal government and the U.S. generally but they place us as a follower by international standards. The conversations going on this week in Bali are reported to be moving forward toward a more realistic view of what is needed if we are to avoid even more serious difficulties than we have already bought. The next international treaty will almost certainly require more of us than achieving 1990 levels of emissions by 2020. If we do not begin now working to find the way to respond to that more difficult goal we will most certainly find it much more difficult to compete economically with those who have a head start on us along a lower carbon path. Washington is an export economy. We need to act simply out of self-preservation.

“Second, while I could go into some detail about individual recommendations from your technical working groups that I feel are not as aggressive as the current state of engineering knowledge and experience would allow, I will restrict myself to arguing that you should take a serious look at including the potential additional draft recommendation: ‘Accelerate the transition to the Clean Economy by raising self-sustaining investment revenue to stimulate the next generation of progress’ and specific actions under that heading. The British Columbia government is looking into a carbon tax. We would not be alone in giving that consideration. As an economist I recognize that there are lots of problems with a carbon tax, lots of problems with cap-and-trade, and lots of problems with command and control. But a system that includes some of all of these options in different degrees will probably do the least damage to our economy in the long run.

“Let me say that during my past forty years of experience in working to solve air pollution problems what I know for sure that all the progress we made was because of new technologies, fuel switching and exporting our dirtiest plants to other places. The only thing we accomplished in trying to change personal habits is in reducing the number of people who smoke tobacco. Exporting CO2 emissions to other countries won’t work. It hasn’t. Plants have been closed in the U.S. and replaced by much dirtier and much less energy efficient plants in China and elsewhere. We not only lost the manufacturing jobs, we made the climate problem worse. We, Washington, must embark on a massive effort not only to discover clean ways to produce electricity and fuel from our available, sustainable resources but also to significantly improve the energy efficiency of our buildings and our industries. Washington must invest heavily in both basic and applied research. We are not going to get the help we need from the “other Washington” – and don’t get me started on the futility of that hope. We need to step out and take the leadership ourselves.

“Finally, I would like to make one comment about the greenhouse gases emission inventory you have been given. Where are the oil refineries? Maybe they are buried in Residential, Commercial and Industrial sector. They deserve to be separated out from the rest of industry and place in the specific industry sector. Other evidence that is available suggests that they are a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions in Washington State, at least as significant as the cement industry. You know the old saying, you can’t manage what you don’t measure.

“We are all called on to make significant sacrifices so future generations will have a planet they can live on in harmony. We look back at our parents and we acknowledge the shared sacrifices they made. We call them, as Tom Brokaw has said, the Greatest Generation. Unless we are
willing to take more aggressive actions than we have already I am afraid that our grandchildren will have a different image of us. More like ‘pigs at the trough’.

An unidentified speaker commented that it is important to understand that climate change may be worse than what is detailed in the IPCC reports. The climate record suggests that when climate changes on this planet, a number of feedback loops can exacerbate problems and lead to a quickening of the pace of change, and we need to be prepared for that. We also need to focus as much as possible on conservation, efficiency, and recovered energy. Solutions need to be based, as much as possible, on the best science available, and there is concern that we are led by moneyed interests. There is also the issue of depleting fossil fuels, and the lack of awareness among the populace. There will be a great call to dig up dirty sources of fossil fuels and we need to plan ahead of this so the population understands. Finally, the speaker expressed appreciation in the swing in political climate and urged the CAT to address this issue with honesty and with its best abilities.

Patrick Neville of the King County Labor Council commented that from labor’s perspective, we are on the cusp of a clean energy/technology revolution, and the tools are in place for Washington to be on the leading edge. Working people are concerned about breathing clean air and getting out from under OPEC, but are also concerned about jobs. Recognizing that this is a state-wide effort, there are several examples of the clean energy revolution. South Seattle Community College and Cascadia Community College have put forward the development of clean jobs programs, and research has shown that at least five new jobs in the sustainability field are created each month in Western Washington. Demand for installers and maintainers of HVAC systems is projected to grow. King County Labor Council has worked hard to preserve lands for industrial employment because of the increase in recent years in industrial jobs. Washington has a large opportunity for not only green collar technical and maintenance careers but also as a center for manufacturing. However, none of this can happen in a vacuum; we must foster it. We also must take initial steps to adopt emissions and efficiency standards. Labor calls on the CAT to take early action to begin building the foundation for Washington’s clean technology, energy, and jobs future.

Vicky Austin of Washington Recycling commented that her members look forward to being an integral part of converting their entire fleets to biodiesel and want to be part of the solution. She commented that last year they were asked to sit on the sidelines of this group, but want to be an active part going forward over the next year.

Brad Garlach, Director of WSU King County Extension, commented that he hoped to offer a solution and some help. One of the things he has observed in sitting through these meetings is that CTED and Ecology are going to be the initial repositories of some key reports and wanted to state that WSU has the ability to work across all aspects to generate new education and knowledge all the way down to green collar jobs, community education and participation. Mr. Garlach would like to offer a meeting with the CAT to talk about how WSU can best accomplish that work. Ron Simms came out to speak to WSU about climate change two weeks ago and was viewed by another two hundred via video feed, and this mobilized WSU interest very quickly. Through the C-CAT and the Center for Environmental Education and Outreach WSU was also able to contribute to the education and outreach report. There are two pilot projects that Mr. Garlach asked the CAT to consider. First, within King County WSU is in the process of linking resources developed at the university to green collar jobs, especially among lower income populations. Secondly, two counties are involved with WSU to pilot a grassroots education program, and WSU is in the process of creating ways to measure the impacts and results of that.
Phil Mitchell, founder of an online citizen’s social network with global membership, and founder and director of Climate Dialogues, commented on the citizen engagement piece. Mr. Mitchell stated that it is clear that a line at a microphone is not the best way to do robust citizen engagement and participation. Mr. Mitchell added that we do not yet have the political will to take the bold steps that we need to be taking, and this will is not going to happen by itself. He encouraged the CAT to think about a bold plan of citizen engagement that involves robust citizen participation where we reach out to the whole community as a security, economic, and social justice issue, in addition to the environmental issues.

Jim Hessler, Founder of Path Forward Management Consulting, stated that his business is to study the art and science of leadership. Mr. Hessler stated that in situations such as this we must courageously confront the issue and communicate to the entire organization the unvarnished truth, facilitate the best thinking of the organization, articulate a vision of a future state, then call the organization to act and hold them accountable for the results. Climate change calls for this type of leadership. We need to engage the business community with the full scope of the problem so they can embrace the whole concept of climate change. The business community hates waste and is risk averse, therefore there is a need to present this in terms of wastefulness and significant risk. Mr. Hessler has noticed a shift in thinking about this issue among his clients over the last few months, signaling an opportunity to teach the business community to think of this as an economic issue. In a sense, the interest of business people merges with the interests of society. While we can expect many businesses to be resistant to change, we should strongly urge a visionary and comprehensive approach to climate change. Do not be afraid to challenge, as people are desperate for true leadership. He noted that we must create an example of true leadership that inspires and challenges us.

Toni Potter of the League of Women Voters of Washington emphasized funding for the CAT’s proposals. Ms. Potter noted that she had not heard anything about a constitutional convention on a gas tax and she would be interested in more action around tax shifting, especially taxing in order to change behaviors. In Germany, for example, there is a disposable fast food packaging tax. Finally, she urged the CAT to look for information on gleaning additional ways to fund its recommendations.

Eric Michael commented that he would like to focus on the broad business aspect of climate change and that carbon regulation is inevitable. Regulation will spur investment and create more opportunities to prosper in carbon constrained economy as well as making companies more energy efficient.

Jodi Snyder of Pierce County Solid Waste commented that she was excited about some of the things she had heard. Ms. Snyder added that she hoped that the CAT will engage the public in this process, and is particularly interested in the agricultural waste work. She hopes that the CAT will look to solid waste agencies during the next step for talent, enthusiasm, and resources as it moves into engaging organizations with its expertise.
Document Appendix

The following materials were distributed to CAT members at the meeting (these materials can also be found on the Washington Climate Change website and at the links provided below).

December 4-5, 2007 CAT Meeting Agenda
(www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/CATdocs/111507RCIOptions.pdf)

December 4-5, 2007 CAT Meeting Presentation
(www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/CATdocs/120407_presentation.pdf)

Draft Matrix of CAT Mitigation Options
(www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/CATdocs/MatrixofCATpolicyoptions.pdf)

Summary of Changes to TWG Policy Documents since the November 15-16 CAT Meeting
(www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/CATdocs/100407Policy_Option_Quantification_Methods.pdf)

Draft Fuel Import and Jobs Goals Memo
(www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/CATdocs/CATjobsandfuelimports.pdf)

CAT Homework Assignment Memo
(www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/CATdocs/CAThomeworkmemoandworksheet.pdf)

CAT Homework Results
(www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/CATdocs/120407_CATHomeworkResults.pdf)

CAT Homework Summary
(www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/CATdocs/120407_CATHomeworkSummary.pdf)

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and Projections Update
(www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/CATdocs/120407_InventoryAndProjectionsUpdate.pdf)

Draft Recommendations and Annotated Interim Report Outline
(www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/CATdocs/120407_DraftRecs_InterimReportOutline.pdf)