



Report to the Governor and General Assembly of Iowa

Iowa Climate Change Advisory Council

January 1, 2008

In the 2007 legislative session, Governor Culver signed into law SF 485, which requires the development of a greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory and voluntary registry and also establishes the Iowa Climate Change Advisory Council (ICCAC). This Council is charged with identifying opportunities for Iowa to respond to the challenge of global climate change by becoming more energy efficient and energy independent while spurring economic growth.

The Council shall develop multiple scenarios designed to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions including one scenario that would reduce such emissions by fifty percent by 2050. The Council shall also develop short-term, medium-term and long-term scenarios designed to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions and shall consider the cost-effectiveness of the scenarios. The Council shall establish a baseline year for purposes of calculating reduction in statewide greenhouse gas emissions, and shall submit the proposal to the governor and general assembly by January 1, 2008. The Council may periodically adopt recommendations designed to encourage the reduction of statewide greenhouse gas emissions.

This report fulfills the first requirement to the Governor and General Assembly and outlines some operating procedures and the goals for multiple scenarios to be developed during 2008.

The Council is a broad-based group of Iowa stakeholders charged with making a comprehensive set of state-level policy recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly in a climate action plan. The Governor and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) have asked the Center for Climate Strategies (CCS) to assist the ICCAC in developing its recommendations. ICCAC members voted to endorse this request and role by CCS at its opening meeting on October 18, 2007, and on a subsequent ICCAC conference call meeting on November 15, 2007. To date the entire Council has met three times including a recent meeting on December 17 in Davenport at St. Ambrose University.

The Council has divided into five subcommittees with additional experts added as recommended by members. (Experts may vote on subcommittee matters as they arise, but subcommittee recommendations are vetted and voted by the full Council prior to being recommended to the Governor and General Assembly.) Council members must be present to vote. A majority of a quorum of twelve voting members is required to meet and decide on Council business. The Council seeks consensus in all its

recommendations, but when less than a consensus is achieved, it is reported as a supermajority of voting members (greater than 80%), or a simple majority (greater than 50%). In the case of simple majority votes, dissenting viewpoints are given voice in Council reports to the Governor and General Assembly. Subcommittees include Clean and Renewable Energy (Energy Supply); Energy Efficiency and Conservation (Residential, Commercial, and Industrial); Agriculture, Forestry, and Waste Management; Transportation and Land Use; and Cross-Cutting Issues. The subcommittees have been meeting in conference calls approximately twice per month. Here follows the Council recommendations to date:

1. The Council recommends multiple scenarios for state-wide reductions in greenhouse gases with targeted goals of 50% and 90% by 2050.
2. The Council recommends adopting a baseline year of 2005 for the purposes of calculating state-wide greenhouse gas emission reductions in future years.
3. The Council recommends adopting other baseline years for the purposes of economic opportunities and incentives as needed.
4. The Council recommends GHG reductions for interim years including 2012, 2020, and finally 2050.

Without our full analysis, it is clear to the Council that it is necessary to develop scenarios that slow, stop, and reverse the growth of Iowa's GHG emissions soon.

In 2008, the Council will continue its work on selecting GHG mitigation options and energy opportunities from a catalog of possibilities. Cost-effectiveness of these options will be evaluated. Policy options will be recommended by December 31, 2008 to the Governor and General Assembly that will position the state to address the climate change problem, become more energy independent, and create future economic opportunities.

Signed,  
The Iowa Climate Change Advisory Council

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Franklin Cownie, Vice Chairman  
Ed Fallon, Secretary  
James Burns  
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