

**STATE OF MONTANA  
CLIMATE SOLUTIONS COUNCIL**

**PURPOSE**

The Council shall provide recommendations and strategies for the State of Montana to:

- reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- strengthen greenhouse gas inventories and accounting to track progress and maintain accountability;
- prepare the state for climate impacts; and
- identify needs and gaps in climate science, decision support tools, and the research, development, and commercialization of new technologies.

The Council shall focus on identifying strategies that build upon anticipated regional competitive advantages, prepare and build resilience for Montanans and the State government, and address the needs of communities in transition through appropriate economic development and workforce strategies.

**DUTIES**

**Section 1:**

By June 15, 2020, the Council shall issue the Montana Climate Solutions Plan (Plan).

The Plan shall include:

- Recommendations toward achieving an interim goal of net greenhouse gas neutrality for average annual electric loads in the state by no later than 2035, and
- A goal of net greenhouse gas neutrality economy-wide at a date to be determined by the Council.

The Plan shall build upon prior activities, including the Montana Renewables Development Action Plan, and shall consider cost-effective strategies that position the state to safeguard existing economic and energy assets, while pursuing future growth and competitive advantage opportunities to serve regional markets.

The Plan shall include strategies in the following areas:

- a) Expanding renewable energy generation and pursuing cost-effective conservation and energy efficiency strategies to reduce or manage electric loads such as:
  - i. Expanding wind and solar generation at all scales;
  - ii. Exploring projects that complement existing and future generation sources such as pumped hydro and other forms of energy storage, biomass, and geothermal; and
  - iii. Pursuing solutions to properly value and deploy energy efficiency strategies throughout the energy system.

- b) Reducing emissions from traditional electricity generation sources while maintaining competitive advantages in electricity production, generation, and exports such as;
  - i. Continuing to advance the demonstration and deployment of carbon capture, storage, and utilization in support of negative emissions technologies; and
  - ii. Exploring the additional benefits and efficiencies associated with regional power markets.
- c) Supporting voluntary, incentive-driven tools and technologies for improving productivity, reducing emissions, and boosting soil health and carbon storage on farms and ranchlands, and in forests and wood products;
- d) Promoting alternative modes of transportation and electrification of the transportation sector, including regionally interconnected electric vehicle infrastructure corridors; and
- e) Continuing to reduce emissions from the State's fleet, facilities, and operations.

## Section 2:

The Council shall coordinate with the Montana University System (MUS) to identify strategies to build upon the work of the Montana Climate Assessment (MCA) to develop science driven, regionally relevant research on climate impacts facing Montana's economy.

In addition to strategies to further the work of the MCA, the Council shall identify needs and opportunities for additional extension, outreach, and climate services to deliver timely and relevant climate science and decision support to stakeholders, including municipal, county and tribal governments.

The Council shall coordinate with the MUS to identify opportunities for the State to support innovation in climate-smart research and technology development, demonstration, and manufacturing working with the state's business community.

The Council and MUS will identify opportunities for Montana to provide national and international leadership to advance technologies that support low and negative emissions and lead the deployment of new energy generation, transmission, and storage technologies.

The Council and MUS will also identify strategies to support work at state universities that advances the engineering, design, research, and manufacturing of low emissions technologies in areas such as transportation, materials engineering, agricultural productivity, manufacturing, and natural resource management.

Strategies should seek to integrate appropriate plans for economic development, workforce development, and technology transfer. Where possible, the Council and MUS should explore appropriate opportunities to link strategies to future updates to the MUS's Science and Technology Plan.

Section 3:

Individual state agencies shall develop initiatives and goals for efficiencies in resource management and operations.

The Council will coordinate with all relevant state agencies to ensure that the initiatives incorporate the Purpose and Duties of this Order, which are:

- a) Making climate an immediate and actionable priority for the State by improving efficiencies in resource management and operations through individual agencies initiatives and quantifiable goals that can be implemented now, with measurable progress made by June 30, 2020;
- b) Initiating a state government-wide effort to better prepare Montana for climate-related risks and disasters by incorporating climate adaptation strategies into existing planning and operations.

The Council and agencies shall identify existing state plans and incorporate strategies into future planning efforts.

Where required, agencies will prepare a Supplemental Climate Plan to address climate adaptation and resiliency.

Supplemental Climate Plans should incorporate the best-available science concerning climate-related risks and vulnerabilities facing communities and key economic sectors in the state and identify prudent and cost-effective adaptation strategies and funding needs for building climate resilience and incentivizing preparedness as part of disaster relief.

The Council and agencies should consider the need for landscape or watershed scale planning to effectively address risks and integrate solutions; and

- c) Determining any additional near-term strategies for infrastructure investment, environmental remediation, and economic and workforce development in communities presently impacted, or anticipated to be impacted, from regional energy transitions.

**DELIVERABLES**

The Council shall deliver plans according to the following schedule:

1. Draft Montana Climate Solutions Plan for Public Comment  
**Due: January 31, 2020**

2. Individual state agency initiatives and goals for efficiencies in resource management and operations  
**Due: March 15, 2020**
3. Final Montana Climate Solutions Plan Issued  
**Due: June 15, 2020**
4. Agency Supplemental Climate Plans  
**Due: June 15, 2020**
5. Agency progress reports on efficiencies in resource management and operations  
**Due: June 30, 2020**

### **ADMINISTRATION**

The Council shall engage members of the public in formulating their recommendations, including conducting meetings in an open and transparent manner and facilitating public comment on draft products at appropriate times during their deliberations.

All recommendations of the Council shall be delivered to the Governor, the Energy and Telecommunication Interim Committee, the Environmental Quality Council Interim Committee, and the Public Service Commission upon completion.

### **DURATION**

The Council shall complete its work and cease to exist by August 1, 2020, unless rescinded or renewed by subsequent executive order.

### **COMPENSATION**

The Council members will be eligible for reasonable travel reimbursement per § 2-15-122, MCA.

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#### State Agencies

1. Department of Natural Resources and Conservation,
2. Department of Labor and Industry,
3. Department of Environmental Quality,
4. Department of Commerce,
5. Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks,
6. Department of Administration,
7. Department of Agriculture,
8. Department of Transportation,
9. Department of Military Affairs, Disaster and Emergency Services,
10. Northwest Power and Conservation Council, and
11. Governor's Natural Resources Policy Advisor.