



Climate Initiatives Task Force

Problem

Scientists around the world agree that rising global temperatures pose increased risks to human health and security, livelihoods, food security, the water supply, economic growth and natural systems. For Louisiana these impacts are most severely manifested in the loss of coastal wetlands from sea level rise, increased flooding from tropical and intense rainfall events, and extreme heat. Each of these environmental and health stressors are and will increasingly have negative impacts on families, communities, and regions around our state with disproportionate impacts on those with the fewest resources. Therefore, to improve our resilience, sustain our coast, and help avoid the worst impacts of climate change, Louisiana will proactively work to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that are driving up global temperatures, increasing sea level and other risks that threaten our health and safety, quality of life, economic growth, and vital habitats and ecosystems.

Vision

Louisiana will reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to limit the worst impacts of climate change that harm our natural and cultural heritage *while* adapting our economy to maintain our position as a world leader in energy, industry, agriculture, and transportation.

Mission

The Climate Initiatives Task Force will investigate and make recommendations for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions originating in Louisiana to achieve the stated greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals in order to improve the health and welfare of the people of Louisiana, particularly those most vulnerable to climate impacts, and advance Louisiana's economic and energy profile.

GHG Emissions Reduction Goals

- By 2025, reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by 26-28% of 2005 levels;
- By 2030, reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by 40-50% of 2005 levels; and
- By 2050, reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero.

Competitive Advantage

Louisiana is well-positioned to achieve greenhouse gas emissions reductions by leaning on its planned investments in coastal restoration, innovations within industry, and its uniquely talented workforce.

- Louisiana is investing billions over the next decade in ecosystem restoration projects that will enhance habitat, provide storm protection, and sequester carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

- Louisiana’s concentrated industrial assets and favorable geology present an opportunity to lead the world in carbon capture and sequestration, a technology that represents an essential tool for lowering greenhouse gas emissions under the Paris Agreement.
- Louisiana’s industrial presence is also supported by a skilled workforce and training/educational system with expertise that can apply their talents to the new challenge of lowering greenhouse gas emissions or supporting new, low-carbon opportunities.

Approach

Louisiana will undertake this 14-month process to arrive at strategies and recommendations to reduce emissions through an inclusive, balanced approach that considers differing approaches on the best ways to reduce the worst impacts of climate change while preserving economic competitiveness. Louisiana will utilize the best available science to guide decisions and call on expertise from state government, colleges and universities, the private sector, and civil society to help inform and steer policy development that accounts for impact to all peoples.

Deliverables and Timeline

- Task Force Meeting 1—November 2020
- First Committee and Advisory Group Meetings—Early December 2020
- **Interim strategy report—February 2021**
- **Solicitation for Greenhouse Gas Reduction Solution Proposals (members and public)—February 2021**
- **Updated Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory—Mid-2021**
- **Tradeoff Analysis Begins—Late Summer 2021**
- **Publish Draft Strategy Report for Public Comment—November/December 2021**
- **Final strategy report—February 2022**

Structure

GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF COASTAL ACTIVITIES

The Governor’s Office of Coastal Activities (“GOCA”) led by the Executive Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Activities will chair, staff, and provide direction for the Climate Initiatives Task Force. Staff, in partnership with The Water Institute of the Gulf (“TWI”), will also lead the planning process for and development of the final Climate Strategy.

GOCA will work alongside Task Force members, Sector Committees, Advisory Groups, and outside stakeholders in a public process to develop emission reduction proposals, solution recommendations, and implementation strategies that set Louisiana on a path to meet its emissions reduction goals.

THE CLIMATE INITIATIVES TASK FORCE

Task Force will consist of 23 individuals from state government, academia, industry, environmental, community, and other stakeholder groups able to discuss and craft emissions reductions strategies that cut across industries and sectors of the economy. This is the main body that is ultimately tasked with producing solution recommendations for Louisiana’s Climate Strategy.

To help inform decisions, the state is in the process of updating its Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory based on the most recently available data.

COMMITTEES

The Task Force will be supported by six Sector Committees which will hold sector-specific conversations about strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Committees will be co-chaired and include membership from outside experts and stakeholders who will weigh options for reducing emissions as they pertain to specific industries or segments of the economy. Strategy recommendations produced by the committees will be submitted to the Task Force for further study and potential adoption into the Climate Strategy.

- **Power Production, Distribution, and Use:** This committee will examine how to increase efficiency and reduce emissions at existing power generation facilities, to encourage the growth of renewable energy adoption by LA's utilities or end-consumers, support the customers of utilities (consumer and industrial) to use cleaner fuels and lower their bills, and pursue other avenues as deemed appropriate.
- **Land Use, Buildings, and Housing:** This committee will examine how land use decisions can be used to reduce emissions and lower the impacts of climate change and how changes to building codes, building construction, or remodeling practices or materials can increase energy efficiency or otherwise reduce the carbon footprint in the built environment.
- **Transportation:** This committee will examine opportunities to lower the emissions from transportation-related sources. Opportunities to promote alternative and renewable fuels, idle-reduction measures, fuel economy improvements, new transportation technologies, and cleaner modes of transportation will all be considered.
- **Agriculture, Forestry, Conservation, and Waste Management:** This committee will examine agriculture and forestry practices; conservation measures to promote and maintain natural carbon sinks, blue carbon opportunities such as the implementation of the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan, and other ecosystem restoration efforts; and waste management.
- **Manufacturing and Industry:** This committee will examine opportunities to reduce emissions within the manufacturing sector which includes petrochemical manufacturing, petroleum refining, and other operations within the state. This committee will consider opportunities to procure cleaner sources of power to fuel operations, enhance efficiencies and eliminate fugitive emissions, carbon capture and sequestration, and other measures related to this sector.
- **Mining and Oil and Gas Production:** This committee will examine opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout the mining, extraction, production, and transportation of oil and gas. This committee will consider opportunities to enhance efficiencies and eliminate fugitive emissions, carbon capture and sequestration, and other measures related to active and inactive elements of this sector.

ADVISORY GROUPS

Four Advisory Groups will provide information and assistance to the Task Force and the committees generally and as requested on questions that transcend individual committee categories. These four Advisory Groups represent four areas of expertise necessary for all Sector Committees as they work towards emission reduction solutions.

- **Equity Advisory Group:** Identify how potential greenhouse gas emissions reduction policies may mitigate or exacerbate existing inequalities in order to pursue strategies that contribute to a reduction of inequalities and that offer new opportunities to benefit all persons in Louisiana, advise committees and the Task Force on potential impacts of emissions reduction strategies, and assist committees and the Legal Advisory Group in the development of equitable implementation mechanisms that consider all members of society.
- **Finance Advisory Group:** Evaluate the economic impacts of proposed policy changes including the potential for growth or development of new economic opportunities related to the adoption of certain policies or technologies; help consider the larger economic and market forces that may be pertinent to policy discussions; help evaluate potential options for mitigating or overcoming potential negative economic consequences and/or maximizing the positive economic consequences of implementing certain proposed policies; consider workforce implications

of proposed policy directions; and suggest opportunities within the world of finance to implement some of the proposed solutions.

- **Legal Advisory Group:** Anticipate legal hurdles that may arise in the design of greenhouse gas emission reduction strategies, assist committees in the development of mechanisms to implement emissions reduction strategies, and advise committees and the Task Force on supplementary strategies and mechanisms for consideration.
- **Scientific Advisory Group:** Provide both general and specific guidance with regard to the efficacy of proposed emissions reduction strategies that arise from within working groups and/or the Task Force, provide information on the interactions across sectors of proposed policies, and help shape and conduct reviews of requests for additional information to guide decision making. Support the development of emission reduction solutions that are rational, trackable, transparent, and based in sound science.

Structured Decision Making (SDM) Process

The Climate Strategy for achieving the emissions reduction goals in the Executive Order will be grounded in an SDM process to ensure transparency and to optimize outcomes for Louisiana's people, environment, and economy. SDM is an approach that integrates science and policy to break down complex decisions and identify solutions that achieve the desired objectives in a manner that is explicit and transparent. SDM is not a prescriptive approach to problem solving, but rather encompasses broad methods that rely on clearly articulating fundamental objectives and analyzing potential impacts to those objectives using data-driven analysis.

The charges to the Sector Committees and Advisory Groups will support the SDM process and will help the CTF make informed, data-driven decisions on which strategies to pursue to best meet the emission reduction goals and other desired outcomes for Louisiana.

Structured Decision Making is a collaborative, explicit, transparent process:

Framework for Structuring Decisions:

1. **Defining the Problem** (Decision Context): Ensure all parties share a common understanding of the problem that has initiated the process, which in this case is the current and future risk posed by climate change that necessitates reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and an understanding of the state's emission sources and sinks.
2. **Determining the Objectives** (Fundamental and Means Objective): Establish a set of transparent objectives that help guide what needs to be achieved (the fundamental objectives) and how to get there (the means objectives). Objectives include reduction of greenhouse gas emissions as well as economic and societal goals.
3. **Identifying Alternatives** (Action Proposal Solicitation): Identify potential actions that address the problem of reducing greenhouse gas emissions while also advancing relevant economic, societal, and other objectives. In this case the alternatives will be specific proposed actions and comprehensive strategies for meeting emissions reduction targets.
4. **Evaluating Alternatives and Forecasting Consequences** (Emission Reduction Solutions): Evaluate how proposed strategies impact objectives defined by Sector Committees, Advisory Groups, and the Task Force as well as collectively meet the emission reduction goals.
5. **Evaluating the Trade-offs** (Tradeoff Analysis): Analyze tradeoffs across solution sets based on their impact to objectives in order to create optimal solutions across all groups and objectives. This analysis includes impacts to greenhouse gas emissions as well as economic and societal objectives.
6. **Making the Decision and Taking Action** (Climate Strategy): Produce a comprehensive Climate Strategy based on the Tradeoffs Analysis that includes specific sector-based strategies and actions that set Louisiana on a path to meet its emissions reduction targets.

Task Force Members

- Chip Kline, Executive Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Activities, Task Force Chair
 - Designee: Harry Vorhoff, Deputy Director, Governor's Office of Coastal Activities
- Dr. Chuck Brown, Secretary, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
 - Designee: Lourdes Iturralde, Assistant Secretary, Office of Environmental Compliance
- Jay Dardenne, Commissioner of Administration, Division of Administration
 - Designee: Mark Moses, Assistant Commissioner, Facility Planning & Control
- Bren Haase, Executive Director, Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
- Thomas Harris, Secretary, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
 - Designee: Jason Lanclos, Director, State Energy Office
- Don Pierson, Secretary, Louisiana Economic Development
 - Designee: Brad Lambert, Deputy Secretary, Louisiana Economic Development
- Mike Strain, Commissioner, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry
 - Designee: Joey Breaux, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Soil and Water Conservation
- Dr. Shawn Wilson, Secretary, Department of Transportation and Development
 - Designee: Dr. Eric Kalivoda, Deputy Secretary, Department of Transportation and Development
- Timothy Hardy, Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson, L.L.P., designee for Louisiana Senate President Page Cortez
- Selby Bush, BHP Petroleum, designee for the Louisiana Speaker of the House Clay Schexnayder
- Bill Robertson, designee of Public Service Commissioner Foster Campbell
- Tyler Gray, President and General Counsel, Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association
- Gregory M. Bowser, President and CEO, Louisiana Chemical Association
- Jonathan Bourg, Director of Resource Planning and Market Operations at Entergy, as a representative of an electric utility
- Dr. Virginia Burkett, Chief Scientist for Climate and Land Use Change at the United States Geological Survey, as a nonvoting representative of a federal scientific agency
- Karen Gautreaux, Director of Government Relations for Louisiana at the Nature Conservancy, as a member of the environmental nonprofit community
- Flozell Daniels, President and CEO of the Foundation for Louisiana, as a member with experience in community development and engagement
- Dr. Terrence Chambers, Director of the Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Center at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, as a member of Louisiana's academic community
- Colette Pichon Battle, Executive Director of the Gulf Coast Center for Law and Policy, as a member of the environmental and climate justice community
- Chief Shirell Parfait-Dardar, Tribal Chief of the Grand Caillou/Dulac Band of the Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw, as a member of an indigenous tribe, nation, or community
- Jeff Schwartz, Director of Economic Development for the City of New Orleans, as a representative of local government perspective
- Robert Verchick, Gauthier-St. Martin Eminent Scholar and Chair in Environmental Law at Loyola University New Orleans, as a member with special qualifications and experience in climate change policy
- Camille Manning-Broome, President and CEO of the Center for Planning Excellence, as a member at-large

Science Advisory Group Members

- **Dr. Virginia Burkett, United States Geological Survey (Co-chair) (Non-Voting Member)**
- **Dr. Mark Zappi, University of Louisiana Lafayette (Co-chair)**
- Eric Smith, Tulane University
- Dr. Carrie Castille, United States Department of Agriculture
- Dr. Monica Farris, University of New Orleans
- Dr. Kalliat Valsaraj, Louisiana State University
- Dr. Jean Fotie, Southeastern Louisiana University
- Dr. Raj Boopathy, Nicholls State University
- Dr. Camille Stagg, United States Geological Survey
- Dr. Alex Kolker, Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium
- Dr. Peng “Solomon” Yin, University of Louisiana Lafayette
- Dr. Kimberly Foster, Tulane University
- Dr. Mehdi Zeidouni, Louisiana State University
- Dr. Chang Jeong, Louisiana State University
- Dr. Richard Keim, Louisiana State University

Other Advisory Group and Sector Committee Members

EQUITY ADVISORY GROUP

- **Colette Pichon Battle, Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy (Chair)**
- Chief Shirell Parfait-Dardar, Grand Caillou/Dulac Band of the Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw
- Charles Allen, National Audubon Society
- Dr. David Robinson Morris, Xavier University
- Dr. Kenny Cole, Oschner
- Liz Williams Russell, Foundation for Louisiana
- Jasmine Brown, Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- Steve Cochran, Environmental Defense Fund
- Dr. Craig Colten, Louisiana State University
- Ashleigh Gardere, Policy Link
- Larry Sorapuru Jr., St. John the Baptist Administrator

FINANCE ADVISORY GROUP

- **Brad Lambert, Louisiana Economic Development (Chair)**
- Dr. Stephen Barnes, University of Louisiana Lafayette
- Camille Conaway, Louisiana Community and Technical College System
- Pierre Conner, Tulane Energy Center
- Stephanie Ferry, Raymond James Financial
- Alejandra Guzman, New Orleans Business Alliance
- Michael Jackson, Bernhard Capital
- Vic Lafont, South Louisiana Economic Council
- Brandon Nelson, Whitney Bank
- Dr. Jim Richardson, Louisiana State University
- Jeff Schwartz, City of New Orleans

LEGAL ADVISORY GROUP

- **Rob Verchick, Loyola Law School** (Chair)
- Harry Vorhoff, Governor's Office of Coastal Activities
- Faye Matthews, National Wildlife Federation
- Timonthy Hardy, Breazeale, Sachse, & Wilson, LLP
- Mark Davis, Tulane Law School
- Blake Canfield, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
- Courtney Burdette, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
- Tokesha Collins-Wright, Louisiana Chemical Association
- Susan Margaret Floyd, Entergy
- Tyler Gray, Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association
- Monique Hardin, Deep South Center for Environmental Justice
- Karen Sokel, Loyola Law School
- Nick Bryner, Louisiana State University
- Brandon Frey, Public Service Commission

AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, CONSERVATION, AND WASTE COMMITTEE

- Joey Breaux, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (Co-chair)
- Karen Gautreaux, The Nature Conservancy (Co-chair)
- Gregory Grandy, Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
- Yolunda Righteous, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
- Naveen Adusumilli, LSU AgCenter
- Ernest Giouard, LSU AgCenter
- Buck Vandersteen, Louisiana Forestry Association
- Robby Toombs, Resource Management Service LLC
- Justin Kozak, Center for Planning Excellence
- Ron Harrell, Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation
- Kyla Cheynet, Drax
- David Daigle, Farmer, Cattleman, and Forester
- Fran Harvey, Global Geospatial Institute
- John Pitre, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (Non-voting member)
- Michael Lindsey, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (Non-voting member)

LAND USE, BUILDINGS, AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

- **Gina Campo, Office of Community Development** (Co-chair)
- **Camille Manning-Broome, Center for Planning Excellence** (Co-chair)
- Dr. Fallon Aidoo, University of New Orleans
- Camille Pollan, U.S. Green Buildings Council
- Dr. Kevin Conrad, Ochsner
- Archie Hall, Siemens Smart Infrastructure
- Mark Goodson, CSRS
- Arthur Johnson, Lower 9th Ward Center for Sustainable Engagement and Development
- Kim Marousek, Capital Region Planning Commission
- Andreanecia Morris, Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance
- Louissette Scott, City of Mandeville
- Z Smith, Eskew, Dumez, Ripple
- Chris Tyson, Build Baton Rouge

MANUFACTURING AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE

- **Jason Meyers, Department of Environmental Quality** (Co-chair)
- **Timothy Hardy, Breazeale, Sachse, & Wilson, LLP** (Co-chair)
- Tokesha Collins-Wright, Louisiana Chemical Association
- Morris Johnson, CF Industries
- Gray Stream, Gulf Coast Sequestration
- Margo Moss, L&M Environmental
- Rhoman Hardy, Shell
- Daniel Shantz, Tulane Engineering
- Nathan McBride, Louisiana Mid-Continental Oil and Gas Association
- Zen Saunders, Dow Chemical
- Hunter Johnson, Lake Charles Methanol
- Marylee Orr, Louisiana Environmental Action Network
- Scott Anderson, Environmental Defense Fund

MINING AND OIL & GAS PRODUCTION

- **Jason Lanclos, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources** (Co-chair)
- **Brent Campbell, Louisiana Department of Natural Resource Office of Conservation** (Co-chair)
- Lori LeBlanc, Louisiana Mid-Continental Oil and Gas Association
- Bryan Johnston, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
- William Daniel, Gulf Coast Testing
- Selby Bush, BHP
- Kristi Trail, Pontchartrain Conservancy
- Richard Hughes, Louisiana State University
- Al Collins, Occidental Petroleum
- Donelson Caffrey, Landowners Association
- Daniel Droog, Chevron
- Adam Peltz, Environmental Defense Fund
- Tom Broom, Danos
- Mark Gebbia, Williams
- Glen Lyons, ExxonMobil
- John Sparling, Aethon Energy
- Wynn Radford, British Petroleum
- Andy Jacoby, Attorney
- Stacy Methvin, Pioneer

POWER PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION, AND USE COMMITTEE

- **Jonathan Bourg, Entergy** (Co-chair)
- **Bill Robertson, Public Service Commission** (Co-chair)
- Jeff Arnold, Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives
- Logan Atkinson-Burke, Alliance for Affordable Energy
- Brian Bond, SWEPCO
- Ethan Case, Heelstone Energy
- Dr. Terrence Chambers, University of Louisiana Lafayette
- David Guerry, Midcontinent Independent System Operator
- Robbie Laborde, CLECO

- Simon Mahan, Southern Renewable Energy Association
- Kim Talus, Tulane Energy Law
- Rob Verchick, Loyola University
- Matt White, Drax

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

- **Flozell Daniels, Foundation for Louisiana** (Co-chair)
- **Dr. Eric Kalivoda, Department of Transportation and Development** (Co-chair)
- Vivian Johnson, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
- Bethany Stitch, UNO Transportation Institute
- Dr. Vijaya Gopu, Louisiana Transportation Research Center
- Chett Chiasson, Port Fourchon
- Scott Gammel, Alexandria International Airport
- Wyly Giffoil, Lake Providence Port Commission
- Kent Rogers, Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments
- Dinero Washington, SPORTRAN Transit
- Jessica Kemp, Center for Planning Excellence
- Ann Vail, LA Clean Fuels
- Joe Annotti, Gladstein, Neandross & Associates
- Alex Posorke, Ride New Orleans