



Louisiana Climate Initiative: March All-Hands Workshop

Workshop Goals

Members of the Climate Initiatives Task Force subgroups and the public came together for a workshop to discuss content of and first steps in implementation of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) on March 23. Following an overview of plan, **attendees participated in two exercises with a primary goal of synergizing and coordinating efforts across stakeholders to implement the 84 climate actions.** This goal was supported by many objectives: to clarify individual interests, resources, and opportunity; to identify and understand ongoing work; to pinpoint gaps, barriers, and needed partnerships; and to collaborate on next steps.

Exercise 1

To identify individual areas of interest and opportunity for leadership, attendees used sticky notes to commit to their individual/organizational interest, resources, and opportunities across all sections of the CAP. Attendees then posted their sticky notes on posters of the CAP sections, which lined the room. The outcome of this exercise was a section-level comprehensive snapshot of interest, resources, and opportunities from the group as a whole. The appended spreadsheet records this exercise.

Exercise 2

Clarity of individual roles in Exercise 1 prepared attendees for group dialogue in Exercise 2. Using section-level posters of Exercise 1 as a basis for discussion, attendees were able to self-select into one section-level breakout groups to confer and answer the following four questions.

- 1) What work is currently being done to implement actions of this section? What resources are currently being expended and which groups are meeting already?
- 2) What gaps exist in current work? What action needs to occur to advance this section?
- 3) Building on the implementation matrix, what are next steps for actions of this section? What is the role for each person at the table?
- 4) Who are necessary collaborators? Who is not at the table but needs to be?

This exercise intended for attendees to dive into roles provided in Exercise 1 and further clarify next steps based on a group understanding of current work, gaps, and collaborators. The outcome of this exercise was an individual role and assignment for each person at the table and a better understanding of collaborators. Because breakouts occurred concurrently and attendees could only choose one group, brief report outs were provided by a Task Force member at each table. These report outs are summarized below by breakout group and section of the CAP.

CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION

- 1) **Current Work:** Development of renewables continues to accelerate, particularly solar, wind, and offshore wind. BOEM is planning to launch an offshore wind pilot project; a green hydrogen hub with offshore wind and solar is being pursued by state partners; the Public Service Commission (PSC) has opened dockets relative to green tariffs and microgrid pilot projects.

- 2) **Gaps:** Many regulatory gaps were noted in easing deployment of renewables. The PSC has not partnered on wide-scale renewable deployment; upgrades are needed transmission infrastructure; local parish councils are uncertain how to respond to permits for solar projects. Further, IJJA funding is or will be available for renewables and a state partner needs to take the lead.
- 3) **Next Steps:** A stable regulatory environment is foundational to encourage investment; with this comes the need for interconnection and transmission upgrades to ease access and reliability of the grid. Education and outreach of climate change and renewables was also highlighted as a need across the state.
- 4) **Collaborators:** Many collaborators are needed for the clean energy transition to be a success: LED, regional economic development organizations, labor representatives, local governments, policy juries, municipal- and investor-owned utilities, industrial customers, electrician unions, social justice communities, business organizations, renewable developers, and supply chain companies.

INDUSTRIAL DECARBONIZATION

- 1) **Current Work:** Federal-state collaboration alongside public and private investment are reducing barriers for implementation of industrial decarbonization actions, such as CCUS and low-carbon hydrogen.
- 2) **Gaps:** Identified gaps include informational flow of industrial transition and the need to inform and work with communities on a unified approach on climate action. Barriers for industry and state partners include buildout of infrastructure with the PSC, needed pilots of technologies, and financing mechanisms.
- 3) **Next Steps:** Carbon pricing, investment funding, technological readiness, and community engagement are needed next steps in addition to policies and procedures that encourage industry to consider short- and long-term emission reduction.
- 4) **Collaborators:** Industry, government, NGOs, and communities are all needed partners.

ACTIVELY MANAGED METHANE EMISSIONS

- 1) **Current Work:** Various methane monitoring programs exist, and a lot of work is set to be done in the near future.
- 2) **Gaps:** Technology and finance are the biggest gaps for this section. Technical gaps exist in two primary areas: 1) how methane emissions are calculated and 2) ineffectiveness of existing measuring tools.
- 3) **Next Steps:** Promising technological development is in the works. Louisiana needs to match in-situ monitoring of wells with calculated emissions data from satellites to determine efficacy of various methods. Future technologies will close the gap and make methane monitoring much more accurate and efficient.
- 4) **Collaborators:** LNG terminals, oil and gas operators, and municipal waste disposals need to be brought to the table. Atmospheric science development is also significant to continuing advancement of technology.

TRANSPORTATION, DEVELOPMENT, AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

- 1) **Current Work:** Working on four of the five strategies of this section.

- 2) **Gaps:** Need more education and incentives to encourage private sector fleets to convert; funding for public transit is all up to the legislature; decarbonization of the built environment requires investment from a broader group of stakeholders.
- 3) **Next Steps:** Transportation relies on decisions of individuals, so more education is needed for people to make the right decisions. Existing efficiency programs, such as EPA Energy Smart and Energy Solutions, need more funding and can provide best practices for use in Louisiana. Construction carries emissions, so lower-carbon intensive design and demolition is needed for construction and public works projects.
- 4) **Collaborators:** DEQ, DNR, and DOTD are collaborating on deployment of EV infrastructure and need to bring in other state agencies.

NATURAL AND WORKING LANDS AND WETLANDS

- 1) **Current Work:** Emergency supplement and IJA funding are enhancing and accelerating progress of the coastal program. Co-benefits of nature-based solutions (NBS) has grown, leading to better prioritization of NBS projects.
- 2) **Gaps:** A large gap exists in transition planning for greenspaces to prioritize and ensure carbon reduction, habitat, and flood risk reduction benefits. Alternative practices and soil carbon usage alongside markets for ecosystems services need to be developed.
- 3) **Next Steps:** Long-term funding needs to be secured to cross gaps.
- 4) **Collaborators:** Policymakers, researchers, and implementers at the state and grassroots level are needed partners. Additionally, the group highlighted the need to engage those interested in and involved in public health and welfare, culture, and Indigenous populations of natural lands.

AN INCLUSIVE, LOW-CARBON ECONOMY

- 1) **Gaps:** Better analysis of the built environment and natural sinks is needed to more clearly understand emissions data. More infrastructure across the state, locals, and communities is needed to safely and equitably procure green jobs; significant gaps exist here but opportunities can bridge them. Cross-agency coordination and infrastructure has come a long way but needs to continue and develop in this clean energy space. Articulation of legal and regulatory barriers can lead to clearer identification of barriers and opportunities. There is also a state-level disconnect to locals in terms of federal resources and policy design. The state should work to better connect people to green jobs and LED needs to support the emerging renewable economy businesses.
- 2) **Next Steps:** An analysis of strengths and weaknesses in plan implementation would be helpful to identify gaps and barriers. Close partnership with research institutions can help maintain competitiveness and provide education for people on clean energy opportunities. The inclusive economy should be directly tied to GHG reductions of the CAP. With environmental concerns repeatedly raised in this process, specificity about opportunities that cross race, gender, and class are essential. These steps are needed to prepare Louisiana to be an inclusive negative carbon economy.

COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS: FEDERAL-STATE

- 1) **Gaps:** Economic analysis of climate impacts is needed to quantify the tradeoffs of inaction vs. action to mitigate GHG emissions. Similar to the Coastal Master Plan for state-local climate adaptation, we need a similar partnership on the mitigation side. There is also needed alignment across state government on permitting and siting review.

- 2) **Next Steps:** There is bigger need for a research consortium. An immediate step could be a small-scale coalition to start research opportunities, particularly on the economics story of climate. A sustainable framework for stakeholder reengagement is needed to ensure permanent and long-lived work.

COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS: STATE-LOCAL

- 1) **Current Work:** The IJJA poses unprecedented investment in all levels of government and requires immediate alignment. Initiatives already exist that are bridging gaps across stakeholder groups, including the LWI, Justice40 Initiative, and BBB Regional Challenge.
- 2) **Gaps:** Redlining could endanger investment around climate action, creating challenges around local and regional coordination. Insurance markets are rising concerns around climate impacts, so broader clarity on finance and insurance are necessary building blocks for the future.
- 3) **Next Steps:** Technical and financial support is a great first step for the state to reach down to local government in a meaningful way. It can also support working backwards from the north star of IJJA. Additionally, the state has the ability to encourage and require alignment through carrots and sticks and can lead shifts in heavier in local government to align with states. Alignment and incentives should also account for equity in present gaps and long-term structural challenges of this work.
- 4) **Collaborators:** Existing relationships with regional partners, the private sector, and state government should be highlighted and built upon.

COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS: STATE-COMMUNITIES

- 1) **Current Work:** This group recognized more education for and about communities at the state level but highlighted gaps still existing. Communities are initiating their own monitoring to supplement statewide data. Communities are coming together more frequently and directionally to discuss issues.
- 2) **Gaps:** Accessibility to resources for community-driven projects is a big gap in state-community partnerships. Resources are generally constrained by state-led plans, and there needs to be a way for communities to drive up their own projects.
- 3) **Next Steps:** Climate education should be expanded to early childhood. More interaction with communities directly, grassroots organizations, and community leaders are important first steps to building lasting partnerships and collaborating on community-driven projects.
- 4) **Collaborators:** Everyone

ACCOUNTABILITY

- 1) **Gaps:** Understanding of GHGs currently relies on self-reporting and approximations through the GHG inventory. To track progress, actual data from measurements and transparency need to drive understanding of GHGs. To do so, advancement in technology and use of remote sensing should be piloted and deployed in Louisiana.
- 2) **Next Steps:** Advance technologies that provide actual measurements and data on GHGs. Tracking readiness of technologies to be deployed at scale and a subsequent adaptable plan to results is also significant. The Task Force should revisit the EPS Tool and progress to reach net zero periodically with improvements in understanding of the emissions baseline.

Next Steps

Following report outs, attendees had the opportunity to connect with fellow section-level collaborators, either those present or non-present in their breakout discussion. Attendees and contact information are provided below to continue coordination moving forward.

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