



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

PO BOX 201704
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1704
(406) 444-3742

GOVERNOR BRIAN SCHWEITZER
DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE
MIKE VOLESKY

HOUSE MEMBERS
CAROL LAMBERT--Vice Chair
NORMA BIXBY
SUE DICKENSON
JULIE FRENCH
CHAS VINCENT
CRAIG WITTE

SENATE MEMBERS
DAVID WANZENRIED--Chair
BOB HAWKS
CHRISTINE KAUFMANN
DANIEL MCGEE
JIM SHOCKLEY
ROBERT STORY JR

PUBLIC MEMBERS
JEFF PATTISON
BRIAN CEBULL
DIANE CONRADI
DOUG MCRAE

COUNCIL STAFF
TODD EVERTS, Lead Staff
JOE KOLMAN, Research Analyst
SONJA NOWAKOWSKI, Research Analyst
HOPE STOCKWELL, Research Analyst
CYNTHIA PETERSON, Secretary

MINUTES

Approved September 8, 2008

May 12, 2008

Room 102
State Capitol Building

Please note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed. **Exhibits for this meeting are available upon request. Legislative Council policy requires a charge of 15 cents a page for copies of the document.**

Please note: These minutes provide abbreviated information about committee discussion, public testimony, action taken, and other activities. The minutes are accompanied by an audio recording. For each action listed, the minutes indicate the approximate amount of time in hours, minutes, and seconds that has elapsed since the start of the meeting. This time may be used to locate the activity on the audio recording.

An electronic copy of these minutes and the audio recording may be accessed from the Legislative Branch home page at <http://leg.mt.gov>. On the left-side column of the home page, select *Committees*, then *Interim*, and then the appropriate committee.

To view the minutes, locate the meeting date and click on minutes. To hear the audio recording, click on the Real Player icon. Note: You must have Real Player to listen to the audio recording.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

SEN. DAVID WANZENRIED, Chair
REP. CAROL LAMBERT, Vice Chair
SEN. BOB HAWKS
SEN. CHRISTINE KAUFMANN
SEN. JIM SHOCKLEY
SEN. ROBERT STORY JR
REP. NORMA BIXBY
REP. SUE DICKENSON
REP. JULIE FRENCH
REP. CHAS VINCENT
REP. CRAIG WITTE
MR. BRIAN CEBULL
MS. DIANE CONRADI
MR. DOUG McRAE
MR. MIKE VOLESKY

MEMBERS EXCUSED

SEN. DANIEL MCGEE
MR. JEFF PATTISON

STAFF PRESENT

TODD EVERTS, Lead Staff
JOE KOLMAN, Research Analyst
SONJA NOWAKOWSKI, Research Analyst
HOPE STOCKWELL, Research Analyst
CYNTHIA PETERSON, Secretary

Visitors

Visitors' list ([Attachment 1](#))
Agenda ([Attachment 2](#))

COMMITTEE ACTION

- The EQC adopted the minutes of the March 10-11, 2008, meeting.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

00:00:31 Sen. David Wanzenried, Chairman of the Environmental Quality Council (EQC), called the meeting to order at 1:58 p.m. The secretary noted the roll ([Attachment 3](#)).

AGENDA

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Adoption of March EQC Meeting Minutes

00:02:45 Sen. Shockley moved to adopt the minutes of the March meeting. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. McGee and Mr. Pattison voted by proxy.

EQC Budget Overview

00:03:16 Mr. Everts reported the EQC has a remaining balance of \$45,975. Mr. Everts introduced Hope Stockwell as the newest staff member of the Legislative Services Division. The EQC welcomed Ms. Stockwell.

CLIMATE CHANGE SURVEY

Review of Information on the 15 Montana Climate Change Action Plan Recommendations the EQC Selected for Further Review - Ms. Nowakowski

- 00:05:17 Mr. Everts reviewed the climate change survey items and explained the EQC's decision-making process and time line for the remainder of the interim.
- 00:07:21 Ms. Nowakowski reviewed a written analysis of the 15 climate change recommendations the EQC had previously decided to pursue (**EXHIBIT 1**). Ms. Nowakowski also provided a snapshot of potential legislation based on the 15 recommendations (**EXHIBIT 2**).

Questions from the EQC

- 00:14:10 Sen. Hawks requested an explanation about the grouping categories. Ms. Nowakowski identified the grouping categories as the Alternative Energy Revolving Loan Program, the State Buildings Energy Conservation Program, extension of sunsets on various programs, and incentives.

Public Comment

- 00:15:40 Gary Wiens, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association, addressed net metering. Mr. Wiens cited increasing support for the development of alternative energy resources. Mr. Wiens explained the Cooperatives developed a model net-metering policy to ensure safety issues are addressed and that customers who do not net meter are insulated from the costs associated with net metering. Mr. Wiens stated the Cooperatives support development of customer-owned generation, but suggested government imposed net-metering mandates could affect rates and pose safety risks. Mr. Wiens explained safety issues with net metering and stated the Cooperatives support the existing voluntary approach for net metering.

Questions and Discussion - EQC

- 00:22:21 Sen. Shockley asked Mr. Wiens what he meant by "quality of power." Doug Hardy, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association, responded to Sen. Shockley's question and explained that things such as voltage or frequency on the line can affect power quality which could affect motors, computers, and other sophisticated equipment.

Additional Public Comment

- 00:24:39 Nancy Matheson, National Center for Appropriate Technology, commented on the impact to the food system. Ms. Matheson suggested that as a shift from a globalized food system to a local food system occurs, the growing, harvesting and processing of food will also be affected. Ms. Matheson believed current Montana agriculture processes contribute to, rather than mitigate, green house gas omissions.

00:28:29 Mr. Hardy addressed smart metering and the pilot project and pointed out there are substantial differences when smart metering may or may not be cost effective.

00:29:31 Jim Barngrover, Alternative Energy Resources Organization (AERO), is evaluating how agriculture can optimize energy inputs for several decades. Mr. Barngrover explained fertilizer prices are rapidly rising and suggested a need to encourage farmers to be innovative on how to reduce inputs. Mr. Barngrover submitted AERO's Vision for Montana Agriculture (**EXHIBIT 3**).

Questions from the EQC

00:33:52 Rep. Lambert asked for clarification from Ms. Matheson that locally grown food and fiber would cut down on green house gas emissions, but noted the information from the Department of Agriculture report indicates little benefit. Ms. Matheson clarified the report focuses more on food products and transportation, as opposed to looking at the whole production and food system. Ms. Matheson stated sustainable farming practices sequester 48-60 percent more carbon than conventional farming practices. Ms. Matheson believed the Department of Agriculture's report is too narrow.

00:35:37 Rep. Dickenson addressed the Department of Agriculture's report which indicated it is too difficult to determine whether Montana could meet the goal that 20 percent of the food being consumed is grown and processed in Montana by 2010 and 30 percent by 2020. Rep. Dickenson inquired about the calculations of the Farm to College program and whether someone else could make the calculations easier. Ms. Matheson agreed it would be difficult and suggested the markets could keep track. Rep. Dickenson asked Ms. Matheson whether another entity could do the tracking better than the Department of Agriculture. Ms. Matheson suggested the University could keep track.

Council Decisions and Direction

00:40:21 Rep. Vincent suggested the EQC address AFW-12, Enhanced Solid Waste Recovery and Recycling, and requested more information.

00:41:28 Ms. Nowakowski explained the state's recycling rate is approximately 18 percent, which is ahead of its 2008 goal of 17 percent. The credit against air permitting fees for utilizing post-consumer glass is set to expire in 2009, and the recycled materials deduction is set to expire in 2011. Additionally, the tax credit for investment in property used to collect or process reclaimable material is also set to expire in 2011.

00:43:42 Rep. Vincent stated he has heard frustration from the Helena landfill, which has a disincentive toward recycling since the public has to drive through twice in order to dump recyclable materials.

00:45:03 Ms. Nowakowski explained that loads are weighed at the Helena facility and loads have to be separated since there is no cost for recycling.

- 00:45:55 Sen. Hawks explained glass is a chronic recycling problem in Bozeman and suggested the state should address what it can do to help local communities recycle glass.
- 00:46:56 Rep. Vincent recalled the unintended consequences of mercury in energy-efficient light bulbs.
- 00:47:54 Sen. Story addressed the glass issue and the tax incentives for buying a glass processor. Sen. Story explained there is no market for crushed glass. Sen. Story envisioned a need to synchronize supply, demand, and processing. Sen. Story suggested local governments need to develop a way to address waste disposal in a cost-effective manner. Sen. Story suggested hearing from someone with knowledge on landfill management.
- 00:51:11 Lou Moore, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), suggested a need for a market and processing. Ms. Moore believed great progress is being made with glass, and that communities would need \$60,000-\$100,000 to get started. Ms. Moore explained consumers desire to have their glass recycled. Most communities do not have the containers and space to hold material before shipping the material to a market.
- 00:53:43 Sen. Story wondered how many major landfills are in Montana. Ms. Moore responded there are between 32-37 major landfills throughout the state. Sen. Story asked where the glass comes from. Ms. Moore identified major sources as beer bottles, building reconstruction, and windshields.
- 00:54:53 Rep. Dickenson directed the EQC to Exhibit 1, page 14, and the reference to the Montana Manufacturing Extension Service, and wondered if that entity could assist in identifying ways to use recycled materials effectively if the program's funding was increased.
- 00:56:32 Ms. Matheson works directly with the Montana Manufacturing Extension Service and stated it provides engineering analysis and financial plans. The program is attached to Montana State University (MSU).
- 00:57:24 Sen. Shockley wondered why garbage is not sorted. Sen. Story explained it is difficult to sort garbage when it is being hauled in one truck. Sen. Story believed no one wants to pay more for city services. Sen. Story asked whether the goal is to encourage recycling as a private enterprise operation or as a government operation. Sen. Story thought that policy decision should be addressed up front.
- 01:00:23 Sen. Shockley stated he does not generally like tax credits that take from one sector of the public and give the tax credit to another, but acknowledged that recycling is a problem. Sen. Shockley thought if it is good public policy to recycle, the fee should be raised.
- 01:01:19 Sen. Kaufmann acknowledged there are grant programs to help address infrastructure needs for communities and suggested a grant program might be

appropriate. Sen. Kaufmann stated the economics are not realistic, so the government should step in to stimulate recycling.

- 01:02:57 Sen. Hawks believed the ethic for recycling is present, but the private market is up and down, and people get confused about what they can recycle. Sen. Hawks stated he would like to know why Bozeman stepped out of the public recycling business.
- 01:04:26 Mr. Cebull identified a variety of private recycling businesses in Billings, including electronics recycling, and the programs are generally a pay-to-use service, and the issue has always been transporting recyclables. Mr. Cebull stated he would prefer to see a private model that supplies containers to assist with sorting. Mr. Cebull suggested providing private recycling businesses with incentives and freedom from regulatory barriers.
- 01:07:24 Rep. Dickenson was curious what regulatory barriers existed to recycling. Ms. Moore responded recycling businesses are not regulated in quite the same manner as solid waste, and the barriers are on the economic side. Ms. Moore stated plastics are more difficult to gather and recycle. Rep. Dickenson referred to the Montana Manufacturing Extension Service and suggested funding that entity to a greater degree.
- 01:09:38 Rep. Lambert agreed there should be an incentive-type program, but cautioned that whatever action is taken should also apply to small towns, as well as the large towns. Rep. Lambert believed every county should have access to recycling services.
- 01:11:38 Rep. Witte was impressed by the amount of recycling occurring in Montana, and believed Montana is ahead of the goals set in 2005. Rep. Witte suggested letting private industry address the recycling issue.
- 01:14:04 Sen. Story suggested a need for more staff research or information from people directly involved with landfills.
- 01:15:06 Ms. Nowakowski summarized the EQC's desire to explore incentives for local governments or the private sector for recycling. Ms. Nowakowski suggested the EQC would also need to decide on the form of any incentive and identify what the Legislature could do to create incentives.
- 01:16:10 Mr. Everts commented the staff could do more research, but the EQC has a time line and needs to make decisions.
- 01:16:49 Sen. Story did not want staff to draft a bill that does not address the problem.
- 01:18:34 Sen. Hawks recognized recycling glass is a problem, and believed there was a need for coordination and incentives to help the market.
- 01:19:10 Chairman Wanzenried identified the question as how much more information the EQC needs.

- 01:20:27 Ms. Conradi summarized the question as how to deal with waste products and route waste out of the landfills. Ms. Conradi believed the issue of landfills would require working with local governments.
- 01:22:35 Sen. Story suggested funding the Montana Manufacturing Extension Program better and developing grant and loan programs for larger landfills. Sen. Story also suggested providing tax credits for private recycling businesses. Sen. Story envisioned a need for more research and education and finding a way for local governments to use recycled material for their own projects, so they would not have to haul recycled materials.
- 01:25:46 Rep. French addressed extending tax credits for programs set to sunset in 2011 and suggested looking at those programs. Chairman Wanzenried asked whether there would need to be separate legislation for each program. Ms. Nowakowski responded she would need to research the issue and thought some programs could be addressed with consolidated legislation. The EQC members agreed to have legislation drafted to address the programs set to sunset. Sen. Story desired to know whether the existing tax credits have been used and what the total amount was.
- 01:28:10 Rep. Vincent asked if the EQC could receive information from the DEQ regarding florescent bulbs.
- 01:28:52 Sen. Shockley agreed use of florescent bulbs could be a mistake.
- 01:29:07 Rep. Bixby stated the Northern Cheyenne Tribe is all set to work on recycling and sorting garbage. Rep. Bixby wondered if there was any way to provide incentives to encourage other tribes to recycle.
- 01:30:27 Ms. Conradi was curious about the waste to gas initiative and asked for additional information. Ms. Conradi observed construction waste comprises 30 percent of landfill product and asked if that waste could be addressed with biomass.
- 01:31:13 Ms. Nowakowski responded there is substantial research being conducted and programs being developed. Ms. Conradi asked whether construction waste is a viable source for biomass. Rep. Vincent stated construction waste could be used for biomass, as long as the waste is carbon based. Rep. Vincent identified economics and supply as hurdles.
- 01:33:16 Sen. Story reiterated the EQC's action should consist of funding the Montana Manufacturing Extension Program, implementing a grant and loan program for recycling facilities at landfills, incentives for private recycling businesses, and more research and education for local governments to use their own recycled materials.
- 01:35:18 Rep. Dickenson believed funding the Montana Manufacturing Extension Service would fall under AFW-12 and stated the funding for the Montana Cooperative Development Centers will end in 2010 and should also be included, as well as

other programs which consist of recycling outreach and pilot projects. Staff was directed to develop proposed legislation.

- 01:36:45 Sen. Hawks addressed AFW-11, Exhibit 2, regarding food and fiber and solicited feedback from EQC members. Sen. Hawks suggested including items 1, 3 and 4. Sen. Hawks believed creating a program to track in-state use would be an incentive for people to buy homegrown products. Sen. Hawks suggested information was needed regarding current research, existing programs, and the present funding that expires in 2010.
- 01:38:57 Sen. Story was concerned tracking would not be accurate since consumption is occurring in a way that is not recognized because the products are not marketed as made in Montana products.
- 01:42:03 Chairman Wanzonried asked whether a reporting requirement or the availability of data would raise awareness and stimulate additional consumption of local food and fiber. Sen. Story responded most individuals buy their products based on price. Sen. Story emphasized many people buy their groceries at Wal-Mart or Costco and stated it would be difficult to penetrate those chain stores.
- 01:43:28 Rep. Witte addressed the restaurant market and identified problems for restaurants to purchase food locally. Rep. Witte suggested utilizing a country of origin label.
- 01:45:02 Rep. Dickenson noted the University of Montana (UM) has determined it is not much more costly to use local produce because there is less waste. Rep. Dickenson believed locally grown products are not automatically going to be more expensive. Rep. Dickenson also noted the Growth through Agriculture grants are also going to expire.
- 01:46:51 Rep. Lambert commented that if the Farm Bill passes, there will be federal mandates. Rep. Lambert believed there is a need for more education because people do not understand it may not be more expensive to buy locally.
- 01:48:19 Sen. Kaufmann commented tracking local sales and consumption is not as important as developing infrastructure for food processing and distribution.
- 01:51:04 Mr. Volesky stated the Department of Agriculture is currently tracking sales and consumption and offered to have someone from the Department of Agriculture provide information to the EQC. Sen. Kaufman was curious whether enough is being done and in the correct manner.
- 01:52:17 Perri Walborn, Montana Department of Agriculture, explained the vision is to have two food processing centers in Montana. Ms. Walborn explained the Mission Mountain Enterprise Center, operated by Lake County Community Development Corporation, is running into financial issues. Ms. Walborn explained the Economic Affairs Interim Committee just toured the facility. In Glendive there are active organizations attempting to get a food processing center started, but noted it takes funding. Ms. Walborn acknowledged the Growth through

Agriculture program sunsets in 2010 and explained the program gives grants up to \$50,000, but will run out of funding and cannot meet all the needs.

- 01:55:22 Sen. Shockley wanted to know what foods were being processed. Ms. Walborn explained the Mission Mountain Enterprise Center processes jerky products, cherry products, oils, and wines. Ms. Walborn added food processing is subject to extensive regulation.
- 01:56:16 Rep. Witte requested a listing of what projects are currently being funded.
- 01:56:47 Sen. Story asked Ms. Walborn whether she was aware of any regulatory problems that the state could help fix. Ms. Walborn could not readily identify any problems and suggested the new farm bill, if it passes, will eliminate the problem with shipping meat out of state.
- 01:58:03 Ms. Conradi commented the Made in Montana Program is being used as a model in Equador.
- 01:59:09 Sen. Hawks summarized his original premise was to build incentives into the tracking process. Sen. Hawks suggested sample tracking around the state may provide projections and thought the Universities might participate. Chairman Wanzenried summarized there should be a way to encourage local institutions to purchase local food and fiber and extend funding for programs that are due to expire.
- 02:01:45 Ms. Nowakowski requested clarification and asked what kind of legislation the EQC would like to consider. Chairman Wanzenried suggested requesting the Extension Service or other appropriate agency to develop a tracking system as inexpensively as possible.
- 02:03:29 Rep. Lambert believed funding should be extended for existing programs, such as the Growth through Agriculture program. Chairman Wanzenried asked how long Rep. Lambert would want to extend funding. Ms. Nowakowski explained the programs are currently funded by the coal severance tax. Rep. Lambert stated her preference would be to recommend funding the program indefinitely.
- 02:06:02 Rep. Vincent asked whether the programs were extended last session. Ms. Nowakowski was not aware of any actions taken last session regarding the specific programs.
- 02:07:09 Sen. Kaufmann stated she would like to see any legislation already in motion.
- 02:08:51 Sen. Kaufmann stated she would like to consider tax incentives for food producers who use Montana raw materials.
- 02:09:30 Sen. Story identified a need to address the impediments of getting products into the distribution system.

(BREAK)

- 02:27:27 Sen. Hawks addressed TLU-10, Transportation System Management, and suggested ensuring city transportation plans take include conservation measures.
- 02:29:56 Rep. French addressed TLU-10 and identified access to transportation as a huge issue in rural areas. Rep. French explained the needs in urban areas versus rural areas are very different, and TLU-10 does not apply to rural Montana.
- 02:32:33 Rep. Dickenson expressed concern with the recommendation and stated she would like the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) to set attainable goals to reduce the carbon footprint and suggested this could mostly happen in high-development areas. Rep. Dickenson suggested the MDT should set achievable goals and report to the 2009 Legislature.
- 02:36:08 Sen. Story thought many transportation issues are local planning issues rather than MDT issues. Sen. Story identified land use laws and regulations as a possible way to reduce travel by building residential, commercial, and businesses in the same neighborhood.
- 02:39:26 Chairman Wanzenried thought there could be an interim study regarding the connection between land use planning and energy conservation.
- 02:39:54 Sen. Hawks clarified the single-use zoning law orientation and new smart growth approach to cities would encourage neighborhoods to have services so people do not have to travel. Sen. Hawks addressed Rep. French's concern of trying to get medical services into under-served areas. Sen. Hawks suggested a need for extensions from community health centers and utilization of portable dental units. Sen. Hawks would also like to provide laboratory services in rural areas.
- 02:42:06 Rep. French urged caution when discussing economic development without also discussing transportation in northeastern Montana.
- 02:42:46 Mr. Volesky suggested MDT could provide for a range of legislative options for incentivizing local planning that reduces the carbon footprint.
- 02:44:16 Rep. Lambert suggested Montana would be better served by focusing efforts on forest fires since forest fires have a larger carbon footprint.
- 02:44:53 Sen. Shockley disagreed and believed forest fires have any impact on the amount of carbon in the atmosphere since all wood will burn at some point, and forest fires are part of a natural process. Sen. Shockley pointed out rotting wood emits methane. Rep. Lambert suggested more effort should go into the proper management of Montana forests.
- 02:46:01 Rep. Dickenson explained one-third of CO₂ emissions come from transportation, and that there is greater growth occurring in transportation. Chairman Wanzenried suggested asking MDT to provide a range of options for legislative proposals or administrative actions that would incentivize the reduction of carbon emissions. Sen. Hawks requested information be provided by MDT.

- 02:48:52 Sen. Hawks addressed Dick Turner, MDT, and asked about the transportation planning process that local communities go through and asked how MDT could assist. Mr. Turner explained Billings, Great Falls, and Missoula are subject to federal transportation planning requirements and receive federal funds. There are no specific requirements in areas such as Bozeman. Mr. Turner explained that communities customize planning efforts to meet local needs. Mr. Turner emphasized Montana has very rural travel characteristics.
- 02:54:29 Sen. Hawks asked whether guidelines could be provided through local planning statutes. Mr. Turner emphasized how requirements and growth have evolved over the years.
- 02:56:19 Sen. Story recalled the past effects of reducing the speed limit and that the gas tax revenue is flat. Sen. Story believed there is no incentive for people to car pool.
- 02:59:00 Sen. Shockley explained the difference in gas mileage he received by driving at slower speeds.
- 03:01:43 Rep. Dickenson and Sen. Hawks would like to see a resolution of intent directed toward MDT to improve conservation efforts. Chairman Wanzenried asked whether there was a need for an interim study. Sen. Hawks discussed the complete street concept and how the concept is directly related to energy. Sen. Hawks suggested MDT could provide a follow up on how the concept is being implemented. Staff was directed to develop a reasonable time frame and content.
- 03:03:45 Rep. Vincent stated he would support the recommendation if it was directly for energy conservation and not the reduction of a carbon footprint or CO₂ emissions.
- 03:04:26 Sen. Story stated he would like the EQC to look at legislation to change the regulatory process for mass transit.
- 03:06:03 Ms. Nowakowski summarized the EQC's desire to: (1) draft a resolution of intent requesting the MDT to reduce the carbon footprint and increase energy efficiencies in transportation planning; (2) request the MDT to provide information on the complete street program; and (3) look at the regulatory scheme for mass transit as regulated by the Public Service Commission (PSC) and possibly loosening up the applicable statutes.
- 03:07:20 Ms. Conradi asked whether the resolution of intent would encompass Mr. Volesky's recommendation. Ms. Nowakowski stated MDT would be providing legislative options. Ms. Conradi asked whether a request for an interim study regarding the relationship between land-use planning and transportation would be included. Ms. Conradi was supportive of an interim study.
- 03:09:14 Sen. Hawks thought the complete streets discussion would meet the intent of studying local planning and growth.

- 03:09:38 Rep. Lambert wondered whether the topics of transportation and energy were being discussed and considered by the Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee.
- 03:10:13 Sen. Story sits on the Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee and reported they had not addressed planning processes. Sen. Story explained the MDT is struggling with how to maintain existing roads.
- 03:11:40 Rep. Dickenson voiced her support for RCII-11, Low Income and Rental Housing Energy Efficiency Program, and suggested drafting legislation to expand the program. Specifically, Rep. Dickenson wanted to pursue items 1, 2, and 4.
- 03:14:53 Rep. Lambert believed weatherization benefits were available to renters.
- 03:15:34 Ms. Moore explained the differences in the programs for low-income weatherization and low-income energy assistance, which helps pay heating bills. Ms. Moore stated that landlords can take a yearly \$500 tax deduction for weatherization.
- 03:17:25 Rep. Witte wondered why tax credits for low-income taxpayers was not being addressed and stated he would like it included. Rep. Witte asked Ms. Moore about legislation regarding the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) last session.
- 03:19:20 Sen. Kaufmann recalled legislation last session that would include landlords for tax incentives if they make improvements. Sen. Kaufmann suggested that legislation would be a good starting place.
- 03:19:56 Sen. Story identified funding as the issue. Sen. Story thought funding could be available from coal, oil, and gas revenue.
- 03:22:06 Rep. Vincent was uncertain whether all tax credits are being used and tax credits could be redirected.
- 03:22:37 Ms. Nowakowski summarized the EQC's desire to: (1) provide increased funding for LIEAP with increased coal, oil, and gas revenue; and (2) utilizing legislation from last session and including tax incentives for landlords for weatherization; and (3) expanding the alternative energy loan program.
- 03:23:40 Sen. Story clarified he was contemplating putting more money into weatherization rather than fuel assistance.
- 03:24:32 Mr. Cebull asked a representative from the co-ops to address how much the co-ops are doing regarding low-income weatherization. Mr. Hardy responded it varies by co-op. Mr. Cebull asked at what magnitude the co-ops assist with weatherization. Mr. Hardy responded it depends on the area of the state. Mr. Cebull suggested a certain number of homes will not be improved because the residents do not desire to make the improvements. Mr. Cebull suggested people

need to know what programs are available and emphasized the need for education.

- 03:28:38 Chairman Wanzenried suggested having Jim Nolan make a presentation to the EQC regarding low-income energy assistance outreach.
- 03:30:22 Sen. Shockley addressed the procurement of fuel-efficient state fleet vehicles. Sen. Shockley pointed out some state vehicles are small, but not all. Sen. Shockley acknowledged Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) needs heavy-duty vehicles. Sen. Shockley thought there should be a criteria for who gets what type of vehicle.
- 03:32:38 Rep. Witte believed the state is attempting to procure more fuel-efficient cars.
- 03:33:43 Jim Richmond, MDT, explained SB 449 (2007) required cars to meet certain criteria for mileage, and included certain exemptions. Sen. Shockley stated a desire for the government to use the most appropriate fuel-efficient vehicles. Mr. Richmond clarified the MDT has nothing to do with other department vehicles unless a motor pool vehicle is used. Sen. Shockley believed the issue should be addressed in statute or rule, and that the EQC should pursue the issue.
- 03:38:52 Rep. Witte summarized there are fleet standards, and that other departments have their own vehicles that they own and manage. Rep. Witte wondered how many vehicles are exempt from fuel standards. Mr. Richmond responded many state departments are taking action to increase mileage. Rep. Witte requested a list of departments with exempt vehicles.
- 03:41:13 Upon question from Rep. Vincent, Mr. Richmond identified the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) as the largest lessee of state motor pool vehicles. Rep. Vincent requested a breakdown of which department leases the most vehicles from the state motor pool.
- 03:41:49 Sen. Shockley asked Mr. Richmond if he would agree most vehicles used by state employees are either leased or belong to the state motor pool. Mr. Richmond estimated there were approximately 3,000 vehicles that belong to other agencies. Mr. Richmond stated the motor pool owns approximately 4,500 vehicles and approximately 1,000 are light-duty vehicles.
- 03:43:04 Sen. Hawks acknowledged some agencies have off-road requirements that cannot be handled by light-duty vehicles. Sen. Hawks suggested consideration should be given to the range of activities of each agency.
- 03:44:14 Sen. Story referred the EQC to the Governor's 2010 Initiative and suggested the issue was already being addressed by the administration.
- 03:46:14 Sen. Story requested more information regarding CC-4, State Climate Public Education and Outreach, which directs the DEQ to implement an outreach program.

- 03:46:36 Ms. Moore explained DEQ's current practices regarding outreach. Ms. Moore identified the climate change website as a major avenue for information.
- 03:47:48 Sen. Story asked whether the DEQ had requested any new money or additional FTE for climate change. Ms. Moore responded no.
- 03:48:20 Chairman Wanzon asked whether any program money was requested. Ms. Moore responded no budget increases were requested.
- 03:49:02 Rep. Dickenson suspected the DEQ is watching the EQC and some of the other committees. Rep. Dickenson believed it would be advisable to have public education and outreach, and the EQC should pursue legislation to increasing funding for recycling.
- 03:49:58 Rep. Vincent was curious what kind of education would be provided. Rep. Dickenson identified recycling, energy assistance, and a need for people to understand there are things happening with the climate that are affecting their lives. Rep. Dickenson believed programs should provide opportunities to help people save energy.
- 03:51:29 Rep. Vincent recalled the climate change action plan recommended education was needed to accept the 54 recommendations. Rep. Vincent was very concerned.
- 03:51:58 Rep. Dickenson disagreed and stated the question is how climate change is affecting consumers and how to mitigate the affects of climate change.
- 03:52:53 Rep. Lambert believed education is already being conducted and enhancing education would indicate we are leaving a large carbon footprint. Rep. Lambert was against creating any new government offices.
- 03:54:07 Mr. Cebull agreed education is important, particularly to inform consumers and the public what programs are available. Mr. Cebull stated he would not support a consolidated effort or additional FTE for the DEQ.
- 03:55:15 Rep. Dickenson commented people need to become more aware of the problem. Rep. Dickenson identified the goal as attempting to increase awareness and the premise that climate change is occurring, is having an impact, and that we can make a difference.
- 03:57:50 Sen. Story stated he would not support CC-4 since the DEQ did not include the proposal in its budget request.
- 03:59:02 The EQC recessed until May 13, 2008.