

Handout # 4

Maryland Commission on Climate Change

Mitigation Working Group Meeting #1

Mitigation Working Group of the Maryland Climate Change Commission

List of Outside Resource Assignments

Economic Messaging/ Review of Economic and Jobs Analysis:

- MWG and Commission Steering Committee has an interest in ensuring that the work from Towson University is reviewed by another institution or group and economic messaging is addressed.

Costs of Inaction Update:

- The MWG is interesting in making sure the cost of inaction from not addressing climate change is updated and addressed in the fall 2015 report (Commission and Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Act Reports).

Socioeconomic Issues/ Environmental Justice:

- The MWG is interested in ensuring that environmental justice issues are formally addressed in the mitigation process and the fall 2015 Commission report.

State of the Science:

- The MWG is interested in making certain that the most up to date climate science is used to develop the Commission report and any commission recommendations on future goals.

Other Needs

The following is a list of items listed in the Executive or the Maryland Climate Change Commission Act of 2015 that would also benefit from support from outside resources. These are items that State agencies do not have the resources to fully develop at this time:

- Development of broader public/ private/ state/ federal/ local partnerships
- Address challenges in low income and vulnerable communities
- The impacts on the state economy, revenue, and investment decisions
- Recommend short and long term strategies and initiatives to better mitigate the causes and address the consequences of climate change

- Deliver tools and assistance to local governments to support community-scale vulnerability assessments and the development and integration of specific strategies for enhancing resilience to the impacts of climate change into local plans and ordinances
- Develop annual performance benchmarks
- Develop a comprehensive action plan with five year benchmarks to meet a 80% by 2050 goal
- All agencies to integrate climate change in their planning, regulatory and fiscal programs
- DNR to issue Maryland Environmental Policy Act guidelines that require mitigation and adaptation climate change factors
- Communicating with and educating citizens about the urgency of acting to reduce the impacts of climate change
- Assessing the needs for utilities and other public and private service providers throughout the state to adjust their operating practices and investment strategies to mitigate the impacts of climate change on their customers and the public
- Assessing the impacts that climate change might have on agriculture in the state
- Establish science based sea level rise projections and update them every five year to include maps showing areas of greatest impact