

# Illinois Governor Rod R. Blagojevich Climate Change Advisory Group

## Advisory Process

### General Description and Purpose

To address the serious and urgent issue of global climate change, Governor Blagojevich is setting a goal to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Illinois. The Climate Change Advisory Group is asked to inform a set of recommendations on how to meet this goal. The Group is comprised of leaders from private, public, non-profit and labor organizations (Attachment 1). It will meet over a six-month period to identify and analyze a set of climate change measures that reduces emissions in a cost-effective manner.

The Advisory Group will be chaired by Doug Scott, Director of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IL EPA). Vice Chairs include Michael Carrigan, Secretary/Treasurer, Illinois AFL-CIO; Art Gibson, Senior Vice President, Baxter Healthcare; and Howard Learner, Executive Director, Environmental Law and Policy Center of the Midwest. The World Resources Institute (WRI) will facilitate the Advisory Group meetings, provide technical assistance, and develop background materials.

The process is designed for substantive input by participants into the recommendations that IL EPA Director Scott will submit to Governor Blagojevich. Whenever possible, the process should reveal measures that are widely supported and agreed to be high-priority items for the Governor's consideration. However, the process is neither intended nor designed to achieve unanimity on policy recommendations. Divergent opinions will exist on the best policies and how they should be designed, and the process will serve to accurately capture those views and record them.

For the first meeting, IL EPA and WRI will provide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions data and a list of measures for initial consideration. These measures will be selected based on emissions reduction potential, cost, and other factors. Other measures may be added for the Group's consideration.

### Groundrules

The Advisory Process is open and inclusive and respects all stakeholders' views on climate change and the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions. Because the process is limited in its duration and the number of hours available for meetings, the scope is narrowed to a set of targeted, priority areas, bearing in mind that the purpose of the process is to help the State of Illinois achieve its declared emissions reduction goal. Some subjects fall outside of the process and the discussions intended for the meetings, such as the following:

- The quality of climate change science. To the extent that uncertainties about the timing and magnitude of climate change impacts may have legitimate implications for the design of specific emissions mitigation measures, then scientific assessments of the future scenarios of climate change may be suitable for discussion.

- Recommendations for national and international policies. The process is intended to focus on measures that can be implemented in Illinois. To the extent that those measures may affect other states or the country as a whole, those issues may be suitable for discussion.
- Policies related to vulnerability and adaptation. These important issues may be considered after the conclusion of the Advisory Process in another forum, to be determined.

The process and its meetings will be facilitated by WRI. The facilitator will be responsible for directing the discussion so as to remain consistent with the scope of the process and the specific meeting goals.

All meetings will be open to the public, and the meeting facilities will have space for the public to observe. If time allows, once committee members have provided input, additional comments and questions may be taken from observers. The public is welcome to provide written comments on any aspect of climate change. These comments should be submitted to IL EPA and will be posted on a dedicated web page.

## Timeline

Advisory Group meetings will be held over a period of approximately five months, beginning in February 2007, the work is to conclude in July 2007, with the completion of a final report summarizing the Advisory Group's recommendations and comments. Five meetings are envisioned, including a final session to review and provide final comment on the report. A preliminary schedule of meetings and subjects is provided in Table 1.

Event	Location	Date	Subjects
Meeting 1	Chicago	February 14, 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Process overview</li> <li>• IL GHG inventory and forecast</li> <li>• Illinois Energy Plan</li> <li>• Introduction of climate policy options and priorities</li> <li>• Modeling issues</li> </ul>
Meeting 2	Springfield	April 3, 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Form and stringency of key policies</li> <li>• Update on modeling</li> <li>• Subgroup progress</li> </ul>
Meeting 3	Chicago	mid May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Costs and benefits of key policies</li> <li>• Modeling of sensitivities</li> <li>• Subgroup progress</li> </ul>
Meeting 4	Springfield	late June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Narrowing and prioritization of recommendations</li> </ul>
Meeting 5	Chicago	late July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and comment on draft report to the Governor</li> </ul>

## **Communications**

The date, time, and location of each meeting will be communicated to Advisory Group participants and the public prior to the event. Agendas and background material will be distributed in a timely manner prior to the meetings. Communications will be via e-mail and postings to a dedicated web page. Meeting minutes and supporting materials will be posted to a dedicated web page in a timely manner.

## **Subgroups**

Subgroups of the Advisory Group will be formed to focus on specific measures, issues and sectors that require additional time for discussion and analysis. For example, a subgroup may be formed to help with the economic modeling of specific policies and the related assumptions. Subgroups may be chaired by the Vice Chairs of the Advisory Group. Subgroups will be convened by teleconference. WRI will facilitate these subgroup conference calls, take minutes of those discussions and report back on outcomes to subsequent Advisory Group meetings. The minutes may also be posted to a dedicated web page.

## **Modeling**

To provide the most informed recommendations, some economic modeling of the impacts of climate policies, such as emissions reductions, cost, and macroeconomic impacts, will be undertaken. The scope of this effort will be limited by financial resources. Priority will be given to modeling policies affecting the power and transport sectors. Budget and time permitting, three scenarios will be developed for modeling, as follows:

- Business as usual (BAU)
- Full implementation of the Illinois Energy Plan
- Full implementation of the Illinois Energy Plan plus a selection of additional climate policies identified and analyzed by the Advisory group

Additional modeling runs may also be added to test the sensitivities of model outputs to key input parameters if budgets and time permit.

## **Roles of the Chair, Vice Chairs and World Resources Institute**

The Chair is responsible for overall direction of the Advisory Group, including taking any decisions that may be necessary to keep the process on track. The Chair will be responsible for making recommendations to the Governor, based on input provided by the Advisory Group.

The Vice Chairs will provide ongoing guidance to the Chair, review the agenda and other materials in advance of meetings, and may chair subgroups.

WRI (Dr. Jonathan Pershing) will facilitate the Advisory Group meetings. WRI staff will also provide technical assistance, and develop background materials and provide drafting support to the Advisory Group.

## **Final Report and Recommendations**

Based on the Advisory process, IL EPA will prepare a draft report summarizing the recommendations and comments of the Advisory Group. The draft will be distributed to the Advisory Group and posted to a dedicated web page. The Advisory Group will discuss the draft and recommend modifications at its final meeting. Advisory Group members may choose to submit their comments in writing or not attend the meeting in person (attendance is encouraged). The Chair will submit the final report to the Governor.

### **For additional information or to submit written comments, please contact:**

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
Mr. Ron Burke, Associate Director  
1021 North Grand Avenue East  
P.O. Box 19276  
Springfield, IL 62794-9276  
217-557-7826  
217-785-8346 Fax  
[Ron.Burke@illinois.gov](mailto:Ron.Burke@illinois.gov)

World Resources Institute  
Mr. Andrew Aulisi, Director-U.S. Climate Policy Initiative  
10 G Street NE  
Washington, DC 20002  
202-729-7748  
202-729-7637  
[aulisi@wri.org](mailto:aulisi@wri.org)