

Montana Climate Solutions Council

Charter

Purpose

The purpose of the Montana Climate Solutions Council is to provide recommendations to the Governor, legislature and citizens of Montana on strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, prepare the state for climate impacts, foster innovation across Montana's economy and address the needs of communities in transition through appropriate economic development and workforce strategies.

Duties

The council shall:

- Develop a Montana Climate Solutions Plan by June 1, 2020, including discrete and actionable recommendations to achieve the objectives and interim deliverables identified in Executive Order (EO) 08-2019;
- Recognize, learn from and further existing efforts within Montana that meet the objectives of EO 08-2019; and
- Deliberate through a transparent process that maximizes engagement among diverse values and interests across the state, including incorporating public input on recommendations.

Guiding Principles and Ground Rules

Council members are committed to fostering a respectful environment where all voices are valued. The Council's work will be carried out consistent with the following guiding principles and ground rules:

Council members endeavor to:

- Attend all meetings of the Council and attend whenever possible all committee assignment meetings (designees may attend meetings but may not vote);
- Come prepared and actively participate to reach consensus;
- Respect other Council members, seek to understand their interests and be empathetic to their perspectives;
- Speak openly and honestly about concerns and opportunities;
- Listen to and engage members of the public as part of deliberations;
- Strive to resolve differences in a constructive manner;
- Engage in joint learning;
- Actively generate proposals thought to be workable for all;
- Assume good intentions from others;
- Ask clarifying questions;
- Follow through with commitments and schedules;

- Remain focused on the Council’s core duties and seek to meet high priority needs;
- Seek tangible, achievable outcomes; and
- Work in good faith to achieve the Council’s goals.

Council Decision Process

The Council will strive to reach consensus decisions whenever possible. Council members will be asked to show their level of support for proposals in the following way:

- Thumb up for full support of the proposal
- Thumb to the side for “can live with” the proposal
- Thumb down for “cannot live with” the proposal

The commitment to work for consensus means that members will:

- Participate in the give and take of the process in a way that seeks to understand the interests of all;
- Generate proposals thought to be workable for all;
- When consensus is not immediately apparent, explore opportunities to build broader agreement;
- If the Council is in general agreement on an issue, dissenting members are responsible for proposing alternatives they believe might achieve group consensus; and
- Consensus is achieved when all Council members can live with or are in support of the proposal (all thumbs to the side or up).

The Climate Solutions Council recognizes that there may be recommendations that fail to achieve consensus that are important for meeting the goals and objectives outlined in Executive Order 08-2019. The council may adopt recommendations that receive support or neutral positions from at least a 2/3rd majority of council members provided those recommendations are clearly distinguished from consensus recommendations in the final report and they articulate dissenting viewpoints and concerns raised by council members in opposition. The council’s final report should summarize other topics considered but not advanced by the council as a whole.

Committees of the council may adopt their own decision process to propose, vet and review recommendations for consideration by the council. When recommendations are unlikely to achieve consensus or a 2/3rd majority support or neutral position among council members, at the sole discretion of committee chairs, those recommendations may be tabled in the committee. Three or more members may propose the council reconsider any tabled recommendations.

The Council does not allow proxy votes.

Committees

The Council has established three committees to further its objectives between full meetings of the council. The committees include:

1. The Climate Adaptation, Information and Decision Support Committee;
2. The Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Strategies Committee; and
3. The Technology Innovation for Climate Solutions and Community Transitions Committee.

The council may create additional ad-hoc committees or workgroups on specific topics or issues based on need and through coordination with the leadership committee. Membership for any additional committees will be open to all interested members of the council.

Leadership Committee

The Leadership Committee is comprised at a minimum from the council member and ex-officio state leader co-chair from each of the council's three committees, the council co-chairs and any other members from the council serving across committee efforts as determined by the co-chairs. The Leadership Committee shall be convened by the council co-chairs or designees. The Leadership Committee is responsible for:

1. Strategizing and planning the overall process of the council;
2. Representing the council to the Governor's office and other relevant administrative departments
3. Identifying important milestones of achievement to ensure that the Montana Climate Solutions Plan is completed on time in accordance with established deliverables and timelines;
4. Developing constructive approaches to challenges in the process;
5. Assisting in developing meeting agendas;
6. Making recommendations to the full council for consideration; and
7. Establishing work groups or ad-hoc committees as appropriate, each with a clearly defined purpose.

Council Chairs

Patrick Holmes, Natural Resources Policy Advisor to Governor Bullock, and Kathy Hadley have been selected to serve as co-chairs for the council by the Governor. The co-chairs are responsible for:

1. Providing leadership to the Leadership Committee, *Ex Officio* representatives and the council regarding development of the Montana Climate Solutions Plan;
2. Framing issues, key questions and process for the council;
3. Providing guidance and direction to support productive discussions; and
4. Making sure timelines are met.

Ex Officio Participants

Ex officio participants in the Council are comprised of leadership from state agencies. Alternates are permitted, although consistency in participation is strongly desired. Only the *Ex officio* committee co-

chairs and council co-chair are voting members for purposes of council decisions. *Ex officio* agencies include:

- Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation
- Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, & Parks
- Montana Department of Environmental Quality
- Montana Disaster & Emergency Services
- Department of Labor and Industry,
- Department of Environmental Quality,
- Department of Commerce,
- Department of Administration
- Department of Agriculture,
- Department of Transportation,
- Department of Military Affairs and Disaster and Emergency Services, and
- Northwest Power and Conservation Council

Ex officio participants are responsible for:

1. Attending Committee meetings either by phone or other remote means on an as needed basis;
2. Attending Council meetings and engaging in working groups as appropriate;
3. Identifying technical resource staff to inform the process and work with the council
4. Providing technical resource capacity, including data sources, analysis and scientific information, and feasibility in a timely manner;
5. Actively engaging and contributing to the development of the Climate Solutions Plan, including agency led initiatives governing operations per E.O. 08-2019;
6. Reminding the Council of legal and regulatory requirements and ensuring consistency with existing management plans and programs;
7. Identifying opportunities for alignment of tools, data, and plans to support complementary agency efforts; and
8. Identifying partnership opportunities.

Quorum

A quorum of two-thirds of the council membership (including voting *ex officio* members) is required for the council to make formal decisions. The council may finalize decisions through the use of ballots to provide additional flexibility to members.

External Communications

Information about the council will be made available via website at <https://deq.mt.gov/DEQAdmin/dir/Climate> and other venues as appropriate; all efforts will be taken to ensure that the group's work remains transparent to the public, including providing meeting notices, and storing and sharing documents and resources. In working with the public, Council members:

- Agree to engage with their colleagues and partners and the general public in a way that supports the process and decisions of the Council;

- Will not negatively characterize any individual Council member or member of the public; and
- May share draft documents with and receive comments from others as long as they are clearly marked as draft, with the understanding that they will not be considered finalized until the Council as a whole has reached a decision.

Council members recognize the important role the media plays in informing the public about the Council's work. When engaging with the media, Council members:

- who speak to the news media or participate in other online communication such as blogs must clarify that they speak only as an individual and not on behalf of the Council; and
- may choose to develop media content, outreach or talking points that represent the council as a whole through the council decision process.