

State of Louisiana



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER JBE 2020 – 18

CLIMATE INITIATIVES TASK FORCE

- WHEREAS,** Louisiana’s working coast is a national treasure, exporting over \$120 billion in annual goods, servicing 90% of the oil and gas activity in the Gulf of Mexico, producing 21% of all commercial fisheries landings by weight in the Lower 48 states, and providing winter habitat for five million migratory waterfowl;
- WHEREAS,** coastal Louisiana is also a vital regional asset which serves as residence to 2.5 million people and as a historical foundation to our unique cultural heritage;
- WHEREAS,** Louisiana’s coast continues to experience one of the fastest rates of land loss in the world, and parts of our State remain unprotected from or vulnerable to future hurricane and flood event impacts;
- WHEREAS,** Louisiana and its citizens have suffered catastrophic losses and human, economic, and social harm as a result of increased flood risk due to coastal land loss, and the continued threat of further land loss to Louisiana’s coast endangers its residents, economy, and native fish and wildlife species;
- WHEREAS,** beginning in 2007, Louisiana has adopted, carried out, and updated a comprehensive plan for a sustainable coast (the “master plan”);
- WHEREAS,** the master plan integrates coastal protection strategies and coastal restoration strategies to provide increased flood protection for communities and to maximize the amount of land maintained or restored in coastal Louisiana;
- WHEREAS,** according to the 2017 Coastal Master Plan, without significant action, continued subsidence and sea level rise over the next fifty years could result in the additional loss of between 2,250 and 4,120 square miles of Coastal Louisiana;
- WHEREAS,** rising sea levels will reduce the effectiveness of built and planned investments in coastal protection and restoration, threatening the longevity of coastal protection and restoration projects;
- WHEREAS** as is the case today with natural disasters, impacts from climate change will be disproportionately felt by the residents of our state with the fewest resources;
- WHEREAS,** in the 2018 Special Report Global Warming of 1.5 Degrees Celsius, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (the “IPCC”) concluded that overall “climate-related risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security, and economic growth are projected to increase with global warming of 1.5 degrees and increase further with 2 degrees” above pre-industrial temperatures;
- WHEREAS,** in the same 2018 Special Report, the IPCC further concluded that reducing greenhouse gas emissions can slow global warming and reduce the magnitude and speed of future sea level rise, enabling greater opportunities for adaptation for human and ecological systems in low-lying coastal and deltaic areas;

- WHEREAS,** limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius would require global net human-caused emissions of greenhouse gases to fall by about 45% from 2010 levels by 2030, reaching “net zero emissions” around 2050;
- WHEREAS,** to improve our resilience, sustain our coast, and help avoid the worst impacts of climate change, Louisiana must proactively work to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that are driving up global temperatures, raising sea levels, and increasing risks that threaten our health and safety, quality of life, economic growth, and vital habitats and ecosystems;
- WHEREAS,** a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions will require a coordinated, intentional, and collaborative state effort;
- WHEREAS,** Louisiana Revised Statute 49:214.3.1 directs the Governor, through his Executive Assistant for Coastal Activities, to “coordinate the powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities of any state agency relative to integrated coastal protection”;
- WHEREAS,** Louisiana is committed to working with Louisiana businesses, industries, local communities, and civil society to reduce emissions through a suite of balanced policy solutions;
- WHEREAS,** by following the science and welcoming all stakeholders, Louisiana can and will reduce greenhouse gas emissions to limit the impacts of climate change that harm the state’s natural and cultural heritage, while adapting to maintain its position as a world leader in energy, industry, agriculture, and transportation;

NOW THEREFORE, I, JOHN BEL EDWARDS, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested in the Constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana do hereby order and direct as follows:

- SECTION 1:** The Climate Initiatives Task Force (hereafter the “Task Force”) is hereby established within the executive branch, Office of the Governor – Coastal Activities.
- SECTION 2:** The duties of the Task Force shall include, but are not limited to, the following:
- A. Review and comment on ongoing efforts to update the state’s greenhouse gas emissions inventory;
 - B. Investigate and make recommendations for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions originating in Louisiana to achieve the following greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals:
 - 1. By 2025, reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by 26-28% of 2005 levels;
 - 2. By 2030, reduce net greenhouse emissions by 40-50% of 2005 levels; and
 - 3. By 2050, reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero;
 - C. Develop policies, strategies, and incentives designed to achieve the net emissions reduction targets established in this Order, while improving the health and welfare of the people of Louisiana and advancing Louisiana’s economic and energy profile.
- SECTION 3:** By February 1, 2021, the Task Force shall submit to the Governor and Coastal Protection & Restoration Board an interim report recommending strategies, policies, and incentives for meeting the goals provided in Section 2 of this Order. The report, in whole or in part, shall also be submitted to the relevant legislative committees.
- SECTION 4:** By February 1, 2022, the Task Force shall submit to the Governor and Coastal Protection & Restoration Board a detailed plan for meeting the goals provided

in Section 2 of this Order. The plan, in whole or in part, shall also be submitted to the relevant legislative committees.

SECTION 5: After February 1, 2022, the Task Force shall meet at least annually and shall submit to the Governor and Coastal Protection & Restoration Board an annual status report on the implementation of greenhouse gas emission reduction strategies, policies, and incentives.

SECTION 6: The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board shall consider the recommendations of the Task Force for inclusion in the comprehensive plan for a sustainable coast.

SECTION 7: The Task Force shall be composed of a maximum of twenty-three (23) voting members who, unless otherwise specified, shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor and shall include:

1. The Executive Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Activities, or his designee;
2. The Commissioner of Administration, or his designee;
3. The Commissioner of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, or his designee;
4. The Executive Director of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, or his designee;
5. The Secretary of Louisiana Economic Development, or his designee;
6. The Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources, or his designee;
7. The Secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality, or his designee;
8. The Secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development, or his designee;
9. A member of the Louisiana Public Service Commission, or his designee;
10. The Speaker of the Louisiana State House of Representatives, or his designee;
11. The President of the Louisiana State Senate, or his designee;
12. A person appointed by the Governor from at least three nominations submitted by the Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association;
13. A person appointed by the Governor from at least three nominations submitted by the Louisiana Chemical Association;
14. A representative of an electricity utility;
15. A nonvoting representative of a federal scientific agency;
16. A member of the environmental nonprofit community;
17. A person with experience in community development and engagement;
18. A member of Louisiana's academic community;
19. A member of the environmental justice community;
20. A member of an indigenous tribe, nation, or community;
21. A representative of local government perspectives;
22. A person with qualifications deemed appropriate by the Governor, which shall include experience in climate change policy; and
23. A person appointed at-large.

SECTION 8: The Executive Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Activities, or his designee, shall serve as the Chair of the Task Force.

SECTION 9: The Task Force shall meet at regularly scheduled meetings and at the call of the Governor or the Chair. All meetings of the Task Force shall be subject to the Open Meetings Law as contained in La. R.S. 42:11 et seq. A majority of the serving members of the Task Force shall constitute a quorum. The Task Force shall act by a majority vote of its serving members. The nonvoting representative of a federal scientific agency shall not count as a member for quorum or voting purposes.

SECTION 10: The Task Force shall be supported by committees, including but not limited to the following:

- A. power production, distribution, and use;
- B. land use, buildings, and housing;
- C. transportation;
- D. agriculture, forestry, conservation, and waste management;
- E. manufacturing and industry; and
- F. mining and oil and gas production.

The membership of the committees and their co-chairs shall be determined by the Task Force Chair and may include individuals who do not serve on the Task Force. Each committee shall be co-chaired by at least one member of the Task Force.

SECTION 11: The Task Force and its committees shall be assisted and advised by a scientific advisory group, a finance advisory group, an equity advisory group, and a legal advisory group.

SECTION 12: The Task Force shall be staffed by employees of the Office of the Governor, Office of Coastal Activities. In addition, all executive branch agencies shall cooperate fully with the Task Force and provide any assistance necessary, upon request of the Task Force or its staff.

SECTION 13: All departments, commissions, boards, offices, entities, agencies, and officers of the State of Louisiana, or any political subdivision thereof, are authorized and directed to cooperate with the Task Force in implementing the provisions of this Order and the recommendations of the Task Force.

SECTION 14: The Task Force may collaborate with or seek input from additional local, state, and federal agencies or other stakeholders, including university or not-for-profit research institutions, to develop, implement, and evaluate the necessary components or actions of the Task Force.

SECTION 15: Task Force members shall not receive additional compensation or a per diem from the Office of the Governor for serving on the Task Force.

SECTION 16: This Order is effective upon signature and shall continue in effect until, amended, modified, terminated, or rescinded by the Governor, or terminated by operation of law.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 19th day of August, 2020.

GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

**ATTEST BY THE
SECRETARY OF STATE**

SECRETARY OF STATE