

Governor's Action Team on Energy and Climate Change: Summary of Recommendations

The recommendations within this summary are arranged under each of the 11 charges as numbered within the Governor's Executive Order 07-128.

1. Strategies and mechanisms for the consolidation and coordination of energy policy in Florida:

- a. The Action Team recommends further examination of ways the state can support the public and private efforts to develop alternative fuels and technologies in Florida.
- b. The Action Team recommends consideration of an organizational model that fosters greater public-private cooperation for the development of a low-carbon energy market in Florida.

2. Additional greenhouse gas emission reduction strategies beyond those directed in Executive Order 07-127, as well as an overall blueprint for development of actions:

- a. The Action Team recommends that the balance of its charge under Executive Order 07-128, in addition to specific future analytical endeavors specified in this document, be addressed within such a facilitated stakeholder process during 2008 to result in the Florida's Energy and Climate Change Action Plan due to the Governor on October 1, 2007.

3. Policies to enhance energy efficiency and conservation, including statewide targets:

- a. The Action Team recommends further examination of the issue of statewide energy conservation and efficiency targets as a component of the facilitated process recommended for the second phase of the Action Team's work in 2008.
- b. The Action Team recommends legislative authority for the Public Service Commission to develop programs which provide utilities with financial incentives to make investments in residential and commercial solar hot water systems and other renewable and energy efficiency technologies.
- c. The Action Team recommends stepwise improvements in building efficiency targets beyond 2009 to build upon the 15 percent increase in energy performance of new construction by 2009 as directed by Governor Crist in Executive Order 07-127.
- d. The Action Team recommends expanded legislative authority to incorporate additional residential appliances and commercial appliances not subject to federal preemption to build upon the 15 percent increase in appliance efficiency standards directed by Governor Crist in Executive Order 07-127.

4. Market-based regulatory mechanisms, such as cap and trade programs, for use in efficiently reducing greenhouse gas emissions:

- a. The Action Team recommends that Florida pursue a market-based policy of “cap and trade” by creating tradable emissions allowances as the preferable means meeting the utility sector emissions cap and the statewide emission reduction targets directed by Governor Crist in Executive Order 07-127.
- b. The Action Team recommends a market design process for Florida’s tradable allowances market as a vital component of the Florida’s Energy and Climate Change Action Plan development process to occur in 2008. This design process should result in final recommendations for several considerations, including but not limited to: an allowance allocation process, economic and emergency safety valves, the creation and use of emission offset credits, a “leakage” strategy regarding the migration of emissions into surrounding states, trial periods, and timeframes for full implementation. The design process should consider linking a Florida-based allowances trading market with other regional or international markets.

5. Strategies to diversify Florida’s electric generation fuels to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect Florida’s consumers from fuel price volatility:

- a. The Action Team recommends further examination of all energy technologies with low carbon emissions in addressing the state’s goals of reducing greenhouse gases and pursuing energy security to include public outreach and engagement.
- b. The Action Team recommends further examination of the role of nuclear energy in addressing the state’s goals of reducing greenhouse gases and pursuing energy security to include public outreach and engagement. This examination should address issues associated with the transport and storage of nuclear waste.
- c. The Action Team recommends that Florida adopt policies and continue funding which accelerates research, new job creation, development and expansion of renewable resource electric production technologies which may include, but are not limited to, solar, ocean, biofuels, and wind.
- d. The Action Team recommends the creation of a consortium effort among electric utilities, state government, and state universities to investigate and actively seek pilot projects on the feasibility of carbon capture, sequestration and storage within Florida.

6. Policies for emission reporting and registry that measure and document emission reductions:

- a. The Action Team recommends mandatory greenhouse gas emission reporting by all electric utilities to The Climate Registry using The Climate Registry’s reporting protocols.
- b. The Action Team recommends that the Department of Environmental Protection consider and propose additional industry sectors as appropriate for inclusion in mandatory registry reporting.

7. Strategies for reducing the greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicles:

- a. The Action Team recommends that greenhouse gas emission reduction strategies be incorporated into state, regional, and local growth management and transportation planning processes.
- b. The Action Team recommends that Florida establish growth policies that require or provide incentives for developing regional emissions that integrate transportation and land use planning to provide for sustainable growth and reduce greenhouse gas emission.
- c. The Action Team recommends research on the impact of greenhouse emission reduction strategies on transportation revenue sources and alternative ways to fund transportation that create incentives to drive less.
- d. The Action Team recommends that state, regional and local governments establish growth policies that:
 - In urban areas promote compact, transit-oriented development;
 - In rural areas balances the needs for economic development; promotion of agriculture, protection of natural resources; and preservation of rural character while avoiding urban sprawl;
 - Promote energy efficient mass and rail transit wherever feasible as well as strategies to ease the movement of freight in more efficient ways.
- e. The Action Team recommends that policies be developed which promote the use of low carbon vehicles.

8. Strategies for increasing the amount of renewable transportation fuels and for reducing the carbon content of fuels, such as a low carbon fuel standard:

- a. The Action Team recommends continued funding for research, development, and technology demonstration for a full range of renewable transportation fuels.
- b. The Action Team recommends continued support for existing tax incentives in Florida Statute for alternative transportation fueling infrastructure development in Florida.
- c. The Action Team recommends the development of life cycle analyses of transportation fuels and the use of those analyses to determine appropriate pathways to protect natural resources required for sustainability.
- d. The Action Team will continue to evaluate the option of a low carbon fuel standard including exploring opportunities for a regional standard with other southern states.

9. Policies not addressed in Executive Order 07-126 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from state and local governments:

- a. The Action Team recommends that the appropriate actions required by Executive Order 07-126 be extended by statute to all state government operations.
- b. The Action Team recommends specific legislative authority to remove barriers precluding the use of energy performance savings contracts for use in state government facilities.

c. The Action Team recommends incentives to assist municipalities, counties, and schools in the development of programs that achieve the Green Standards and designation or similar applicable standards, involve cost-efficient solutions, improve quality of life, and strengthen Florida's economy

10. Policies to reward early emission reductions in advance of statewide or national greenhouse gas regulatory programs:

a. The Action Team recommends that an early reductions incentive policy be incorporated in the market design process recommended for the second phase of the Action Team's work in 2008.

11. Other policies for efficiently reducing emissions in Florida in conjunction with, or independent of, regional, national, or international agreements:

a. Recommendation: In order to enable the sale of carbon credits from emission offset projects developed in Florida, the Action Team recommends that Florida pursue emission offset monitoring verification programs and agreements including but not limited to a Memorandum of Understanding with the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

b. The Action Team recommends further exploration of linkages to other emerging markets domestically and abroad as a feature of the market design process recommended for the second phase of the Action Team's work in 2008.