

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE ACTIVITIES AND ACTIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

Tim Dodge, Commission Counsel
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History of the Commission: The Legislative Commission on Global Climate Change was established in 2005 to conduct an in-depth study of issues related to global climate change. The Commission consists of 34 members, nine appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, nine appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and 16 named members, or their designees, that represent a variety of industries, organizations, and academic institutions. The Commission was originally directed to report the results of its study by November 1, 2006. The term of the Commission has been extended several times and it is now scheduled to report to the General Assembly by October 1, 2010. The Commission has met on 19 occasions, all of which have been held in Raleigh.

Formal actions: At two of its meetings, the Commission took significant actions. I have briefly described each of these actions below (extracted from the approved minutes of the Commission, available on the Commission website at: <http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/DocumentSites/browseDocSite.asp?nID=14>).

February 22, 2007: Following a presentation on the activities of the Climate Action Plan Advisory Group (CAPAG) and an overview of proposals that received consensus approval by the members of CAPAG, the Commission adopted 17 recommendations for inclusion in its 2007 report. The list of 17 recommendations that were approved by the Commission are attached to this document. A final report was not published, but the following recommendations can be seen as being related to legislation enacted by the 2007 General Assembly:

- Commission Recommendation: *Energy Efficiency Requirements for Government Buildings (CAPAG recommendation RCI-3)*.
 - Related Legislation: S.L. 2007-546, as codified by S.L. 2008-203 -- Codify Energy efficiency in Public Buildings
- Commission Recommendation: *Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (REPS) (similar to CAPAG recommendation ES-2)*.
 - Related Legislation: S.L. 2007-397 -- Promote Renewable Energy/Baseload Generation
- Commission Recommendation: *Hog Manure Management / Lagoon Conversions for Greenhouse Gas Reductions*
 - Related Legislation: S.L. 2007-546 -- Swine Farm Environmental Performance Standards (in particular, see Sections 4(a) through 4(g) on the creation and implementation of the Swine Farm Methane Capture Pilot Program)

February 11, 2008: The Commission met as part of the Emerging Issues Forum entitled "North Carolina's Energy Futures." One of the invited speakers at the Commission was Dr. Rajendra Pachauri, Nobel Prize Winner and former Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Following Dr. Pachauri's presentation, the Commission adopted a resolution offered by Rep. Charles Thomas that the Commission acknowledge that: (1) global climate change is real; (2) that human activity is a factor in that change; and (3) the Commission should move forward to address the issues faced by climate change.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

Commission Recommendation 1

Option: *Expand Energy Efficiency Funds.*

Source: Residential Commercial and Industrial Mitigation Option 2 (RCI-2).

Commission Recommendation 2

Option: *Energy Efficiency Requirements for Government Buildings.*

Source: Residential Commercial and Industrial Mitigation Option 3 (RCI-3), with inclusion of one of the following two language additions (recommended by Commission member Mr. Slocum):

“Adherence to energy related guidelines in LEED+ or Green Globes standards.”

or

“For the purposes of determining LEED certification, credit may be awarded for the use of wood-based materials derived from all credible sources, including the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Program, the Canadian Standards Association, the American Tree Farm System and other credible certified sources programs.”

Commission Recommendation 3

Option: *Market Transformation and Technology Development Programs.*

Source: Residential Commercial and Industrial Mitigation Option 4 (RCI-4).

Commission Recommendation 4

Option: *Improved Appliance and Equipment Efficiency Standards.*

Source: Residential Commercial and Industrial Mitigation Option 5 (RCI-5).

Commission Recommendation 5

Option: *Building Energy Codes.*

Source: Residential Commercial and Industrial Mitigation Option 6 (RCI-6).

Commission Recommendation 6

Option: *"Beyond Code" Building Design Incentives and Targets, Incorporating Local Building Materials and Advanced Construction.*

Source: Residential Commercial and Industrial Mitigation Option 7 (RCI-7).

Commission Recommendation 7

Option: *Education (Consumer, Primary/Secondary, Post-Secondary/Specialist, College and University Programs).*

Source: Residential Commercial and Industrial Mitigation Option 8 (RCI-8).

Commission Recommendation 8

Option: *Residential, Commercial, and Industrial Energy and Emissions Technical Assistance and Recommended Measure Implementation.*

Source: Residential Commercial and Industrial Mitigation Option 11 (RCI-11).

Commission Recommendation 9

Option: *Removing Barriers and Providing Incentives to Combined Heat and Power (CHP) and Clean Distributed Generation (DG).*

Source: Energy Supply Mitigation Options 3 and 9 (ES-3 and ES-9).

Note: Commission Counsel will send a letter to the North Carolina Utilities Commission (NCUC) on behalf of the LCGCC to request that the NCUC study issues related to interconnection that are barriers to the development of CHP systems. In particular, the LCGCC will request that the NCUC open a docket for the purpose of establishing an interconnection standard for the power interval between 100 kilowatts and the FERC standard 2 megawatts.

Commission Recommendation 10

Option: *Greenhouse Gas Inventories and Forecasts (I&F), State Greenhouse Gas Reporting, and State Greenhouse Gas Registry.*

Source: Cross Cutting Issues Mitigation Options 1, 2, and 3 (CC-1, CC-2, and CC-3), with inclusion of “possible consequences” in Mitigation Option CC-1 (recommended by Dr. Riggs).

Commission Recommendation 11

Option: *State Climate Public Education and Outreach.*

Source: Cross Cutting Issues Mitigation Option 4 (CC-4).

Commission Recommendation 12

Option: *State Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.*

Source: Cross Cutting Issues Mitigation Option 5 (CC-5), with the inclusion of the following three additions:

- Include the State Hazard Mitigation Planning Group (recommended by Commission member Dr. Boyles).
- Address major storm/critical events (recommended by Commission member Dr. Riggs).
- Address coastal hazards disclosure (recommended by Commission member Rep. Harrison).

Commission Recommendation 13

Option: *Options for State Greenhouse Gas Goals or Targets.*

Source: Cross Cutting Issues Mitigation Option 6 (CC-6).

Note: When the Commission resumes meeting after the 2007 Session of the General Assembly adjourns, the Commission will establish a State greenhouse gas emissions goal.

Commission Recommendation 14

Option: *Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (REPS).*

Source: NC Commission Member Additional Option 1.

Note: The Commission endorses the concept of a Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (REPS) (similar to that described in ES-2) without setting a specific target percentage (recommended by Commission members Mr. Toben; and Mr. Shore, Mr. Smith, Mr. Stephenson, and Mr. Urlaub).

Commission Recommendation 15

Option: *Management of Hog Manure.*

Source: NC Commission Member Additional Option 8.

Notes:

- The Commission recommends the *Management of Hog Manure* proposal with a modification that subsidies be provided for lagoon conversion to achieve greenhouse gas reductions.
- Commission member Mr. Profeta offered the proposal; Commission member Dr. Riggs moved for the modification. Mr. Profeta provided draft legislation on this proposal.

Commission Recommendation 16

Option: *Change Net Metering Regulations.*

Source: NC Commission Member Additional Option No. 21.

Notes:

- The Commission recommends that legislation be enacted to *change net metering regulations to allow more use.*
- Commission member Dr. Eggers offered the proposal. Dr. Eggers provided draft legislation on this proposal.

Commission Recommendation 17

Option: *Transport Statement.*

Source: By motion of Commission member Mr. Smith.

Note: The following statement will be included in the report: “The Commission acknowledges that substantial greenhouse gas reductions can be achieved in the transportation sector. The Commission will continue to study ways to achieve these reductions.”