Appendix 4

Activities in Other States

Given the enormity of the climate change problem, many states have recognized that each region within a country must do its part to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions if we are to avert the most devastating impacts from global warming, and have begun to take action.

State initiatives serve as models for subsequent federal action, similar to what has already happened with other environmental regulations, where a significant number of federal environmental laws and programs have been based on state models. State actions can have a significant impact on emissions, because many individual states emit relatively high levels of GHGs. Texas, for example, emits more GHGs than France, while California's emissions exceed those of Brazil. New Jersey accounts for approximately 0.5 percent of the global GHG emissions, and 2 percent of the U.S. GHG emissions.[1] State actions are also important because states have primary or substantial jurisdiction over many areas, such as agriculture, transportation, building codes and land use, which are critical to addressing climate change. By taking a proactive approach to climate change planning, states are finding that they can not only lower their GHG emissions, but they can also secure their energy supply and reliability while reducing energy costs, protecting their air quality and public health, stimulating economic development, and reducing traffic congestion.

State actions include:

1. Development of a baseline GHG inventory;
2. Development of projections that estimate future emissions based on expected population, economic growth and other factors;
3. Development of emission reporting and tracking systems to provide more accurate emissions data to enhance inventories and projections;
4. Identification of areas in which emissions could be reduced, and development of GHG emission reduction goals and targets;
5. Development of registries and brokering programs for tracking and exchanging emission offsets;
6. Development of GHG action plans;
7. Implementation of GHG reduction measures (e.g., cap-and-trade programs, programs to promote and require renewable energy and energy efficiency, low emission vehicle programs, etc.); and
8. Development of State Climate Adaptation Plan.

The USEPA has developed a website which shows those states that have completed, or are working on, a state climate action plan, as well as a searchable database of state policy recommendations by sector contained. These tools can be found at http://epa.gov/climatechange/wycd/stateandlocalgov/index.html.

In October of 2006, the Pew Center on Global Climate Change released a report entitled "Climate Change 101: State Action" An update to that report, "Learning From State Action on Climate Change" was released by the Pew Center in December 2007, highlighting state efforts as

[1] While New Jersey makes up about 3 percent of the U.S. population, it emits less GHG emissions per capita than the U.S. average, in part because of little heavy industry and a large contribution to its energy generation from nuclear power.

they responded to the challenges of implementing solutions to climate change. Both of the Pew Center's reports can be found at http://www.pewclimate.org/policy_center/policy_reports_and_analysis/state . The Pew Center also tracks state actions on climate change at http://www.pewclimate.org/states-regions.

A comprehensive list of state climate actions has been compiled by the National Association of Clean Air Agencies and is available at http://www.4cleanair.org/.

Finally, the New America Foundation has created the State Climate Policy Tracker, an online tool to allow state-by-state tracking of hundreds of carbon and energy saving measures now being implemented across the country. A seven-column matrix captures the climate actions taking place across six economic sectors, and reports on the progress of each measure, its cost or cost-saving potential, and the estimated reduction in carbon emissions expected on an annual basis. This tool can be found at http://www.newamerica.net/programs/climate.