

MEETING SUMMARY
Washington Climate Advisory Team (CAT)
Agriculture Technical Work Group (AW TWG)
Call #6, September 19, 2007, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Attendance:

1. Technical Working Group members: Wade Alonzo, Vicky Carwein, Tim Crosby, Jim Davis, Jon Ewald, Chad Kruger, Sally Sharrard
2. Facilitation team (Center for Climate Strategies):
Katie Bickel
Carrie Lee
Steve Roe
Brad Strobe
3. Washington State Agency (ECY/CTED) liaison and attendees:
Chery Sullivan

Background documents:

(all posted at http://www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/cat_twg_agr.htm)

1. Agenda
2. PowerPoint presentation (including agenda) for meeting
3. Draft Priority Options
4. Summary of AW Call #5

Discussion items and key issues:

1. The meeting started with a roll call of participants and a presentation of the agenda for the meeting.
2. CCS provided an overview of the Summary of TWG Call #5, as posted on the AW web page. The TWG had no comments on the Summary, and the Summary was accepted.
3. CCS provided an update on the Sept 7 CAT meeting and an outline of the next steps for the WA CAT process. The CAT affirmed the remaining AW policy options (AW-2, 5-7) at the Sept 7 CAT meeting. CCS led the TWG through a brief discussion of the specific CAT feedback and comments on the policy options. During this call the TWG was asked to identify which policy options would be ready for full CAT review at the Oct 4 CAT meeting. All remaining options, including the completed quantification of GHG impacts and costs, will be reviewed by the CAT at the Nov 15-16th CAT meeting. In order to provide an opportunity for TWG members to respond to CAT feedback prior to the final CAT meeting on Dec 4, the November TWG call will be rescheduled to either November 19th or 20th.

4. CCS reminded TWG members that at the TWG level all implementation mechanisms, including regulatory and incentive based mechanisms, can be considered.
5. CCS provided an overview of the process of policy option quantification of GHG impacts and costs. TWG member discussion and review of initial quantification methods and results included the following points:

AW-2:

- TWG member volunteer groups need to clarify and expand text outlining implementation mechanisms
- Policy option text should be clarified to provide justification for the goal volume outlined in the policy design and to identify which type of bio-fuel this policy option specifically refers to.

AW-3:

- TWG members reviewed initial quantification results provided by CCS and offered to provide additional data resource related to the estimated value of compost

AW-4:

- TWG members discussed concerns and challenges with quantification of this option specifically related to baseline calculation and changing implementation mechanisms depending on the status of federal programs. TWG members felt that several key uncertainties related to the implementation of this option were not fully represented in the current text.

AW-5:

- A TWG member will be working with CCS to provide quantification estimates of this option over the next week.

AW-6:

- TWG members discussed the challenge of finding data sources at the state versus the farm level to quantify the impact of this policy option. TWG members discussed the potential to consider the impact of using on-farm technology such as GPS systems in equipment. A TWG member provided information on additional data sources for information on on-farm energy use types.

AW-7:

- TWG members suggested that the analysis be done separately for the east and west sides of the state. A TWG member recommended a data source for information regarding the impact of development on farm land conversion rates and carbon storage.

AW-8:

- TWG member discussion of this option will continue after this call prior to the next CAT meeting. TWG members considered moving this option forward as a non-quantified option.
6. TWG members agreed that policy option AW-3 was ready for full CAT review at the Oct 4 CAT meeting.

Next steps and agreements:

1. CCS will circulate a revised AW policy options document to the TWG reflecting discussion during this TWG call and further refinement of quantification for AW-3. The draft document will be sent to TWG members for their review and input before it is posted for review by the CAT.
2. CCS will continue to complete quantification of the remaining policy options. CCS will continue to ask for TWG member input to provide additional data sources.
3. TWG member volunteer groups will collaborate and submit completed draft text for the sections of the policy options that remain to be completed to CCS including: Implementation Mechanisms (by Oct. 10th), Contribution to other goals, Additional benefits/costs, and Feasibility issues (by Oct 15th).

Next meeting:

The next TWG meeting is set for Wednesday, October 24 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. In order to accommodate for the revised CAT meeting schedule, the November TWG meeting will be rescheduled to either November 19th or 20th.