



39th Annual Conference of
New England Governors and
Eastern Canadian Premiers
St. John's, NL August 30-31, 2015

39^e Conférence annuelle des
gouverneurs de la Nouvelle-Angleterre et
des premiers ministres de l'Est du Canada
St. John's (T.-N.-L.) les 30 et 31 août 2015

New England Governors/Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG/ECP) Annual Committee Report

INTRODUCTION

The NEG/ECP committees have performed significant cross-committee coordination in 2014-15 in affirmation of the complex and interdependent relationships between the region's environment, economies, transportation and energy systems. Opportunities to address these connections materialized in cross-committee work on achieving our GHG emission reduction targets; the gathering of information on changing energy landscapes and the related economic and environmental implications; collaboration for a diverse, dynamic and green economy; and the pursuit of transportation-related greenhouse gas emission reductions. These actions continue to position the NEG/ECP region as a leader in global climate, energy, and economic development issues.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

At the 2014 Conference, the governors and premiers directed the Coordinating Committee Officials to establish an initiative for identifying shared challenges and barriers associated with economic development and trade in the region, as well as opportunities for collaborative actions that could enhance the region's economic competitiveness.

New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development Commissioner Jeffrey Rose, along with Nova Scotia Department of Business Deputy Minister Catherine Woodman, lead the initiative. The NEG/ECP jurisdictions were surveyed on their key economic development issues, priorities and challenges, and asked to identify potential areas for cross-border collaborative action.

From these responses, the co-leads identified workforce development and retention and targeted sector innovation as the most promising areas for achieving enhanced competitiveness through regional cooperation. A proposed regional forum, to be organized around the changing economic landscape in the coming year, could gather the region's economic development professionals to exchange information and discuss possible specific actions to be taken.

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

The Committee on the Environment (COE) was established in the mid-eighties to address the issue of acid rain. The work of the COE has evolved over the years to include the responsibilities of overseeing the implementation of the regional Climate Change Action Plans and the work associated to the Climate Change Steering Committee (CCSC). The COE also coordinates initiatives based on the priorities and environment agendas of the region.

The COE provided significant direction and substantive feedback throughout the year to the CCSC on its efforts toward recommending a 2030 GHG progress marker. The COE requested that a reduction range be considered and that it accommodate strategic differences in how each jurisdiction pursues GHG emission reductions, consistent with their specific opportunities, challenges, and priorities.

CLIMATE CHANGE STEERING COMMITTEE

The Climate Change Steering Committee (CCSC) was created in 2001 following the adoption of the 2001 Regional Climate Change Action Plan. The CCSC reports to the Committee on the Environment (COE) and its mandate is to oversee and report on the implementation of the 2001 and 2013 regional Climate Change Action Plans and all climate-related initiatives. The committee is responsible for the development of specific strategies, measures and action items that support the regional GHG reduction goals. Its responsibility also includes the annual maintenance and updates of the regional GHG inventory, its associated metrics, and regional GHG projections.

In 2014-15, the CCSC continued its work to investigate and recommend the setting of a regional 2030 near-term greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction progress marker, as directed by the governors and premiers in 2012, keeping in mind the targets adopted for 2020 and 2050. In working towards the identification of a 2030 progress marker, the CCSC examined current state and provincial policies and regulations, took into consideration various economic growth projection scenarios, and looked at current policy trends, projections for emission reduction based on current policy, and possible alternative approaches that could accelerate the region's reductions beyond that which will be achieved from existing and expected efforts.

The CCSC has agreed to recommend to the Committee on the Environment and the governors and premiers a regional reduction range of 35% to 45% below 1990 levels by 2030 for their consideration.

Achieving such a meaningful target in 2030, as well as the regional 2050 target of 75%-85% below the 2001 level, will require transformational changes in the way we produce and use energy on a daily basis. The CCSC will work in collaboration with other NEG/ECP committees to identify suites of measures where GHG reductions are possible and continue its work to identify possible strategies that the states and provinces may consider to achieve emission reductions to meet the 2030 GHG reduction range. Setting a regional 2030 GHG reduction marker offers multiple benefits to the individual states and provinces by encouraging adoption of strategies to capture

the easier reductions early in the process, thus lowering the cumulative amount of GHG emissions in the region earlier and allowing states and provinces to focus their later efforts on achieving the more challenging reduction strategies.

NORTHEAST INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

Created in 1975, the Northeast International Committee on Energy (NICE) is the longest standing committee of the NEG/ECP. NICE serves to facilitate the exchange of information between the New England States and Eastern Canadian Provinces on all matters related to energy, including security and transportation.

In 2014, NICE was directed by the governors and premiers to hold a regional forum focused on the quickly changing global and regional energy landscape, with the purpose of gathering information and exploring solutions and common opportunities.

At the Forum held in Québec in December 2014, energy officials from the states and provinces were joined by current and former senior officials from the U. S. Energy Information Administration, the Canada Energy Board, ISO-New England, and end-user companies, for a discussion of the changes in energy supply-delivery chains and energy development that are affecting governments and customers. NICE members also identified key opportunities for the region, including the impact of energy efficiency on annual base load growth, finance and leveraging initiatives for public/private investment, and increasing North American energy independence. Challenges discussed by the NICE included the cost effectiveness of renewable/procurement initiatives, increasing reliability on natural gas without correlated capacity for it, incongruence of market and policy-making time horizons, and winter peak-demand rate increases.

Three key needs were identified by the committee:

- promote public energy literacy relating to infrastructure needs and siting;
- more timely data and information in the quickly changing energy landscape; and
- regional solutions.

The Forum contributed directly to the identification of issues and speakers for the governors' and premiers' discussions at the 2015 NEG/ECP Annual Conference.

TRANSPORTATION AND AIR QUALITY COMMITTEE

The Transportation and Air Quality Committee (TAQC) was formed in 2007 and is charged with implementing the 2013 Transport and Air Quality Action Plan, and with developing regional targets and strategies that contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and other air pollutants from the transportation sector, consistent with the goals of significantly reducing GHG emissions and enhancing the effectiveness of the region's transportation systems. Strategies to reduce GHG emissions typically reduce emissions of other criteria pollutants as well, providing broader environmental and health benefits in the region and helping the region achieve all air quality goals. At the 2014 Conference, TAQC was directed by the governors and premiers to continue its work.

In 2014-15, TAQC focused its efforts on gaining greater insights into the current and future role of electric vehicles (EV) and the associated infrastructure in the region. TAQC is creating a Regional Electric Vehicle and Infrastructure Profile that captures information on EVs and recharging infrastructure: the number of light-duty electric vehicles in the region, the number of publicly available charging stations, and the fleet penetration of EVs as a percentage of the entire light-duty fleet. This baseline information allows the TAQC to track the progress over time toward the regional goal established by the governors and premiers in 2013: five percent fleet market share penetration of alternative fuel vehicles by 2020.

As of mid-June 2015, member jurisdictions report a regional total of approximately 17,600 light-duty EVs (including public, governmental and commercial vehicles), which represents an estimated 0.12 percent of the region's light-duty fleet. Approximately 1,300 public charging stations (1,232 Level II and 76 DC Fast Charge) exist in the region.

Since this initial survey underscored variation in definitions and data sources, TAQC will refine its survey process in the coming year to develop an updated baseline.

TAQC also provided opportunities for NEC/ECP member jurisdictions to examine some of the policy and regulatory issues and opportunities associated with building out an EV network. Members of the TAQC, NICE and CCSC participated in a webinar on Electric Vehicle Network Development, which examined such cross-cutting issues as charging and grid infrastructure, consumer protection, and opportunities and challenges for regulators in relation to EVs and the electric grid needed to sustain them.

ADMINISTRATION

Administrative support for all NEG/ECP committees is provided by the Eastern Canadian Premiers' (ECP) Secretariat and the Coalition of Northeastern Governors Policy Research Center, Inc (CONEG).



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2014-2015 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Coordinating Committee Officials (CCO)

NEG Officials

Connecticut – NEG Co-chair

Dan DeSimone
Washington, DC Office of the Governor

Maine

Patrick Woodcock
Governor's Energy Office

Massachusetts

Tiffany Watkins Ahern
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New Hampshire

Pamela Walsh
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Municipal & Intergovernmental Affairs

Jennifer Crummey

Municipal & Intergovernmental Affairs

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Lynn MacKay
Intergovernmental Affairs

Nova Scotia

Sheila Paterson
Intergovernmental Affairs

Prince Edward Island

Rochelle Gallant
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