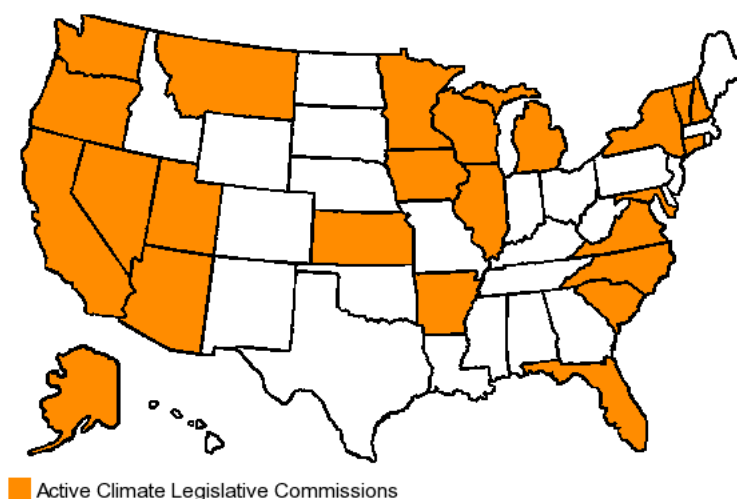


# Active Climate Legislative Commissions and Executive Branch Advisory Groups



## Alaska

The Climate Impact Assessment Commission was established in May 2006 by the Legislature to assess the impacts and costs of climate change to Alaska and develop recommendations for preventative measures that can be implemented by Alaskan communities and governments.

The Climate Change Sub-Cabinet was established in September 2007 by Administrative Order 238. The purpose of the sub-cabinet is to consolidate the state's knowledge of climate change in order to recommend policies and measures to guide the state's mitigation and adaptation efforts. The sub-cabinet includes the commissioners of the Departments of Commerce, Community and Economic Development; Natural Resources; Fish and Game; Transportation and Public Facilities; and Environmental Conservation (Chair). The Administrative Order also directs the group to consult with the president of the University of Alaska and explore ways to promote development of renewable energy sources such as geothermal, wind, hydroelectric, and tidal resources.

## Arizona

The Climate Change Advisory Group was established in February 2005 by executive order to produce an inventory of Arizona's greenhouse gas emissions and develop recommendations to reduce Arizona's greenhouse gas emissions.

## Arkansas

The Governor's Commission on Global Warming was established in April 2007 by Governor Mike Beebe's signing of HB2460. The commission will study the potential impacts of climate change on the state's environment and economy, and then recommend a global warming pollutant reduction goal and strategies for achieving it. Commission members will include representatives from the state government as well as many groups including scientific, energy, forestry, agricultural, and environmental organizations, among others. The Commission must report its findings by November 1, 2008.

## California

The Climate Change Advisory Committee was established in 2004 by the California Energy Commission to provide advice and recommendations on a comprehensive equitable and cost-effective climate change strategy for California.

A Climate Action Team was established in June 2005 by executive order to implement global warming emission reduction programs and report on the progress made toward meeting the state GHG emission reduction targets.

## Connecticut

Governor's Steering Committee on Climate Change, comprised of the chairmen and commissioners of relevant state agencies, was established in 2002 by Governor John Rowland.

## Florida

On June 25, 2008, Governor Charlie Crist signed into law House Bill 7135. The act creates the Florida Energy and Climate Commission (FECC) and the Florida Energy Systems Consortium (FESC). The FECC, which will be placed within the Executive Office of the Governor, will absorb the duties and responsibilities of the existing Florida Energy Commission and will participate in executing many aspects of HB 7135.

The FESC will develop and implement a comprehensive, longterm, environmentally compatible, sustainable, and efficient energy strategic plan for the state.

Press Release HB 7135

### **Illinois**

The Climate Change Advisory Group was created in October 2006 by Governor Rod Blagojevich to consider strategies and make recommendations on how the state can best reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. The Advisory Group, which includes scientists and representatives from business, industry, and the environmental community, must present its findings and recommendations to the Governor by June 30, 2007.

### **Iowa**

Climate Change Advisory Council established April 2007 and to be composed of a range of Governor-appointed stakeholders, as well as members of the legislature. The council is charged with developing a range of scenarios for reductions of statewide greenhouse gas emissions, including the possibility of cutting emissions 50 percent by 2050, and recommending the best strategies for statewide emissions reductions. The council will submit its recommendations to the governor and the general assembly by January 1, 2008.

### **Kansas**

On March 21, 2008, Governor Kathleen Sebelius signed Executive Order 08-03, which establishes the Kansas Energy and Environmental Policy Advisory Group. The new 25-member Advisory Group will recommend steps that the state can take to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions, as well as a proposed timetable for implementation of those recommendations. The Advisory Group will consider issues such as community economic development and electricity generation, and opportunities for diversifying the state's energy portfolio. Kansas joins 36 other states in formulating a climate action plan. Having previously denied permits to two new coal-fired power plants, Governor Sebelius also vetoed Senate Bill 327, which would have allowed construction of the plants to continue.

### **Maryland**

The Climate Change Commission was established in April 2007 by executive order and charged with creating a state action plan to address climate change. The Commission will assess the possible impacts of climate change; calculate Maryland's contribution to the climate change problem; work together with various state agencies, energy providers, business leaders and other groups to develop a greenhouse gas reduction strategy; and develop a plan for reducing the state's vulnerability to sea level rise and other effects of climate change.

### **Michigan**

On November 14, 2007, Governor Jennifer Granholm issued Executive Order No. 2007-42 establishing the Michigan Climate Action Council.

### **Minnesota**

The Minnesota Climate Change Advisory Group was appointed in April 2007 by Governor Tim Pawlenty to develop a comprehensive set of state-level policy recommendations for reducing or sequestering greenhouse gas emissions and to identify opportunities to promote energy efficient technologies and clean, renewable energy resources that will enhance economic growth.

### **Montana**

The Climate Change Advisory Council was established in April 2006 by the Department of Environmental Quality, as requested by Governor Brian Schweitzer, to: recommend strategies to reduce and sequester greenhouse gas emissions, promote economic growth, and develop a Climate Change Action Plan by July 2007.

### **Nevada**

The Climate Change Advisory Committee was established in April 2007 by executive order to make recommendations to the Governor on reducing Nevada's greenhouse gas emissions.

### **New Hampshire**

The Climate Change Action Council was established in June 2005 by executive order to review and provide recommendations to the Governor's office regarding climate change policy.

### **New York**

Recommendations made to Governor Pataki for reducing greenhouse gases by the Center for Clean Air Policy in April 2003.

### **North Carolina**

The Legislative Commission on Global Climate Change was established in September 2005 by the Legislature to: address the threats posed by global warming; determine the costs and benefits of the various mitigation strategies adopted by state and national governments; assess the state's potential economic opportunities in emerging carbon markets; determine the desirability of a statewide greenhouse gas emission goal and make recommendations for an appropriate path forward.

### **Oregon**

The Climate Change Integration Group was appointed in June 2006 by the Governor to track the state's progress on greenhouse gas emission reductions, and explore new opportunities for research on the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. The Group's final report is due to the Governor by December 2007.

The Oregon Global Warming Commission was created in August 2007 by the Governor to recommend to state and local governments ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and measures the state may adopt to mitigate the impacts of global warming. By March of every other year, starting in 2009, the Commission is to submit to the Legislative Assembly a report of the state's progress towards its greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal.

### **South Carolina**

The Governor's Climate, Energy, and Commerce Advisory Committee was established by executive order in February of 2007. The committee is charged with considering the impacts of climate change on South Carolina, potential economic opportunities involved, and the costs, benefits, and feasibility of various policy strategies for addressing climate change, as well as preparing a final action plan and policy recommendations for the Governor.

### **Utah**

The Governor's Blue Ribbon Advisory Council on Climate Change was established in August 2006 to assess the policy options available to Utah for addressing climate change. Consisting of representatives from government, industry, environmental, and community groups, the Council is charged with considering the science, economics, and policy around climate change and reporting its findings and recommendations to the governor.

### **Vermont**

The Commission on Climate Change was established in December 2005 by executive order to: examine the impacts of climate change in Vermont; produce an inventory of existing and planned actions that contribute to GHG emissions in the state; educate the public about climate change; and develop a Climate Action Plan including recommendations to reduce GHG emissions in Vermont.

### **Virginia**

The Governor's Commission on Climate Change was established in December 2007 by executive order to inventory Virginia's greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), evaluate expected climate change impacts, and identify the actions necessary to reach the state's 30% GHG reduction goal.

### **Washington**

The Washington Climate Change Challenge was initiated in February 2007 by executive order and directed the Washington Department of Ecology and Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development to lead a task force composed of representatives from business, community, and environmental groups in developing strategies for how Washington can achieve its climate goals.

### **Wisconsin**

The Task Force on Global Warming was created in April 2007 by executive order to investigate the potential economic and environmental impacts of climate change on Wisconsin, recommend possible solutions and strategies for greenhouse gas emissions reductions in the state, and work with other government agencies to derive an estimate of statewide emissions. Task Force membership includes representatives from business, industry, government, energy, and environmental organizations.