

# Michigan Climate Action Council

There is no longer any serious debate in the scientific community that emissions of greenhouse gases are contributing to the Earth's warming climate and the resulting damage to our ecosystem. Governments, business leaders, and people all over the world are now recognizing the potential impacts of climate change on the economy, environment, and quality of life, and have been working at all levels to address this problem.

Here in Michigan, we too have an important role in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by encouraging technological innovation and the adoption of policies that provide both economic and environmental benefits. In order to spearhead these efforts, the Michigan Climate Action Council (MCAC) was created to address these concerns.

## MCAC: A Brief Overview

The MCAC was established by Governor Jennifer M. Granholm on November 14, 2007 under Executive Order No. 2007-42. The Council membership is comprised of representatives from academia, industry, utilities, state, tribal and local government, and environmental interest groups. The MCAC acts in an advisory capacity to the Governor to examine potential state and multi-state actions to mitigate climate change throughout various sectors; develop a comprehensive climate action plan with recommendations for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Michigan; and work with tribes, local and state government on additional measures to address climate change. The Council is supported by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the lead state agency, and by the Center for Climate Strategies, a nonprofit organization experienced in working with stakeholders to facilitate the development of climate action plans.



Governor Granholm kicks off the first meeting of the Michigan Climate Action Council

## Technical Work Groups

In addition to the Council, there are six Technical Work Groups (TWG) that provide input to the MCAC decision process by performing technical research, developing and reviewing proposed policy actions and recommendations, and providing feedback on priorities. TWG membership consists of MCAC members, as well as other technical experts as needed.

## **The MCAC Process**

The Governor tasked the Council to complete its work in two phases. First, the council was to develop an Interim Report that contained a list of policy recommendations for decreasing greenhouse gas emissions with reduction targets that support short, mid, and long term goals. The second phase entails issuing a comprehensive Climate Change plan for Michigan.

In April 2008, the Council issued the Interim Report, completing the first phase of the MCAC process. In developing the Interim Report, the Council and the TWGs reviewed over 330 policy options that aim to reduce Michigan's carbon footprint. These were then further condensed to just over fifty options for additional economic and environmental analysis. The Interim Report is available on the MCAC Web site online: [www.miclimatechange.us/stakeholder.cfm](http://www.miclimatechange.us/stakeholder.cfm).

The Council continues to refine the fifty policies to a select set of policy actions and recommendations for implementation. On December 31, 2008, the Council will issue a comprehensive Climate Change plan for Michigan, completing the second phase of the Council's work. In addition to the proposed policy recommendations, the plan will include an inventory of Greenhouse Gas sources in Michigan, the implementation mechanism to assess climate change impacts, and recommend legislation to support these policies.

## **Public Participation**

Participation and input provided by the general public is a valuable asset to the continued development of the MCAC priorities. Members of the public may attend MCAC meetings or participate in the conference calls of the individual TWGs to provide comments and raise concerns. The Council and TWG schedules are regularly updated and can be accessed on the MCAC Web site: [www.miclimatechange.us](http://www.miclimatechange.us).



The Technical Work Groups address the six topics listed below as they pertain to climate change in the Great Lakes region and the affected sectors of the economy. Also listed are the DEQ liaison contacts for each of the TWGs:

### **Agriculture, Forestry, & Waste**

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### **Cross-Cutting Issues**

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### **Energy Supply**

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### **Market-Based Policies (MBP)**

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### **Residential, Commercial, & Industrial**

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Lynn Fiedler, [fiedlerl@michigan.gov](mailto:fiedlerl@michigan.gov)

### **Transportation & Land Use (TLU)**

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Marcia Horan, [horanm@michigan.gov](mailto:horanm@michigan.gov)

## **Visit the MCAC Online!**

For detailed information, please visit the MCAC Web site at <http://www.miclimatechange.us>.

The Web site also contains the Executive Order No. 2007-42 and the Executive Directive 2007-22 that established the Council, as well as the corresponding press release that was issued by the Governor.