

CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION IN US STATES

THE ROLE OF THE CENTER FOR CLIMATE STRATEGIES (CCS)

The Center for Climate Strategies is the nation's leading state climate planning technical assistance organization. The staff of CCS have been involved in virtually every state climate planning initiative since 2000, and is currently assisting six states with development and implementation of comprehensive climate change mitigation plans, and assisting two others with planning of specific programs. CCS is also providing comprehensive inventories and forecasts of greenhouse gas emissions to 11 other states, and acting as a resource for others considering action. See www.climatestrategies.us.

STATE CLIMATE ACTION PLANS

End Results

Comprehensive state climate plans include:

- An inventory and forecast of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from 1990-2020
- About 50 actions covering all sectors, using a variety of implementation methods
- Goals and targets to substantially reduce statewide emissions
- Reporting and registry systems to support implementation
- Measurement standards consistent with state, regional and national protocols

Planning Process

Developing a consensus based state climate action plan requires about 12 months of intensive collaboration. The process begins by convening representatives from key stakeholder groups – from environmental groups to representatives of cities, farm groups, industries, energy companies, and other private citizens – and building consensus around technical issues, such as economic opportunities for specific actions. CCS facilitates development of potential policy solutions jointly with a wide array of stakeholders in partnership with officials from governing organizations. At the conclusion of the planning process, CCS provides a detailed report with advisory group recommendations who then work with the Governor, state legislature and other authorities, as well as stakeholders, to implement actions. The process is

- Fact based
- Stepwise
- Consensus based
- Implementation driven
- Transparent
- Inclusive

Specific Actions

Together, the individual greenhouse gas reduction actions undertaken by US states to address climate change, energy, transportation and natural resource issues covers more than 250 specific state measures. A complete and comprehensive state climate action plan draws from these existing actions, along with newly conceived measures, to create a portfolio of actions that are integrated into an overall plan.

Key areas of action fall into one of the following six categories.

- Energy efficiency and conservation
- Renewable energy
- Transportation efficiency
- Industrial process improvements
- Waste reduction and recycling
- Forest and farmland conservation

State Climate Action Plans

To see examples of state climate action plans that have been completed or are in progress in the West, go to any of the following links:

ARIZONA Completed June 2006

www.azclimatechange.us

CALIFORNIA Completed December 2005

www.climatechange.ca.gov

MONTANA In progress

www.mtclimatechange.us

NEW MEXICO In progress

www.nmclimatechange.us

OREGON Completed 2004

www.oregon.gov/ENERGY/GBLWRM/docs/GWReport-FInal.pdf

PUGET SOUND (70 percent of Washington State Population and Economy)

Completed November 2004

www.pscleanair.org/specprog/globclim/cpsp/pdf/rptfin.pdf

Contact

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The Center for Climate Strategies (www.climatestrategies.us) is a program of Enterprising Environmental Solutions, Inc. (www.eesi21.com), a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization dedicated to sharing knowledge and identifying best practices in environmental protection and policy innovation. It is active in the areas of climate change, water and air quality, sustainable energy, land use and brownfields.

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