

EXECUTIVE ORDER

01.01.2007.07

Commission on Climate Change

- WHEREAS, As reported by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in February 2007, there is now near universal scientific consensus that the world climate is changing, with an estimated rise in temperature between 1.98 – 11.52° F and as much as 7 to 23 inches of global sea level rise, over the next century;
- WHEREAS, Human activities, including coastal development, the burning of fossil fuels and increasing greenhouse gas emissions are contributing to the causes and consequences of climate change;
- WHEREAS, Maryland's people, property, natural resources, and public investments are extremely vulnerable to the ensuing impacts of climate change, including sea level rise, increased storm intensity, extreme droughts and heat waves, and increased wind and rainfall events;
- WHEREAS, The effects of climate change already are being detected in Maryland, as historic tide-gauge records show that sea level has risen one-foot over the last century within State waters;
- WHEREAS, Based on the current IPCC estimates and the rate of regional land subsidence, Maryland may experience an additional two to three foot sea level rise along its coast by the Year 2099;
- WHEREAS, Recent State actions demonstrate Maryland's strong commitment to addressing both the drivers and consequences of climate change:
- Formulation and implementation of a State Sea Level Rise Response Strategy (2000);
 - Passage of the Healthy Air Act (2006);
 - Development of Maryland Transition Reports which call for State level action to address the drivers and consequences of climate change (2007);
 - Passage of the Clean Cars Act (2007); and
 - Participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (2007);

WHEREAS, It is imperative that Maryland State Government, as well as local governments, continue to lead by example in the scope and variety of services and activities that government provides and undertakes; and

WHEREAS, More must be done to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare the State of Maryland for the likely physical, environmental, and socio-economic consequences of climate change.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARTIN O'MALLEY, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF MARYLAND, HEREBY PROCLAIM THE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE ORDER, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

A. Established. A Climate Change Commission is hereby established to advise the Governor and General Assembly on matters related to climate change.

B. Tasks. The Commission shall develop a Plan of Action to address the drivers and causes of climate change, to prepare for the likely consequences and impacts of climate change to Maryland, and to establish firm benchmarks and timetables for implementing the Plan of Action.

C. Membership.

(1) The Commission shall consist of up to 21 members, including:

(a) The Secretary of Agriculture, or the Secretary's designee;

(b) The Secretary of Budget and Management, or the Secretary's designee;

(c) The Secretary of Business and Economic Development, or the Secretary's designee;

(d) The State Superintendent of Schools, or the Superintendent's designee;

(e) The Secretary of Natural Resources, or the Secretary's designee;

(f) The Secretary of the Environment, or the Secretary's designee;

(g) The Secretary of Planning, or the Secretary's designee;

(h) The Secretary of Transportation, or the Secretary's designee;

(i) The Director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security, or the Director's designee;

(j) The Director of the Maryland Energy Administration, or the Director's designee;

(k) The Secretary of Housing and Community Development, or the Secretary's designee;

(l) The Maryland Insurance Commissioner, or the Commissioner's designee;

(m) The Director of the Maryland Emergency Management Agency, or the Director's designee;

(n) The Chairman of the Public Service Commission, or the Chairman's designee; and

(o) The Chancellor of the University System of Maryland, or the Chancellor's designee;

(2) The Speaker of the House of Delegates and the President of the Senate are invited to appoint 3 members, respectively, from the House of Delegates and Senate, to serve as members of the Commission.

D. Chair. The Chair of the Commission shall be designated by the Governor from among the members of the Commission.

E. Staff Coordination. The Department of Natural Resources and Department of the Environment shall jointly staff the Commission in coordination with other State agencies as directed by the Chair.

F. Working Groups. The Commission shall be supported by Working Groups, to be established by the Chair, as follows:

(1) Scientific and Technical Working Group.

(a) Tasks. The Working Group shall develop a Comprehensive Climate Change Impact Assessment. The Assessment should:

(i) Advise the Commission, as well as other Working Groups, on the scientific and technical aspects of climate change;

(ii) Inventory Maryland's greenhouse gas emission sources and sinks;

(iii) Calculate Maryland's "carbon footprint" to measure the impact of human activities on the environment based on the State's greenhouse gas production;

(iv) Investigate climate change dynamics, including current and future climate models and forecasts; and

(v) Evaluate the likely consequences of climate change to Maryland's agricultural industry, forestry resources, fisheries resources, fresh water supply, aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, and human health.

(b) Chair. The Scientific and Technical Working Group will be chaired and staffed jointly by the University System of Maryland, the Maryland Department of the Environment and the Department of Natural Resources.

(2) Greenhouse Gas and Carbon Mitigation Working Group.

(a) Tasks. The Working Group shall develop a Comprehensive Greenhouse Gas and Carbon Footprint Reduction Strategy. The Strategy should:

(i) Evaluate and recommend goals that include but not be limited to the reduction of Maryland's greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 and 80% of 2006 levels by 2050;

(ii) Recommend short and long-term goals and strategies that include both energy and non-energy related measures to mitigate greenhouse gases and offset carbon emissions; and

(iii) Provide a detailed implementation timetable, with benchmarks, for each recommendation and strategy.

(b) Chair. The Greenhouse Gas and Carbon Mitigation Working Group shall be chaired and staffed jointly by the Department of the Environment and the Maryland Energy Administration.

(3) Adaptation and Response Working Group.

(a) Tasks. The Working Group shall develop a Comprehensive Strategy for Reducing Maryland's Climate Change Vulnerability. The Strategy should:

(i) Recommend strategies for reducing the vulnerability of the State's coastal, natural and cultural resources and communities to the impacts of climate change, with an initial focus on sea level rise and coastal hazards (e.g., shore erosion, coastal flooding);

(ii) Establish strategies to address short and long-term adaptation measures, planning and policy integration, education and outreach, performance measurement, and as necessary, new legislation and/or modifications that will strengthen and enhance the ability of the State and its local jurisdictions to plan for and adapt to the impacts of climate change;

(iii) Work with local governments to identify their capacity to plan for and adapt to sea level rise;

(iv) Develop appropriate guidance to assist local governments with identifying specific measures (e.g., local land use regulations and ordinances) to adapt to sea level rise and increasing coastal hazards; and

(v) In consultation with the Scientific and Technical Working Group, propose a timetable for the development of adaptation strategies to reduce climate change vulnerability among affected sectors, such as agriculture,

forestry, water resources, aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, and human health.

(b) Chair. The Adaptation and Response Working Group shall be chaired and staffed jointly by the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Planning.

(4) Additional Working Groups and/or Subcommittees to Working Groups may be created, as necessary, to accomplish the Commission mandate and Working Group Tasks.

(5) Appointments.

(a) The Chair of the Commission shall appoint Working Group and Subcommittee members who broadly represent both public and private interests in climate change, including but not limited to: Other levels of government, academic institutions, renewable and traditional energy providers, environmental organizations, labor organizations, and business interests, including the insurance industry.

(b) Working Group and Subcommittee members shall serve at the pleasure of the Commission.

(c) Working Group and Subcommittee members may not receive compensation for service.

G. Milestones.

(1) Within 60 days of the effective date of this Executive Order, the Commission shall be convened and Working Group members appointed.

(2) Within 90 days of the effective date of this Executive Order, Working Groups shall meet and establish individual work plans.

(3) Within one year of the effective date of this Executive Order, the Commission shall present to the Governor and General Assembly the Plan of Action, including the Comprehensive Climate Change Impact Assessment, the Comprehensive Greenhouse Gas and Carbon Footprint Reduction Strategy, and the Comprehensive Strategy for Reducing Maryland's Climate Change Vulnerability.

H. Reporting. The Commission shall report to the Governor and General Assembly on or before November 1 of each year including November 1, 2007 on the Plan of Action, including an update on development of the Plan of Action, implementation timetables and benchmarks, and preliminary recommendations, including draft legislation , if any, for consideration by the General Assembly.

GIVEN Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland, in the City of Annapolis, this 20th Day of April, 2007.

Martin O'Malley
Governor

ATTEST:

Dennis Schnepfe
Interim Secretary of State