

Washington Climate Change Challenge Draft Adaptation Working Groups' Work Plan

Washington Climate Change Challenge
Preparation/Adaptation Working Groups Work Plan
May 30, 2007

Establishing the Washington Climate Challenge

On February 7, 2007, Washington Governor Christine Gregoire announced Executive Order 07-02.¹ This Order charges the Directors of the Washington Departments of Ecology (ECY) and Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED), working with other agencies, to confer with a broad range of stakeholders to develop the Washington Climate Change Challenge.

ECY/CTED has formed the Washington Climate Advisory Team (CAT) to assist with the development of specific action-oriented recommendations for climate change mitigation policies and plans for the state of Washington, and to recommend actions to achieve statewide goals contained in the order for greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions, clean energy jobs, and fuel import reductions.

The Executive Order also directs ECY/CTED to reach out and work with other agencies and stakeholders to propose strategies for climate change preparation/adaptation, and specifically to:

- Determine specific steps the state of Washington should take to prepare for the impact of global warming, including impacts to public health, agriculture, the coast line, forestry, and infrastructure
- Assess what further steps the state of Washington should take to be prepared for the impact of global warming to water supply and management

Purpose

ECY/CTED have formed Preparation/Adaptation Working Groups (PAWGs) to examine the impacts of climate change and recommend to the Directors of ECY/CTED the specific steps the State of Washington should take to prepare for its impacts. ECY/CTED recognizes that there is still much to learn about adapting to expected climate change and expects the process to result in recommendations as to how the state can move its understanding forward. Over the course of the process, the members may delineate future research needs, but are not expected accomplish that work as part of this process.

The PAWG recommendations will be included with the recommendations from the CAT into the final report of the two agencies to the Governor by February 7, 2008.

Process

The Departments of Agriculture, Health, Natural Resources and Ecology will lead PAWGs, which will be structured across five sectors where the ECY/CTED Economic Report² and the

¹ http://www.governor.wa.gov/execorders/eo_07-02.pdf

² <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/0701010.pdf>

Climate Impact Group at the University of Washington (CIG)³ indicate the greatest impacts for Washington state⁴. The leads from each agency will be responsible for organizing and facilitating meetings, providing information to ECY staff for posting announcements and information on the climate change website⁵, documenting group outcomes, and communicating and disseminating outcomes to ECY/CTED.

- **Forest Resources** (Anthony Ilfie, lead)
- **Agriculture** (Kirk Cook, lead)
- **Human Health** (Gregg Grunenfelder, lead)
- **Water Resources and Quality (Freshwater)** (Tom Laurie, lead)
- **Coastal and Infrastructure** (Tom Clingman, lead)

PAWG members will represent expertise and experience in each adaptation area, and demonstrate enthusiasm for devising recommendations for adapting to climate change impacts. Members of the PAWGs will participate fully and consistently in this effort by attending meetings and staying current with the information provided to the group.

Relationship of the Climate Impacts Group and the Adaptation Working Groups The PAWG process will include the CIG to assist in understanding the current level of knowledge around climate change in Washington State and help frame the issues around adaptation. In addition, HB 1303, which was signed by the Governor on May 7, 2007, directs ECY/CTED and CIG to coordinate their adaptation work⁶. CIG and ECY/CTED will jointly set priorities for their adaptation work, which will be informed by the PAWG process.

CIG will provide valuable support to each PAWG. Each work group will include a CIG researcher who will also act as a liaison to the broader expertise of regional climate change, impacts on resources, and strategies for adaptation contained within CIG. CIG will be available as a resource to each PAWG throughout the process, including:

- Suggestions for PAWG membership
- A common language for what it means to adapt and prepare, and a high-level orientation to cross-cutting impacts to serve as a common starting point and inform cross-cutting work and interaction between PAWGs throughout the process
- A climate impacts baseline that summarizes projected climate change impacts for each PAWG in the short-term (2020s), medium-term (2040s), and longer-term, and development of a common set of assumptions underlying these projected impacts
- Key discussion questions to help the PAWGs frame sector-specific vulnerabilities
- Suggested adaptation strategies for each PAWG to consider
- Case studies to illustrate opportunities and/or barriers
- Feedback on PAWG recommendations and conclusions

³ CIG is an interdisciplinary research group studying the impacts of natural climate variability and climate change in the Pacific Northwest. <http://www.cses.washington.edu/cig/>

⁴ The issues listed below for each PAWG are not intended to be all encompassing.

⁵ http://www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/cat_overview.htm

⁶ <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/billdocs/2007-08/Pdf/Bills/House%20Passed%20Legislature/1303-S2.PL.pdf>;
<http://www.governor.wa.gov/billaction/2007/veto/1303.pdf>

The CIG is available to assist the PAWGs identify information needed to answer critical questions and potential sources of that information (e.g. when each PAWG identifies its threshold of vulnerability, CIG can provide the needed information if readily available, assist in identifying and accessing additional existing research resources, and/or indicate the timeframe and resources required to develop that information).

ECY/CTED will oversee and support the PAWG process by selecting PAWG leads; determining appropriate PAWG representation in consultation with other agencies and CIG; recruiting, inviting, and organizing PAWG membership; supporting the PAWG leads throughout the process; and working with the PAWG leads to finalize reports of each PAWG. Additional facilitation, organizational and technical analysis support will be provided by the Center for Climate Strategies/Ross & Associates Environmental Consulting (CCS/R&A), as resources allow.

The PAWG will follow a consensus-building process to facilitate learning, collaboration, and task completion by PAWG members. PAWG members will meet regularly over the course of the next several months as frequently as necessary to perform the following tasks:

- Identify the key issues/vulnerabilities in each sector by reviewing the climate impacts baseline for each PAWG provided by CIG and with the assistance of CIG, reach agreement on what it means to be vulnerable to climate change and to adapt and prepare
- Agree on a set of limited, but fundamental issues/ vulnerabilities in each sector for further examination, and for each of these, define a vulnerability threshold (where possible) and identify data sources, methods, and key underlying assumptions
- Identify specific adaptation issues/approaches/expectations for each of these fundamental issues/vulnerabilities:
 - Propose a desired outcome(s) for WA in the impact area
 - Review existing state mechanisms that explicitly or indirectly might be applied to prepare/adapt for anticipated impacts;
 - Review existing adaptation strategies and evaluate for application in Washington
- Specify opportunity areas and additional steps for WA
 - Define prioritization criteria for selecting adaptation strategies
 - Select 2-3 near-term high-priority adaptation strategies or next steps for recommendation
 - For each recommended adaptation strategy:
 - Identify what is needed for implementation, barriers to implementation, which state agencies need to be involved in implementation, and who in addition to state agencies needs to be involved or included
- Identify critical research needs for the sector area
 - With CIG, identify what we need to better understand for planning/preparation in each sector by identifying existing knowledge gaps (what we know we know, what we know we don't know, and what we don't know we don't know)

- Identify critical information gaps that need to be filled, and/or opportunities for case studies.
- Participate with ECY/CTED and CIG in a cross-sector dialog (leads and select PAWG members) to identify additional strategies that are broad and cross-cutting
- Prepare a draft final report of findings with suggested recommendations for consideration by the Directors of CTED and Ecology. In order to make the preparation of the draft final report as painless as possible, it is highly recommended that the leads for each PAWG devise a system to draft the report as the process progresses rather than wait until the end.

Initial recommendations from the PAWGs with budget or legislative components are to be ready by October (at this time, all proposals related to this project are expected to go to OFM as a package rather than through individual agencies). The final recommendations must be submitted to ECY/CTED by the end of the 2007 calendar year. CTED/ECY will determine which of the PAWG recommendations will be included in the final report of the two agencies to the Governor.

Process Principles and Guidelines

The PAWG process will include the following key principles and guidelines:

- The process will be transparent. All materials considered by the PAWGs will be posted to the project website. Public comments will be submitted and posted via the joint ECY/CTED climate change website.
- The process is inclusive. PAWG members will be chosen by ECY/CTED with input from the other agencies as well as the Climate Impacts Group at the University of Washington to represent as broad a spectrum of interests and expertise in Washington as possible.
- The process is stepwise. PAWG members are asked to attend meetings and stay current with information provided to the group and the decisions of the group in order to allow the process to move forward.
- The process will strive for consensus. The PAWG process will seek but not mandate consensus. PAWG members should be supportive of the goals of the Executive Order, but members are free to disagree on specific decisions within the process. If consensus cannot be reached on specific proposals, PAWG members will be asked to explain any divergence in their final recommendations, and identify alternative views and specific barriers to consensus, as appropriate.
- This process is implementation oriented. PAWG recommendations should focus on strategies that can most effectively and immediately move the state (at all levels) forward in integrating climate impacts into future decision-making in straightforward and meaningful ways.

Relationship of the Climate Advisory Team and the Adaptation Working Groups

The CAT will be kept apprised of the work of the Adaptation Work Groups (PAWG) through a briefing at each CAT meeting. In addition, some members of the CAT will participate in some of the PAWGs. However, the PAWGs will be independent of the CAT. ECY/CTED will provide the policy direction and support to the PAWGs. ECY/CTED will integrate the final recommendations from each PAWG and the CAT into a final report that the two agencies submit to the Governor.

External and Internal Communication

All of the PAWG meeting information and work products will be posted on the ECY/CTED climate change website.⁷ Information for upcoming meetings must be posted at least five working days in advance. Leads are asked to copy Janice Adair (ECY)⁸ and Tony Usibelli (CTED)⁹ on all PAWG communications, including meetings announcements. Any questions or issues surrounding the PAWG process should be brought to Tony and Janice as the lead staff for this project in their respective agencies.

Key Milestones

HB 1303 recognizes that the adaptation work may require a longer time frame to accomplish than that set out in the Executive Order. However, ECY/CTED expect to have an initial set of recommendations to include in the final report of ECY/CTED, with project details for finishing any other work being done under HB 1303 by December 15, 2008 as required in the legislation.

The process is anticipated to consist of sufficient PAWG meetings, as determined by each PAWG lead, to accomplish the goals for each PAWG. Milestones for the PAWG process and a suggested timeline for meeting the PAWG objectives are listed below. Any PAWG should feel free to condense any of these timelines but should not exceed them in order to assure a final product when one is required:

LEAD ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING – May 10, 2007

- Introduce leads to the proposed PAWG process
- Presentation by CIG of the climate change issues for each adaptation area
- Discuss the connection between the CIG and PAWG work and joint priority setting
- Identify goals for each PAWG

⁷ Leads can send all emails related to Climate Change website postings to: Hedia Adelsman - HADE461@ECY.WA.GOV, Teri North - teno461@ECY.WA.GOV, Cally Whiteside - cwhi461@ECY.WA.GOV, Nancy Jackson - njac461@ECY.WA.GOV and cc: David Workman - DWOR461@ECY.WA.GOV, Carolee Sharp - CaroleeS@CTED.WA.GOV

Any content for Climate ListServ postings can be sent to: Teri North - teno461@ECY.WA.GOV and cc: Hedia Adelsman - HADE461@ECY.WA.GOV and Carolee Sharp - CaroleeS@CTED.WA.GOV

⁸ jada461@ECY.WA.GOV

⁹ TonyU@CTED.WA.GOV

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- Discuss and identify membership for each PAWG

INVITATIONS TO PAWG MEMBERS - Weeks of May 28

- PAWG leads and CIG provide membership suggestions and the date/time for the first meeting to ECY/CTED
- Invitations to participate will be sent on behalf of Jay Manning and Juli Wilkerson with a cc to the appropriate agency lead by ECY/CTED

CAT MEETING TWO – June 5, Spokane

- PAWG briefing to CAT (to be done by ECY/CTED)

PAWG KICK-OFF MEETINGS – Mid to late June [date TBD by PAWG Leads]

- Introductions of members
- Purpose of and charge to the PAWG, review of the approach to fulfill the PAWG charge, and relationship between the CAT and PAWG
- CIG overview of what it means to adapt and prepare, and a high-level orientation to cross-cutting climate impacts in Washington State
- Review of the CIG sector-specific climate impacts baseline and identification and review of additional available research
- Next steps for the PAWG, including meeting frequency and schedule

JULY

- Each PAWG reaches agreement on a set of limited but fundamental issues/vulnerabilities for further examination
- The vulnerability threshold, data sources, methods, and key underlying assumptions are identified for each fundamental issue

CAT MEETING THREE – August 7, SeaTac

- PAWG briefing to CAT (to be done by ECY/CTED)

AUGUST

- Each PAWG identifies what is known about adaptation issues/approaches/expectations by
 - Reviewing existing state mechanisms that explicitly or indirectly might be applied to prepare/adapt to the sector-specific climate impacts; and

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- Reviewing existing adaptation strategies and evaluating for application in Washington
- Defining prioritization criteria and proposing desired outcome(s) for WA in the impact area

SEPTEMBER

- Each PAWG begins honing in on opportunity areas and additional steps for WA, and critical research needs for the sector area

OCTOBER

- Initial recommendations with budget or legislative components are identified
- Continued identification of opportunity areas and additional steps for WA, and critical research needs for the sector area

CAT MEETING FOUR – October 4, TriCities

- PAWG briefing to CAT (to be done by ECY/CTED)

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER

- Fall/early winter workshop with all PAWG leads, ECY, CTED and CIG to identify convergence of issue-specific findings, identify additional strategies that are broad and cross-cutting, and discuss which strategies should be pursued by CIG with funding provided to it under HB 1303 and which may need additional funding or other legislative support.

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

- Finalize selection of 2-3 near-term high-priority adaptation strategies or next steps for recommendation, and for each strategy:
 - Identify what is needed for implementation, barriers to implementation, which state agencies need to be involved in implementation, and who in addition to state agencies needs to be involved or included
- Finalize identification of critical research needs, identifying:
 - What we need to better understand in each sector by identifying existing knowledge gaps (what we know we know, what we know we don't know, and what we don't know we don't know)
 - Critical information gaps that need to be filled, and/or opportunities for case studies.

CAT MEETING FIVE – December 4, SeaTac

- PAWG briefing to CAT (to be done by ECY/CTED)

DECEMBER 14, 2007

- Each PAWG delivers their draft final report of findings with suggested recommendations for consideration to ECY/CTED.

Final Report

The ECY/CTED report is due to the Governor by February 7, 2008. The PAWG process is designed to be complete by the end of the 2007 calendar year. The recommended policy options of both the CAT and PAWG will be compiled and summarized in the final report by ECY/CTED. All participating agencies will be provided the opportunity to comment on the draft report relative to their PAWG and will receive a copy of the final report.