



**REPORT TO NEW ENGLAND GOVERNORS  
AND EASTERN CANADIAN PREMIERS  
ON CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECTS**

**Conference of New England Governors  
and Eastern Canadian Premiers**

*August 2002*

## Introduction and Background

The Committee on the Environment and the Northeast International Committee on Energy (NICE) are pleased to submit the report on climate change projects to the Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG/ECP). This report provides an overview of the major accomplishments in the implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan adopted by the Conference in 1998. It also outlines the project priorities of the Committee on the Environment for the coming year.

Implementation of the climate change projects is the responsibility of the Climate Change Steering Committee with the assistance of a number of technical work groups. The Climate Change Steering Committee was formed jointly by the Committee on the Environment and Northeast International Committee on Energy (NICE). The Committee on the Environment recognizes the human and financial resources committed by the Steering Committee and work group members. Success in the plan's implementation is due to the considerable personnel resource commitments from each jurisdiction.

The Committee on the Environment also recognizes the valuable contribution, both human and financial, made by Environment Canada, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM), and other non-jurisdictional agencies.

## Summary of Accomplishments and Priorities

In 2001, the NEG/ECP adopted the *Climate Change Action Plan* and directed the Environment Committee and NICE to implement the plan. A Steering Committee was established.

At its first meeting in December 2001, the Climate Change Steering Committee identified initial priorities for implementing the Plan:

1. Development of a regional emissions inventory and recommendations for a regional emissions registry so that participating jurisdictions would have common data and methodologies for measuring progress.
2. Identification of initial climate actions that could be implemented quickly, cost-effectively, and serve as a foundation for building widespread support for additional actions.

With these priorities in mind, the Climate Change Steering Committee established specialized work groups for addressing the potential categories of actions outlined in the Plan: energy, transportation, inventory and registry, adaptation, and leading by example. Each work group was charged with developing a series of recommendations for action.

**Five Proposed Initiatives** — Each work group has developed action items and identified specific areas of focus for the coming year.

### **Energy Work Group**

The Plan suggests two potential goals and areas for action related to energy -- reduction of greenhouse gases from the electricity sector by 20% by 2025; and increasing the amount of greenhouse gas emission reductions achieved through conservation programs by 20%. The energy work group first year efforts focused on developing a better understanding of the relationships among electricity supply, electricity demand, and greenhouse gas emissions, and identifying potential climate actions for future evaluation. A discussion paper on these issues will be drafted in the coming year to describe these relationships and the potential impacts of particular climate actions to promote lower-emission generation and energy conservation

#### *Year Two Work Items*

The energy work group will focus its efforts in the following areas next year:

- evaluate and recommend options for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the electricity sector;
- develop a menu of potential actions in the energy sector to reduce demand and promote lower-carbon or more fuel-efficient energy generation; and
- investigate concepts and tools for use in education and outreach on energy-related issues.

### **Transportation Work Group**

Action Item 8 of the Climate Change Action Plan calls for a decrease in the transportation sector's growth in greenhouse gas emissions. To this end, the transportation work group has explored opportunities for promoting increased vehicle fuel efficiency through CAFÉ (Corporate Average Fuel Economy) standards or similar programs. States and provinces have also pursued opportunities for bio-fuels demonstration projects in the region through jurisdictional programs. States and provinces also participated in the organization of the 'Climate Change and Transportation' conference conducted by the Northeast Advanced Vehicle Consortium (NAVC) on May 20, 2002. A number of jurisdictions participated in discussions relating to many transportation policies.

#### *Year Two Work Items*

The transportation work group will focus its efforts in the following areas next year:

- continue to develop mechanisms to promote cleaner and more efficient vehicles in the region; identify additional issues and opportunities related to bio-fuels; and
- explore models of land use and development that could contribute to the design of potential incentives and performance-based practices to encourage a reduction in vehicle miles traveled.

### **Inventory & Registry Work Group**

The Plan calls for the establishment of a standardized greenhouse gas emission inventory for each jurisdiction beginning in 1990 and reported every three years (Action Item 1), and the development of a regional emissions registry that would be the basis for banking and trading of emissions credits with the region (Action Item 9). Within this context, the primary goals of the Inventory & Registry Work Group are to estimate the greenhouse gas emissions for New England and Eastern Canada for 1990 and 1999, and develop initial recommendations for establishing a regional registry and trading system.

#### *Year Two Work Items*

The inventory and registry work group will focus its efforts in the following areas next year:

- build jurisdictional and/or national capacity and standardize methods to produce a regional inventory at regular intervals; and
- develop the administrative, tracking, and reporting framework for a regional registry based on the principles outlined in the work group background issue paper.

### **Adaptation Work Group**

Action Item 7 of the Climate Change Action Plan focuses on “the reduction and/or adaptation of negative social, economic and environmental impacts of climate change”. The idea of this action item is to assess the impacts of climate change and to find adaptive mechanisms that are feasible and cost-effective. To start, the work group compiled a resource guide of expertise and contact information on a broad array of sectors. It also developed a proposal for an adaptation workshop to bring together expertise to discuss policy options.

#### *Year Two Work Items*

The adaptation work group will focus its efforts in the following areas next year:

- conduct a workshop to explore the science and policy options related to climate change impacts on our natural resources;
- work cooperatively with federal agencies to develop summaries, every other year beginning in 2003, of how our region is being impacted by climate change; and
- provide an initial assessment of issues related to carbon sequestration to the 2003 meeting of the NEG/ECP.

### **‘Lead by Example’ Work Group**

Action Item 4 of the Plan calls on state and provincial governments to lead by example in implementing climate change and greenhouse gas reduction programs. The ‘Lead by Example’ work group has compiled a draft *Survey of Public Sector Climate Change Activities* which provides a compendium of jurisdictional activities in the region. The work group has also canvassed jurisdictions to determine which ones maintain emissions inventory data for government programs and for which years the data is available.

### *Year Two Work Items*

The 'Lead by Example' work group will focus its efforts in the following areas next year:

- identify areas for expanded jurisdictional efforts and barriers to implementation of governmental programs; and
- prepare recommendations on implementation priority options for consideration of the Climate Change Steering Committee.

**Four Joint Actions** — In addition to the work group work plans summarized above, the Climate Change Steering Committee has developed four initial proposals for consideration for regional implementation.

- *LED Traffic Light Project.* This project would encourage and promote the replacement of conventional traffic lights in the region with more efficient, cost-effective LED traffic lights. LED traffic signals are estimated to use 85% less energy than conventional lights and have a payback of between 2 and 3.5 years.
- *College & University Partnerships in Emission Reductions.* This project would encourage the region's colleges and universities to sign on to the broad goals of the Plan and work within their own institutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 10% below 1990 levels by 2012. Such an initiative could result in the reduction of 600,000 to 650,000 metric tons of carbon.
- *State/Provincial Purchasing Programs for High Efficiency-Low Emission Office Equipment.* This project would encourage the purchase of more energy efficient office equipment by committing participating jurisdictions to work with their procurement departments to investigate whether barriers exist to cost-effective purchases, and if so, to propose how those barriers could be reduced.
- *Use of Cleaner, More Energy-Efficient Vehicles in State/Provincial Fleets.* This project would encourage the purchase and use of cleaner, more efficient vehicles in jurisdictional fleets by committing participating jurisdictions to work with their procurement departments to investigate whether barriers exist to such purchases where economically feasible and if so, to propose how those barriers could be reduced. This project would demonstrate by example the advantages of using cleaner, more energy efficient vehicles.

**Additional Climate Change Steering Committee Commitments.** The Steering Committee has also agreed to pursue the following tasks in the coming year:

- 1) Explore additional proposals for cost-effective actions that could be appropriately implemented on a regional basis, contributing to the goals of the Action Plan;
- 2) Explore cooperative working relationships with outside institutions that are engaged in areas related to the implementation of the Plan;
- 3) Explore internet options for coordinating internal project work and sharing information (both across jurisdictions and with the public);
- 4) Explore opportunities to pursue climate action and associated education as part of multi-pollutant initiatives.
- 5) Identify opportunities to continue to encourage multi-pollutant strategies and improved vehicle fuel efficiency at the federal level.

## Climate Change Steering Committee and Work Groups

The Climate Change Steering Committee has met twice since August 2001 (in Montréal, Québec in December 2001 and in Providence, Rhode Island in June 2002) and conducted numerous conference calls of its work groups. The NEG/ECP Committee on the Environment recognizes the fine work of the Steering Committee and its work groups in implementing the Climate Change Action Plan, and commends its accomplishments this year.

### NEG/ECP Climate Change Steering Committee

Claude Desjarlais* (co-chair)	PQ Ministry of Natural Resources
Dean Mundee (co-chair)	NB Dept. of Environment & Local Government
Sonia Hamel (co-chair)	MA Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
Kenneth Colburn* (co-chair)	NH Dept. of Environmental Services
Chris James	CT Dept. of Environmental Protection
Robert Luysterborgh	CT Dept. of Public Utility Control
James Brooks	ME Dept. of Environmental Protection
Julie Hashem	ME State Planning Office
Joanne McBrien	MA Division of Energy Resources
Darwin Curtis	NB Dept. of Natural Resources & Energy
David Bazeley	Newf. Dept. of Natural Resources
John Drover	Newf. Dept. of the Environment
Meredith Hatfield	NH Governor's Office of Energy & Community Service
Joanne Morin	NH Dept. of Environmental Services
Allan Parker	NS Dept. of Natural Resources
George Foote	NS Dept. of Natural Resources
Ron Estabrooks	PEI Dept. of Development & Technology
Todd Fraser	PEI Dept. of Fisheries, Aquaculture & Environment
Robert Noel de Tilly	PQ Ministry of the Environment
Janice McClanaghan	RI State Energy Office
Steve Majkut	RI Dept. of Environmental Management
Richard Valentinetti	VT Dept. of Environmental Conservation

### Partnering Agencies:

Mike Kenyon	U.S. EPA (New England)
Norman Willard	U.S. EPA (New England)
William White	U.S. EPA (New England)
Ken Colburn and staff	Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management
Lisa Callaghan	North American Clean Vehicle Consortium
Alain Bourque	Environment Canada

\* Claude Desjarlais and Kenneth Colburn had left the Climate Change Steering Committee at the time this report was prepared in July 2002, to take new positions with the Ouranos Consortium and NESCAUM respectively. The Steering Committee thanks them for their fine work co-chairing the climate change project and looks forward to continuing to work with them in the future. Janice McClanaghan of the Rhode Island State Energy Office has assumed the role of New England co-chair of the committee.