

Maryland Commission on Climate Change Working Group Work Plan - 2016

Draft # 2 - March 3, 2016

Mitigation Working Group

Purpose

To recommend greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction strategies to the Maryland Commission on Climate Change (MCCC). These strategies should be designed to reduce GHG emissions while also supporting a strong economy and job creation in Maryland.

Membership

See Attachment 1. The Mitigation Working Group (MWG) is managed by two co-chairs (Stuart Clarke and Mike Powell) and a State lead (Tad Aburn).

Responsibilities

Identifying and analyzing GHG reduction strategies. This includes emissions analysis, economic analysis and a host of other analyses (reliability, social equity, impact on manufacturing, impact on rural areas, etc) identified in the Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Act (GGRA) and the Maryland Climate Change Commission Act of 2015.

2016 Priorities

The MWG is partially driven by the schedule in the 2016 GGRA legislation. This schedule calls for a draft plan by October of 2018 to achieve a 40% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030. The 2018 plan must also provide a net benefit to Maryland's economy and job creation in Maryland. The top 4 priorities for the MWG in 2016 are:

1. Identify and make recommendations on an initial set of strategies to achieve a 40% reduction in GHG emissions (that also supports a strong economy and job creation) by 2030. The strategies must be consistent with the requirements of the GGRA. As part of this recommendation, provide an assessment of how difficult or easy it will be to achieve the 40% reduction.
2. Identify and make recommendations on any new or enhanced GHG emission reduction strategies that could be implemented in a time frame to support even deeper reductions by 2020. Because the current plan shows that the State is on track to achieve the 25% reduction by 2020 required in the 2009 GGRA, these strategies would need to show clear positive impacts on the State's economy and on job creation.
3. Provide recommendation on three emerging analytical issues. These issues are enhanced economic analyses, additional analyses to insure that the States plan benefits all

individuals (social equity) and new accounting techniques to address methane leakage and methane life-cycle issues consistent with the GGRA.

4. Provide routine status reports to the MCCC summarizing the implementation status of each program in the current GGRA plan. Each implementing agency shall provide input for these reports on implementation status, emission reductions, economic benefits and job creation.

Attachment 2 also describes other elements of the work effort that the MWG will undertake in 2016.

Process

The MWG will build from the ongoing work of MDE, MDE contractors and other State agencies, while using the unique expertise of MWG members. The MWG will also use analyses from outside resources that certain MCCC members have made available. Topic area experts will also be brought in on many issues.

Attachment 2 provides a meeting by meeting summary of how panels of experts and internal and external resources will be used as part of the MWG process. The MWG plans to coordinate with the Science and Technology Working Group (STWG), the Adaptation and Response Working Group (ARWG) and the Education, Communication and Outreach Working Group (ECO) on many cross-cutting issues.

Resource Needs

The MWG is well supported by MDE, other State agencies and workgroup members themselves on the core work required on program evaluation, emission reduction quantification and economic analysis.

Additional support on enhanced economic analyses, social equity issues and short-lived climate pollutants would allow the MWG to better complete some of the new analyses needed to fulfill the lofty expectations of the MCCC.

Additional support for handling the large amount of administrative work driven by the MCCC process would also be very helpful and insure a well run process in 2016. MDE and DNR staff the Commission, the Working Groups, sub-committees of the Working Groups and Steering Committees.

Schedule of Meetings

Attachment 2 provides a summary of MWG meetings scheduled for 2016.

Attachment 1

Mitigation Working Group Membership

Co-Chairs	
George “Tad” Aburn (Working Group Lead)	Maryland Department of the Environment
Michael Powell	Business Community Representative
Stuart Clarke	Town Creek Foundation
Private Sector Representatives	
Anne Linder	Exelon
Mike Remsberg	Trinity Consultants
R. Daniel Wallace	Bith Energy
Melanie Santiago-Mosier	Sun Edison
Drew Cobbs	American Petroleum Institute
Tom Ballentine	NAIOP – Real Estate Development
Tom Dennison	Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative
Tom Weissinger	Raven Power
Public Sector Representatives	
Jana Davis	Chesapeake Bay Trust
Mike Tidwell	Chesapeake Climate Action Network
Gerrit Knaap	National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education, University of Maryland College Park
Arjun Makhijani	Institute for Energy and Environmental Research
Joe Uehlein	Labor Network for Sustainability
Anya Schoolman	Community Power Network
Rebecca Ruggles	Maryland Environmental Health Network
Other Representatives	
Chuck Fry	Maryland Farm Bureau
Ben Hobbs	Johns Hopkins University
Brad Karbowsky	United Association of Plumbers and Fitters
Jim Strong	United Steelworkers
Leslie Knapp	Maryland Association of Counties
Alice Kennedy	Maryland Municipal League
Government Members	
Colleen Turner	Maryland Department of Transportation
John Fiastro	Maryland Energy Administration
Matthew Fleming	Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Steering Committee	
George “Tad” Aburn (Working Group Lead)	Maryland Department of the Environment
Michael Powell (Co-Chair)	Business Community Representative
Stuart Clarke (Co-Chair)	Town Creek Foundation
Colleen Turner	Maryland Department of Transportation
John Fiastro	Maryland Energy Administration
Matthew Fleming	Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Susan Payne	Maryland Department of Agriculture

Technical Advisors	
Peter Doo	Green Building Council
Joanne Throwe	University of Maryland Finance Center
Marissa Gillett	Maryland Public Service Commission
Jason Dubow	Maryland Department of Planning
Ken Holt	Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development
Barry Powell	Maryland Department of General Services
Debbie Drankiewicz	Maryland State Department of Education
Steve Walz	Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Todd Lang	Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Luke Wisniewski	Maryland Department of the Environment
Michael Leslie	Maryland Department of Commerce
Justin Hynicka	Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Cindy Parker	Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University

Attachment 2 - Proposed MWG Meeting Schedule for 2016

Date	Agenda Items
February 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative update and preliminary snapshot of 40 by 30 – MDE • Discuss 2016 work plan
March 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on legislation • Finalize work plan • Initial briefing/discussion on short-lived climate pollutants
April 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative Update – MDE • Enhanced economic analysis including social equity issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MDE, outside resource consultants, panel
May 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RGGI and the CPP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MDE overview and panel
June 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy efficiency, renewable energy, and grid-of-the-future <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Overview briefing – Outside resource consultant ○ Panel with representatives from environmental advocacy, business, and academic communities
July 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ZEVs/Electric Vehicles/TCI <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Overview briefing – MDE and outside resource consultant ○ Panel: manufacturers, infrastructure, more • Proposed outline/process for MWG input to the 2016 MCCC report
August 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 by 30 update • First draft of MWG input for 2016 MCCC report • Innovative financing/Green Bank <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MCEC and panel
September 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Meeting with STWG • MWG input for 2016 MCCC report • Methane Leakage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Panel with representatives from environmental advocacy, business, and academic communities • Annual program status report
October 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Meeting with ARWG • Status - 2016 MCCC report • Linking mitigation and adaptation efforts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DNR, MDE, panel
November 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2016 MCCC report • Forestry and sequestration efforts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DNR and panel • Brainstorm 2017 priorities and work plan
December 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 by 30 update/status – MDE • 2017 work plan • 2017 meeting schedule