

ACTIONS ON RENEWABLE AND LOW CARBON ENERGY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION

2011 Progress Report
PCC Leaders' Forum 2012

At the February 2010 PCC Leaders Forum held in Vancouver, British Columbia, the leaders signed an Action Plan for Innovation, Environment and the Economy which included joint actions to promote the environmentally responsible deployment of clean energy and align energy efficiency standards for priority products. Accomplishments related to the February 2010 Action Plan and subsequent actions are below. (Note that this does not encompass the significant actions each jurisdiction is pursuing individually.)

ACTION ON RENEWABLE AND LOW CARBON ENERGY

Environmental Assessment of Clean Energy

- The Priority Action team compared applicable environmental legislation, regulations and processes in British Columbia, California, Oregon and Washington related to development of renewable and low carbon energy, including:
 - Key similarities and differences among federal and provincial/state environmental assessment legislative frameworks;
 - Federal and provincial/state government environmental agencies responsible for the regulation of renewable energy projects;
 - Federal and provincial/state incentives and programs supporting energy conservation and efficiency; and,
 - Best management practices or standards for environmental assessment.

The key findings are highlighted in a discussion paper and summary side-by-side comparison table.

- All jurisdictions have legislation and robust practices/standards in place to assess potential impacts and then determine how to reduce, avoid, or mitigate those impacts to acceptable levels for low carbon energy development.
- There are many key similarities common among the four jurisdictions' legislative frameworks for environmental assessments. There are also some key contrasts that reflect differences among the jurisdictions which relate to the ownership of lands and resources, geography, population and energy demands.

- The jurisdictions shared examples of best management practices for environmental assessments to reduce, avoid or mitigate the potential impacts from renewable and low carbon energy development and facilitate regional clean energy partnerships, including a Memorandum of Understanding with regard to renewable energy projects which has been successfully implemented between British Columbia and Washington.
- The Priority Action team proposes consideration of the establishment of Memoranda of Understanding across neighbouring jurisdictions, to support the development of a Pacific Northwest regional approach to the environmental assessment of renewable and low carbon energy development.

ACTION ON ENERGY CONSERVATION

Energy Standards for Appliances and Equipment

- British Columbia hosted and coordinated a series of three PCC Energy Standards Symposia to save money for consumers in Pacific North America through cooperation and alignment on energy efficiency standards for priority products. Participants included representatives from governments, energy efficiency agencies, utilities and non-profit organizations.
- Participants agreed on the importance of energy efficiency standards for appliances and equipment for lowering energy bills, maintaining competitive electricity rates, improving grid reliability and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Participants jointly selected a number of priority products, including set-top boxes (for high definition TV service), lighting, televisions, battery chargers, computers/servers and standby losses of a broad range of electronics that could be amenable to an energy use standard (1 Watt standard).
- Participants are collaborating on research and development, incentives and coordinated minimum energy performance standards (regulations) for specific equipment and appliances.
- California and British Columbia announced harmonized regulations for televisions. British Columbia and Natural Resources Canada have regulations to limit the standby losses of certain electronics to 1 Watt in 2013 and for general service lighting (similar to a California regulation). California finalized regulations for battery chargers in January 2012.
- Participants established a work plan for completing key actions across a range of priority products and issues, including achieving market transformation for set-top boxes.
- Efficiency for both electricity and natural gas-consuming products are targeted.
- Work on equipment will be integrated with efforts related to energy codes for buildings.
- Participants recommended several next steps: hold regular symposia, conduct and share research studies, continue to develop partnerships to promote market transformation, propose common energy standards for priority equipment, coordinate actions on energy codes for buildings, and encourage federal agencies to continue to pursue aggressive national efficient equipment standards (ENERGY STAR[®] and minimum energy performance regulations).
- Efforts will foster new green technology jobs to distribute and service efficient new technologies and, in some cases, manufacture them in the region, while reducing electricity consumption in the region by approximately 14,000 GWh per year.