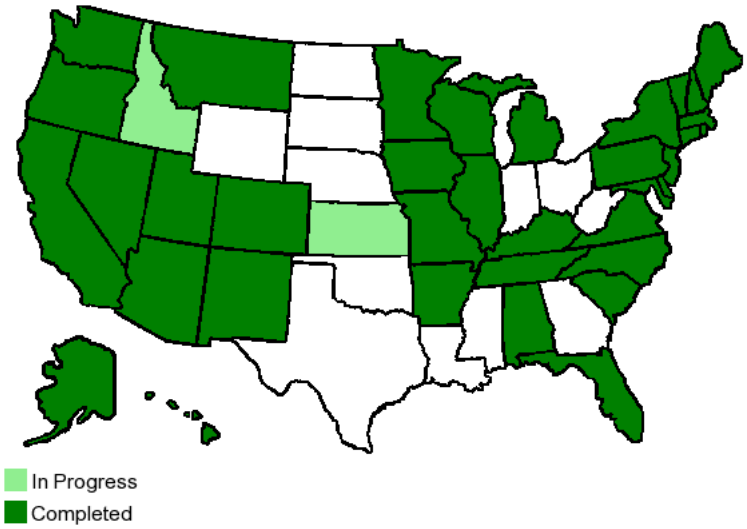
Climate Action Plans



Read examples of climate action plan legislation.Many states have completed comprehensive Climate Action Plans, or are in the process of revising or developing one. The plans detail steps that the states can take to reduce their contribution to climate change. The process of developing a climate action plan can identify cost-effective opportunities to reduce GHG emissions that are relevant to the state. The individual characteristics of each state's economy, resource base, and political structure provide different opportunities for dealing with climate change. However, without targets for emissions reductions, incentives for cleaner technologies, or other clear policies, climate action plans will not achieve real reductions in GHG emissions.

Alabama

"Policy Planning to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Alabama," completed in 1997

Alaska

"Alaska Climate Change Strategy's Mitigation Advisory Group Final Report," completed August 2009

Arizona

"Climate Change Action Plan," completed in 2006

Arkansas

Final Report from the Arkansas Governor's Commission on Global Warming, October 2008

California

On December 11, 2008, the California Air Resources Board (ARB) approved the Scoping Plan for implementing A.B. 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. The plan outlines a combination of existing, strengthened, and new policies and programs to cut California's greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. These measures include expanded energy efficiency programs and higher efficiency standards, a revised Renewable Portfolio Standard that requires 33 percent of electricity to be generated from renewable sources by 2020, and several measures to decrease emissions from transportation. Among the transportation-related measures are the implementation of existing and updated light-duty vehicle greenhouse gas standards, the development of local greenhouse gas targets to be achieved through land use and transportation planning, and the creation of a low-carbon fuel standard. The plan also recommends a statewide cap-and-trade program covering 85 percent of greenhouse gas emissions that would link with the Western Climate Initiative.
Rules and policies to implement the Scoping Plan will be developed and implemented by 2012. The plan will be updated by the ARB once every five years.

"Proposed Early Actions to Mitigate Climate Changein California," completed in 2007

Colorado

Climate Action Plan completed, November 2007

Connecticut

"Connecticut Climate Change Action Plan," completed in 2005

Delaware

"Deleware Climate Change Action Plan," completed in 2000

Florida

On October 15, 2008, the Governor's Action Team on Energy and Climate Change released its Final Report. The report includes 50 policy recommendations as well as recommendations for the development of a cap-and-trade program to facilitate greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

Climate Action Plan

Hawaii

"Hawaii Climate Change Action Plan," completed in 1998

"Work Plan for Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions," completed December 2009

Idaho

Climate Action Plan in progress

Illinois

Illinois completed its initial Climate Action Plan in June of 1994. In July 2007 the Illinois Climate Change Advisory Group released its set of recommendations to the Governor.
Policy RecommendationsDetail on Specific Recommendations

Iowa

On December 23, 2008, the Iowa Climate Change Advisory Commission (ICCAC) released its final report. The ICCAC was established through SF 485 in 2007 and HF 2571 in 2008 and directed to create a strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In the report, the ICCAC offers two scenarios that would reduce emissions 50 percent and 90 percent from a 2005 baseline by 2050, respectively. A range of short- and mid- term emissions targets are also provided for each of the scenarios.

The ICCAC identified 56 policy options to achieve emissions reductions and determined that following all 56 would achieve the more stringent reduction scenario. Policy options include a number of energy efficiency goals, to be achieved through incentives offered to utilities, utility customers, or other stakeholders, as well as through other strategies such as revised building codes and government lead-by-example initiatives. Among the policy recommendations for clean and renewable energy is a Generation Performance Standard that would mandate reductions in carbon intensity for electricity suppliers. In the transportation sector, the ICCAC recommends providing incentives to improve the fuel economy of the light-duty vehicle fleet, implementing fuel economy and tailpipe emissions standards established in federal law, and creating a Low Carbon Fuel Standard to reduce greenhouse gas emissions per unit of fuel energy by 20 percent. Agricultural policies include the use of biomass, methane capture, and land management for sequestration. The ICCAC also recommends participating in a cap-and-trade program, ideally on a federal scale but otherwise through the Midwestern Governors Association's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Accord. Press ReleaseICCAC Report Iowa Greenhouse Gas Action Plan completed 1996

Kansas

Final Report due January 2010

Kentucky

"Intelligent Energy Choices for Kentucky's Future: Kentucky's 7-Point Strategy for Energy Independence," completed in November 2008

Maine

Maryland

Climate Action Plan completed August 2008

Massachusetts

"Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2020," completed in 2010
"Massachusetts Climate Protection Plan," completed in 2004

Michigan

In March 2009, the Michigan Climate Action Council (MCAC) released its Climate Action Plan. The MCAC

recommends specific policies and actions to achieve greenhouse gas reductions within the state of Michigan, as well as several recommendations for federal climate policy, including the development of federal greenhouse gas targets. Among the recommended state policies are several initiatives to increase the use of distributed electric generation, facilitate the use of carbon capture and storage technology, and increase the use of nuclear energy. The MCAC also includes several recommendations to increase energy efficiency by, among other things, adopting more stringent building codes and creating a system that encourages utilities to adopt efficiency initiatives.

A total of 54 recommendations were included in the Plan, and 33 were able to be quantified for their emissions reductions. The MCAC determined that following the recommendations would decrease Michigan's emissions about 33 percent below 2005 levels by 2025 with net cumulative savings of about $10 billion.

Michigan Climate Plan

Minnesota

"Minnesota Climate Mitigation Action Plan" completed February 2008

Missouri

"Missouri Action Options for Reducing Greenhouse GasEmissions," completed in 2002

Montana

Climate Action Plan completed July 2007.

Nevada

Climate Change Advisory Committee Final Report released July 2008

New Hampshire

"The New Hampshire Climate Action Plan," completed March 2009

"The Climate Change Challenge," completed in 2001

New Jersey

Energy Master Plan completed October 2008

Global Warming Response Act Recommendation Report in progress

New Mexico

"New Mexico Climate Change Advisory Group Report," completed in 2006.

New York

New York State Climate Action Plan Interim Reportcompleted November 9, 2010

North Carolina

Climate Action Plan completed October 2007

Oregon

"Oregon Strategy for Greenhouse Gas Reductions," completed December 2004
"A Framework for Addressing Rapid Climate Change," completed January 2008
"Interim Roadmap to 2020," adopted by the Oregon Global Warming Commission on October 28, 2010.

Pennsylvania

"Pennsylvania Final Climate Change Action Plan," released December 2009

Rhode Island

"Rhode Island Greenhouse Gas Action Plan," completed in 2002

South Carolina

"Climate, Energy, and Commerce Action Plan" completed July 2008.

Tennessee

"Tennessee Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigation Strategies," completed in 1999

Utah

Final Report of the Blue Ribbon Advisory Council on Climate Change completed October 2007

Vermont

Climate Action Plan completed October 2007

Virginia

Final Report: A Climate Change Action Plan released December 2008 by the Governor's Commission on Climate Change

The Virginia Energy Plan completed September 2007 includes some GHG reduction strategies

Washington

"Growing Washington's Economy in a Carbon-Constrained World: A Comprehensive Plan to Address the Challenges and Opportunities of Climate Change," completed December 2008

"Leading the Way on Climate Change: The Challenge of Our Time," completed February 2008

Wisconsin

Wisconsin's Strategy for Reducing Global Warming completed July 2008