

Breakout Group: Governor's Steering Committee on Climate Change Discussion Notes

Composition

Consensus around:

- Diverse mix of private and public representatives
- Do not have state agency officials predominate
- Allow agency designees, within reason

Constituencies that should be represented:

- Citizen groups
- Developers
- Environmental advocates
- Legislators
- Labor
- Academia
- Municipalities
- Businesses
- Communities impacted by climate change

Use standing working groups for specific issues (also helps broaden participation beyond members to include non-member stakeholders)

Could have mix of voting and non-voting members

Size

Consensus that:

- Size should be limited to a max of 20 members (not including working groups)
 - Anything larger likely to be unworkable
- Reasonable size probably falls within the 12 to 20 member range
- Make sure to set meeting quorum low so that it's fairly easy to convene

Functions, Tasks, Goals

- Communication and public education
- Policy advice and recommendations for specific actions to meet 2050 GHG target
- Establish accountability and performance metrics for CT's GHG mitigation efforts
- Rely on best science in developing policies
- Develop GHG mitigation scenario analysis for CT – should include accelerated reduction pathways that satisfy 2050 GHG emissions goal early
- Consider accelerated and/or disruptive actions for mitigation
- Set interim GHG emissions goals (in other words, targets between 2020 and 2050)
- Make sure to consider “breakthrough” technologies

- Should have scope to consider and include “co-benefits” to GHG emission reductions (i.e., public health, security, resiliency, safety)
- Should have an oversight function
- Will need funding
- Will need to be transparent and have effective “reporting out” function

Economic and Environmental Justice Break Out Session Group

(Approximately 25 participants, labor, community groups, concerned citizens)

JMM establishes ground rules, 1 Minute speaking time-limit, note taker established, time keeper established, we will answer the questions and address the concerns of the populations that are impacted by environmental pollution and green economy solutions. JMM will take a roll call of speakers. Acknowledge that is the beginning of the discussion and will not resolve and address all issues on this topic tonight. Encourage and invite others to continue in the dialogue.

What is Environmental Justice and what is a just transition? Jeremy reviews the definition. Jeremy has everyone read it and gives suggestions about how to follow up about more information.

(Worksheets distributed and participants are asked to fill out the top half of the questions)

*****workers*****

pay attention to quality of jobs, structure the plan so that these will be good jobs (family-sustaining jobs)

-give labor council a role in the creation of the plan

-marginalized communities should be prioritized for job opportunities

-vocational schools should be updated

-go to communities and talk to them because sometimes these communities can't attend meetings that are not local.

-look at other state's best practices

-living wage and prevailing wage should be made a requirement if any state or national government funds are being used for job creation.

*****working families*****

engage local communities so they come up with ideas for the climate action plan

meetings should be at times that are family accessible and the spaces are family accessible—
childcare provide

faith-based initiatives should be outreached to for input and also organizations addressing violence in their communities

K-12 should be engaged in the process, give young people a chance to get involved

Engage non-English speaking communities, make sure materials are translated into multiple languages and translators are present at public forums

*****vulnerable communities*****

Host meetings locally

People at this meeting have connections to environmental justice communities – DEEP can draw upon these connections

Steering Committee should represent the diversity of the community, ensure that the steering committee has multiple Frontline community members and environmental justice activists from impacted communities

Windham faith based organization – churches in rural areas are a good resource

Farmers markets – publicize that they take food stamps

Publicize in local libraries and get the word out with posters, flyers, and all types of media

How can we make an argument about addressing climate through job creation?

Climate affects everyone, e.g. pollution leads to asthma

Greenwave that lists all boats – what Van Jones says about everything being impacted

Financial literacy is important

Economic and environmental and social justice are all one and the same and those most effected are the least able to cope.

Race and class has an impact on access to environmental privileges and this needs to be addressed in the climate action plan. There should be measures to ensure that all communities benefit form a green economy.