

Executive Branch Work on Climate Change Recommendations

Demand Side Management Programs, Efficiency Funds and Requirements (RCII-1)

- State government takes advantage of demand side management programs offered by utility companies, particularly incentives for energy conservation and renewable energy demonstrations on buildings.

Market Transformation and Technology Development Programs (RCII-2)

- Energy efficiency programs are provided in western Montana through DEQ using funding from Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance. DEQ extends services to eastern Montana as funds allow. Activities focus primarily on building technologies.

State Level Appliance Efficiency Standards and State Support for Improved Federal Standards (RCII-3)

- 20 x 10 initiative encourages state agencies to set a policy of Energy Star or better for all appliances purchased at state agencies and institutions including new computers.

Building Energy Codes (RCII-4)

- DEQ provides ongoing training for building inspectors and is a resource for questions. There is a new national code adoption process underway (regular update of the code every few years.) DEQ is engaged in this process and will be encouraging strong national standards for the state to follow.

“Beyond Code” Building Design Incentives and Mandatory Programs (RCII-5)

- Department of Revenue has developed rules to produce clear guidance on how to use the existing tax credits for going beyond code. DEQ assists DOR in developing criteria, evaluates unusual situations and both agencies meet annually to update guidance.
- All state buildings are built to the Model Energy Code, which is a minimum code requirement. A & E’s goal is to exceed the model energy code to include all cost effective energy features using Core Performance Guidelines for new construction.

Consumer Education Programs (RCII-6)

- PSA with Governor insulating a wall for Warm Homes is running occasionally on T stations across the state. (Produced last year)
- DEQ is attending many home shows Feb-April, answering consumer questions at booths and distributing print materials. Information on Montana tax credits and general energy savings information are most often requested.
- DEQ conducts training for builders and building code officials regularly.

Low Income and Rental Housing Energy Efficiency Programs (RCII-11)

- DPHHS provides Low Income Weatherization and Fuel Bill Assistance Programs. The Weatherization Program weatherizes about 1800 homes annually, but there are about 19,000 homes eligible and waiting for weatherization.

- Warm Homes Campaign initiated by Governor Schweitzer provides information to Montanans.

State Lead by Example (RCII-12)

- Governor Schweitzer has called for a 20% reduction in energy use in executive branch agencies by 2010 and challenged universities and others to meet the goal.
- Database is being developed by DEQ to track energy use in state buildings and compare energy use with buildings of similar size and age.
- Energy studies are being completed on state buildings with a potential for savings and a legislative request is being developed for the State Buildings Energy Program to sell bonds to retrofit the buildings.
- An energy plan is underway with the State Prison. An energy efficiency section is being developed for the Capitol Complex Master Plan. LEED for Existing Buildings designation is being considered for the Metcalf building. DEQ has secured assistance from EPA to help with the effort.
- Solar PV's are being added to Governor's Mansion; solar preheating panel is complete and solar parking lot lights being added to DEQ's Last Chance Gulch building with partial funding from Northwestern Energy.

Environmental Portfolio Standard (Renewables and Energy Efficiency) (ES-1)

- Utilities are making good progress in meeting the 15% renewables by 2015 RPS standard.

Renewable Energy Incentives (Biomass, Wind, Solar, Geothermal) (ES-2)

- 2007 Special Legislative Session passed a "Clean and Green" bill at the request of Governor Schweitzer that increased incentives for renewable energy development.

Research and Development (R&D), including R&D for Energy Storage and Advanced Fossil Fuel Technologies (ES-3)

- 2007 Legislature passed HB 715 requiring that research and commercialization trust be used for clean coal development.

Incentives and Barrier Removal (including Interconnection Rules and Net Metering Arrangements) for Combined Heat and Power (CHP) and Clean Distributed Generation (DG) (ES-4)

- 2007 Special Legislative Session passed HB 3 providing a range of tax incentives for industry.

Market Based Mechanisms to Establish a Price Signal for GHG Emissions (GHG Cap-and-Trade or Tax) (ES-8/9)

- Montana has joined the Western Climate Initiative to seek regional solutions and agreement on cap and trade and other initiatives.

GHG Reduction in Refinery Operations, including in Future Coal-to-Liquids Refineries (ES-12)

- Billings Conoco refinery was the first in the nation to be designated as Energy Star.
- Upgrades are proposed at Montana Refining in Great Falls; not certain of impact.

- Potential coal to liquid plant planned for Great Falls.

Consumer Information on Vehicle Miles Per Gallon (MPG) (TLU-3)

- Transportation plans required under SB 449 have been developed by individual agencies. At least some plans address education of agency employees.

Heavy-Duty Vehicle and Locomotive Idle Reduction (TLU-8)

- DEQ is starting program to assist school districts with implementing “No Idle Zones.”
- Working to incorporate anti-idling policies into “Team Asthma” recommendations out of DPHHS and OPI.

Procurement of Efficient Fleet Vehicles (TLU-9)

- Governor’s 20 x 10 initiative sets goal for the state vehicle fleet to achieve a 30 mpg average on all new vehicles purchased with some exceptions.

Transportation System Management (TLU-10)

- South Helena Interchange roundabout is complete and being used.
- MDT systematically converting all traffic lights to efficiency LED lamps.
- MDT developing access management programs, bike and pedestrian facilities, and transportation planning at current levels.

Agricultural Soil Carbon (AFW-1)

- No till conservation programs are underway.
- Chicago Climate Exchange is paying farmers for carbon credits for carbon management on agricultural land.

Biodiesel Production (Incentives for Feedstocks and Production Plants) (AFW-2)

- Educational activities through the WIRED grant are coordinated with many state agencies.
- Bio fuels testing lab is being completed at MSU Northern. This lab was requested in the 07 DEQ budget for Northern and funded by Legislature for \$250,000.
- DEQ has sponsored several biodiesel workshops and other WIRED grantees have also sponsored education and training.

Expanded Use of Biomass Feedstocks for Energy Use (AFW-7)

- UM Western installed a biomass boiler in 2007 with grant funds from DNRC and State Building Energy Program funds from DEQ (these will be repaid through energy savings). UM Western, DNRC, A&E, and DEQ have worked to sell the carbon offset from the boiler to the Climate Trust and received \$117,000 for the project from carbon offsets.

Afforestation/Reforestation Programs – Restocking (AFW-8)

- Reforestation and urban forest programs are managed by DNRC at traditional levels.

Programs to Promote Local Food and Fiber (AFW-11)

- SB 328 passed in 2007 providing a procurement exemption for purchasing local food which is being used by the university system. There is a program at the Department of Agriculture to promote local food and fiber.

Enhanced Solid Waste Recovery and Recycling (AFW-12)

- DOA and DEQ are establishing a task force on recycling and purchasing in state government.
- DEQ hosted an educational event for all state agencies in the Capitol Rotunda this winter. Lt. Gov. Bohlinger spoke at the event.

GHG Inventories and Forecasts (CC-1)

- Inventory just completed for the CCAC will form a basis to establish ongoing inventory and forecasts.

State GHG Registry (CC-3)

- Montana is one of 30 charter states that formed The Climate Registry in 2007.

State Climate Public Education and Outreach (CC-4)

- Web Page is being developed by DEQ.
- DEQ is developing materials and making available to individuals and groups across the state.
- Newspaper articles across the state with some level of detail on what climate change is and what the Montana Plan recommends.
- Director Opper and others speaking on climate change.

The State's Own GHG Emissions (CC-7)

Establish a Target for Reducing the State's Own GHG Emissions (CC-7.1)

- Governor has set a goal of 20% reduction in energy use in state government by 2010.

Join WCI and Consider Joining Chicago Climate Exchange (CC-7.4)

- Montana has joined the Western Climate Initiative and is participating in subcommittees and meetings.