

Memorandum

To: Roy Thilly and Tia Nelson, Co-Chairs, Governor's Task Force on Global Warming
CC: Members of the Technical Advisory Group
From: George Edgar and Kris Krause, Technical Advisory Group Co-Chairs
Date: 04/17/2008
Re: Recommendations for Data Collection

At the request of the Task Force, the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) has prepared a set of recommendations regarding data which would be useful in analyzing the greenhouse gas emissions in the state going forward. During the process of developing input to reasonably model current emissions, the TAG found some situations where robust data existed, and other areas where very little credible data was available. There were also cases where the Work Groups included data collection recommendations as part of policy templates. These have been incorporated into the following recommendations.

1. Continue to maintain the Wisconsin Energy Statistics Report. The data in this report proved to be invaluable, and the ability to download parts of the report directly from the internet was a helpful feature.
2. Land use data: implement the attached recommendation from the Agriculture and Forestry Work Group. The TAG asked the Agriculture and Forestry Work Group to put together a recommendation because of the amount of work they did during the process of developing policy templates. It was known from the beginning of the process that a central source for data regarding land use did not exist, or was not available in a manner that facilitated analysis useful in the process of evaluating sinks and sources of carbon emissions. Where data does exist, the frequency of collection did not support the level of detail desired to track changes effectively. Land use changes have an impact on many of the policies being considered by the Task Force.

It is important to note that this, and all of the other recommendations, consider data collection for purposes of tracking and evaluating the effectiveness of various policies and progress toward a statewide target, only. The data collection is not intended to provide a mechanism for registering offsets or for purposes of regulation. A separate methodology(ies) for measuring and verifying greenhouse gas emission reductions and sequestration benefits from offset projects will need to be developed.

3. Augment the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions from stationary sources to include the emissions from small and medium sources and to include methane and nitrous oxide emissions from combustion sources. This recommendation grew out of a policy template prepared by the Industry Work Group.

4. Collect data on mobile sources per the recommendation of the Transportation Work Group in their policy template: “*Reform Transportation Planning and Funding to Reduce VMT*”.

“The appropriate state agencies should calculate appropriate GHG emissions from transportation sources annually. The inventory should discuss the potential impacts of reduction policies (e.g. vehicle efficiency, carbon content of fuels) to assess the effectiveness of these policies and report on progress toward the desired emission reduction targets.”

5. End use data: opportunities to collect additional data regarding end use should be considered by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission. It may be appropriate to utilize the Act 141 EE docket as a forum for this discussion.

6. High quality data is essential to the successful setting of goals and tracking of progress. Responsibility for data collection, coordination, modeling and management should be assigned to a single oversight body. This body should have authority to assign responsibility for particular subsets of the task to other institutions as suits the efficiency and quality of the overall effort. Reports and technical advice should be the responsibility of the oversight body. As GHG mitigation targets are set and enforced, the oversight body should develop guidelines for accounting and should verify statewide results.

It is appropriate to note here that an additional recommendation was discussed by the TAG, but there was not a unanimous conclusion reached. Because of the amount of effort required to assemble a model for the purposes of this Task Force, there is some interest in recommending the model be maintained and updated after the final report from the Task Force has been issued. It would be useful to have the model available to track any policies that may be implemented and so forth. On the other hand, it is likely that better models will be developed over time, and regional and federal activities may preempt the activity currently being evaluated by this model. In either case, it is felt that the Task Force should at least be aware of the discussion in the event that they chose to provide some direction in this regard.

It has also been noted that the State of Wisconsin has signed on to “The Climate Registry”. Implementation of the registry, even on a voluntary basis in the state, should provide another source of data.

We hope that this is helpful. Please let us know if you have any questions.