



RESOLUTION 33-3

RESOLUTION CONCERNING CLIMATE CHANGE

WHEREAS climate change already impacts water resources, forests, agriculture, the built environment, human welfare and the regional economy in the New England States and Eastern Canadian Provinces and will continue to impact the region for the foreseeable future despite efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions; and

WHEREAS the Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG/ECP) demonstrated international leadership in addressing climate change in 2001 by adopting and implementing a climate change action plan with short-term (2010), mid-term (2020) and long-term (2050) GHG emission reductions targets; and

WHEREAS the action plan provides a common vision for 11 provinces and states from Canada and the United States of America in the pursuit of common environmental goals, and

WHEREAS the existing regional NEG/ECP Climate Change Action Plan has 2010 as its first target year for GHG reductions – a return to 1990 emission levels for the region as a whole; and

WHEREAS the NEG/ECP Climate Change Action Plan is approaching its tenth year of implementation, and over that period scientific, policy, and programmatic issues related to climate change have evolved considerably. Many of these developments provide new opportunities for innovative climate strategy solutions, such as regional cap and trade, economy-wide greenhouse gas reduction strategies, renewable energy standards and expanded energy efficiency programs; and

WHEREAS the NEG/ECP acknowledges the need for states and provinces to share data and information, improve communications, incorporate climate-related risk and vulnerability into planning and decision-making and identify effective ways to reduce emissions; and

WHEREAS a growing number of governmental and non-governmental organizations in the region are working to collect and warehouse data on climate change impacts, are gaining valuable experience in policies and measures to reduce emissions, and are developing both adaptation and mitigation plans to respond to the challenges identified; and

WHEREAS several regional collaborations have emerged with objective of developing new capacity in climate change mitigation and adaptation planning and have shared information on approaches to reducing GHG emissions; and

WHEREAS working in partnership on adaptation and mitigation across state and provincial boundaries allows the region to more fully understand and adapt in sustainable and robust ways and find cost effective ways to reduce emissions; and

WHEREAS states and provinces are primarily responsible for developing and implementing policies, programs, legislation and fiscal mechanisms in many areas of energy, environment, transport and land-use policy, as well as for developing policies appropriate to the specific characteristics and needs of their region.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NEG/ECP Climate Change Steering Committee prepare a full report for submission to the 34th NEG/ECP in 2010 on the region's progress in achieving its 2010 GHG emissions target, utilizing inventory data where available and for the most recent years through 2010 providing its best estimates; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the NEG/ECP Climate Change Steering Committee is directed to develop a Climate Change Initiative for submission to the 34th NEG/ECP conference in 2010 which updates the science and policy of the regional Climate Change Action Plan. This plan shall provide an update on the path forward to meet existing 2020 and 2050 targets, add additional interim emission reduction targets for 2030 and/or 2040, and advance strategies that have been developed, or are under development by regional organizations and subnational governments, such as biofuel programs including but not limited to low carbon fuels, expanded renewable energy standards, and expanded energy efficiency targets and programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the NEG/ECP continues to encourage efforts to increase capacity for climate change adaptation planning in our region, recognizes the importance of regional collaborations as a key aspect of this effort and, with this in mind, supports the efforts of states and provinces to coordinate with the non-governmental organizations and federal agencies to enhance regional data collection and storage capacity, to assess further climate risks, to identify and prioritize focus areas of regional importance, and to develop tools that will guide decision making within states and provinces to effectively leverage resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the NEG/ECP recognizes the importance of efforts already under way at the state, provincial and local level to address climate change. NEG/ECP encourages regional adaptation planning efforts and mitigation initiatives to partner with individual states, provinces, and localities to ensure a coordinated and effective approach to addressing this most critical issue; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the NEG/ECP states and provinces in support of ongoing mitigation initiatives, will participate in an effort to analyze low carbon fuel supply options in those Eastern Canadian provinces and New England states for which it is appropriate. This effort would be pursued in coordination with the initiative that is currently underway among 11 U.S. states; and

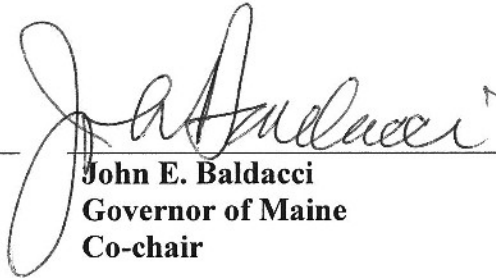
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT those participating provinces and states will analyze low carbon fuel sustainability issues, including the potential for a low carbon fuel standard, and possible consequences for carbon storage in lands and forests, and the environment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the NEG/ECP asks that the United States and Canadian federal governments recognize the critical and leadership role of the states and provinces in addressing the challenges of climate change. Premiers and Governors call on the federal governments to be mindful of that role during ongoing negotiations of the next UN climate change treaty for agreement in Copenhagen in December 2009, and to work cooperatively with provinces and states in implementing effective solutions to achieve national obligations implied by the treaty.

*Adopted at the 33rd Annual Conference of the New England Governors and
Eastern Canadian Premiers in Saint John, New Brunswick,
on September 15, 2009*



Shawn Graham
Premier of New Brunswick
Co-chair



John E. Baldacci
Governor of Maine
Co-chair