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Catalog of State Actions Cross Cutting (CC) Issues Working Group

A catalog of state-level, GHG-reducing actions and policy options prepared by the Center for Climate Strategies (CCS), Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC), and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (PCA) based on actions undertaken or considered by Minnesota and other states, including regional, state, local and private actions.

Important Note: The GHG Reduction Policy Options below are numbered solely for convenience in referencing them. Their numbers do NOT reflect a ranking or prioritization of the policy options.

Notation regarding options:

Options marked with an asterisk (*) indicate options that are at least partially “base case” policies, i.e., that have been considered or undertaken at some level in Minnesota.

Option No.	GHG Reduction Policy Option	Priority for Consideration	Feasibility Considerations	Notes
1 INVENTORIES AND FORECASTING				
1.1.	Establish & fund mandatory GHG emission inventory function at state agency*			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State has already established on-going inventory capacity within the PCA.
1.2.	Establish & maintain GHG emission forecasting function*			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
2 GHG REPORTING				
2.1.	Establish or adopt a GHG emissions reporting program*			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State recently joined <i>The Climate Registry</i> which, at least for voluntary participants, will include compliance with reporting protocols for registering GHG emissions and emission reductions.
3 GHG REGISTRY				
3.1.	Participate in the development of a multi-state GHG emissions reduction registry*			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State recently joined <i>The Climate Registry</i> for registering GHG emissions and emission reductions.
4 STATEWIDE GHG REDUCTION GOALS AND TARGETS				
4.1.	Establish goals or targets for statewide GHG emission reductions			
4.2.	Institute an accountability program to measure and report progress in reducing GHG emissions.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose is to ensure that overall implementation of the MCCAG’s plan proceeds toward its targets. • Implementation accountability for individual policy options should be included in policy option straw proposals developed by the TWGs.
5 STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT GHG EMISSIONS (LEAD-BY-EXAMPLE)				
5.1.	Lead by example by establishing targets for reductions in State GHG emissions			

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5.2.	Create a multi-agency body to oversee on-going state climate efforts.			
5.3.	Disaggregate the State’s own GHG emissions to the agency level and require annual agency-specific reports on GHG reduction progress.			
5.4.	Institute an accountability program to measure and report progress in reducing GHG emissions.			
5.5.	Climate-neutral bonding			
5.6.	Require evaluation of GHG emissions in Environmental Impact Statements and similar environmental studies.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental studies, such as environmental Assessments (EAs) and Environmental Impact Statements (EISs).
6 COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CLIMATE ACTION PLANS (COUNTIES, CITIES, ETC.)				
6.1.	Encourage and assist in the development of local government planning efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, establish targets, etc.			
7 PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH				
7.1. State Government Education and Outreach Actions The State should lead by example (i.e., walk the talk) regarding education and outreach.				
7.1.1.	Establish an education & outreach committee to educate audiences regarding climate plan policies and to oversee those relating to education.			

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7.1.2.	Include state public education and higher education officials in the committee established above			
7.1.3.	Create and maintain one or more “outreach coordinator” positions specifically tasked with climate outreach and coordination among state agencies and outside entities.			
7.1.4.	Educate state employees across-the-board, and assign “point persons” to do so on an on-going basis.			
7.1.5.	Institute annual Governor’s Awards to recognize climate action of several types/categories.			
7.2.	Target Audience: Policymakers (legislators, regulators, executive branch, agencies) Implementation of climate actions hinges on policymakers’ approval.			
7.2.1.	Educate policy makers on CAP policy recommendations, climate change in general, scientific and technological advances, and progress toward state goals through regular briefings in order to promote acceptance and implementation of mitigation and adaptation policies.			
7.2.2.	Provide continuing outreach & assistance to Governor’s office, legislature, and implementing agencies on a regular basis.			

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7.3.	Target Audience: Future Generations Integrate climate change into educational curricula, post-secondary degree programs, and professional licensing.			
7.3.1.	Add climate change to public education performance standards for science and social studies; identify (a) gaps in climate change education, and (b) specific curricula to fill any gaps.			
7.3.2.	Organize groups of educators to identify, assemble, and employ climate change curricula appropriate to age groups			
7.3.3.	Integrate “best practices” into public school design & construction to educate students (and parents) first-hand in their communities & colleges (i.e., walk the talk).			
7.3.4.	Integrate climate change into core college curricula.			
7.3.5.	Promote research into climate change and solutions at state universities; develop university “Centers of Excellence” on climate issues, new approaches, and technologies.			
7.3.6.	Integrate climate change into existing and/or new educational competition programs.			

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7.3.7.	Work with science centers, zoos, and museums to include a climate science focus appropriate to their core mission			
7.3.8.	Introduce core competencies on climate change into professional licensing programs (e.g., energy efficiency in building design and construction, use of recycled materials, etc.)			
7.4.	Target Audience: Community Leaders & Community-Based Organizations (e.g., institutions, municipalities, service clubs, social & affinity groups, NGOs, etc.) Recognize leadership; share success stories & role models; expand involvement and participation within civic society.			
7.4.1.	Educate community planning and zoning officials about climate change, impacts, and opportunities.			
7.4.2.	Identify individual community leaders who are acting effectively on climate change; showcase and share their successes.			
7.4.3.	Identify individual community leaders who are not yet acting on climate change and make a special effort to educate and encourage them to act.			

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7.4.4.	Engage associations and attend their periodic meetings to reach out on climate change, impacts, sector-specific mitigation actions, and adaptation opportunities.			
7.4.5.	Identify, assist, and leverage community-based organizations that have expertise or interest in climate-related issues			
7.4.6.	Work with community-based organizations to identify & build upon climate issues related to their core mission			
7.4.7.	Develop & coordinate a network of community-based organizations acting on climate change so they can link up, organize joint events, etc.			
7.4.8.	Support and facilitate outreach and education within community-based organization regarding climate change issues and actions			
7.4.9.	Develop and provide concrete information on co-benefits to entities to use in boosting their climate efforts			

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7.4.10.	Organize & host events that focus on leading by example, sharing “how-to,” illuminating financial risks and opportunities, co-benefits, etc.			
7.4.11.	Encourage municipal leaders to join ICLEI’s ¹ Cities for Climate Protection program and/or the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement ²			
7.4.12.	Help communities statewide implement programs like Ft. Collins’ ClimateWise program.			
7.5.	Target Audience: General Public Increase awareness and engage in climate actions in personal and professional lives.			
7.5.1.	Educate broadcasters, reporters, editorial boards, etc. about climate change, the risks it imposes, and solutions.			
7.5.2.	Work with state broadcasters and print media associations to develop & run climate change public service announcements.			
7.5.3.	Conduct public polling to benchmark strength and depth of climate understanding.			

¹ ICLEI is the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives. See www.iclei.org.

² See <http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/mayor/climate/>.

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7.5.4.	Keep a high profile on climate change issues and actions through regular public mention by Governor and other public leaders			
7.5.5.	Develop and use a state-based “brand” on climate awareness and action			
7.5.6.	Develop & maintain a state climate change website for the public including a clearinghouse of climate change information and resources.			
7.5.7.	Work with existing company outreach efforts to customers to enhance awareness of climate change issues & opportunities			
7.5.8.	Undertake a concerted planning effort to identify and address climate adaptation issues & needs in the state			
7.5.9.	Work to educate consumers – and home designers, builders, and contractors – to ensure that they are aware of the different choices they have for space heating and cooling (e.g., evaporative vs. refrigerative) and the impacts of those choices.			

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7.5.10.	Develop a statewide voluntary program to structure and assist individuals in undertaking actions to reduce GHG emissions.			
7.6.	Target Audience: Industrial & Economic Sectors Sector-specific climate change education and outreach.			
7.6.1.	Residential, Commercial, & Industrial			
7.6.2.	Transportation & Land Use			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a State award for the car dealer that sells the most hybrids?
7.6.3.	Energy Supply and Use			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do public service announcements to education the public about DSM. • Include environmental disclosure in monthly electricity bills. • Help municipal utilities move to greater demand-side emphasis rather than supply-side.
7.6.4.	Agriculture & Forestry			
7.6.5.	Implement a state program of voluntary business actions to reduce GHGs (like Ft. Collins' ClimateWise Program).			
7.6.6.	Institute a "business incubator" program to attract and support new business development relating to the new energy economy.			
7.6.7.	Audiences outside Minnesota too			

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8	TAX AND CAP POLICIES			
8.1.	Institute tax incentives and disincentives to encourage GHG reductions.			
8.2.	Other market-based programs including cap and trade			
8.3.	Join the Western Regional Climate Action Initiative (the “Five-State Initiative”) as an observer, and consider joining as a full state partner.			
9	SEEK FUNDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF CLIMATE ACTION PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS			
9.1.	Seek and stimulate funding and investment in climate solutions in Minnesota.			•
10	ADAPTATION & VULNERABILITY			
10.1	Undertake a comprehensive planning effort to assess and address Minnesota’s vulnerability to climate change and adaptation opportunities.			