

NARC

Building Regional Communities

National Association of Regional Councils

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Regional Climate Change Planning Worksheet

As regions begin to get involved in the climate change field, they seek ways to focus their efforts where they may reap the biggest results. Before embarking on a climate change initiative, a regional organization may want to consider the following questions:

1. What are the Benefits of Beginning a Regional Climate Change Effort?

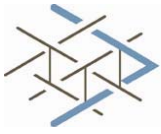
- What are the benefits of getting involved in the climate change area? What opportunities exist?
- Are there concerns or barriers that should be considered?

2. Who Will Be Our Strongest Partners?

- Is anyone in our region already working on climate change, greenhouse gas reduction and/or energy efficiency? (Local governments? Universities? Business groups? Environmental groups? State government?)
- What stakeholders will be important to invite in/work with? Are there any regional leaders who can serve as resources? (Business leaders, nonprofit organization, universities? EPA regional office? Congressional delegation?)

3. How Do We Want to Structure the Effort?

- What is the best way to engage our Board on this issue?
- Will this program be an add-on activity or are there ways to integrate climate change into existing programs or initiatives or use the resources of existing committees? Will we want to establish a new committee or redefine an existing one?
- What are some potential ways to organize/staff this effort – within an MPO or COG?



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Resources:

- Are there resources, internally or externally, we could use to support this program? (e.g. Federal agencies, State, private foundations, business?)
- What activities are we currently doing that relate to this work?

Technical Information:

- Are there any universities or agencies investigating the possible future effects of climate change on our region? What are the biggest consequences they have identified? (E.g. sea level rise, flooding, droughts?)
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- Do we have technical capacity in-house to work on climate change, or do we need to secure assistance? (Consultant, intern, contractor, new staff?)

Immediate Steps:

- What is the most effective role for our organization to play on this issue?
- What immediate practical steps could we take to engage on this issue? (e.g. meeting, workshop, speaker, establishment of committee, embarking on greenhouse gas inventory)
- How can we best work with and support our localities?
- Which of our departments might want to consider climate change impacts in their work?
- What activities might be the most cost effective? The easiest to do? Receive widespread support?
- What can we learn from other regions (or localities) that can assist our efforts?