



**Climate Change Conference
Tampa, Florida
May 9-11, 2007**

**ECONOMIC DISCUSSION GROUP
SUGGESTIONS FOR CENTURY COMMISSION**

A group of 44 individuals met during the Climate Change Conference in Tampa, Florida to provide economic recommendations related to climate change to the Century Commission. Action on these recommendations will move Florida from “the sidelines” towards leadership on Climate Change. The overarching theme was the need for a Clean Energy Strategy for the State. This is to include:

- Comprehensive planning across various Agencies, possibly through a Climate Czar. Elements to include an incubator/clearinghouse of clean energy strategy, and the development of a comprehensive plan element related to Climate Change by the Department of Community Affairs.
- Economic analysis of options for the legislature
- Must reflect and emphasize a level playing field at societal cost for energy types
- Consideration of full life cycle impacts of the proposed policy options

The group also made the following observations:

- There is currently a lack of business engagement
- Business lacks an understanding of the problems and opportunities
- Carbon must have a price!
- There is an urgency to act. Initial actions should have a 5-year horizon, with longer-term projects investigated and infrastructure established during the initial 5 years.

The group’s recommendations were classified as Mitigation or Adaptation.

MITIGATION ECONOMICS

To reach 80% reduction in emissions for the state the Florida “Wedges” would include:

- Biofuels – Ethanol, Bio diesel
- Solar
- Harnessing of Gulf Stream
- Energy Efficiency
- Green Buildings especially considering sprawl prevention/smart cities

- Transportation – to also consider mass transit

FLORIDA WEDGES	ABATEMENT TECHNOLOGY	5 YEAR HORIZON	IMPEDIMENTS ETC.
Biofuels	Ethanol, bio gas Bio Diesel	Renewable fuel standard	Distribution
Solar	PV and thermal, distributed generation	Bond or innovative financing, public benefit fund	Upfront costs prohibitive, needs net metering
Harnessing of Gulf Stream	Ocean current turbines	Research and pilots	Support for existing grants
Energy Efficiency	Appliances, CHP, insulation, water heaters, etc.	Process for raising efficiency on appliances	Require Energy Star compliance, public education
Green Building	Construction code, lighting standards, CFLs	Updating of building codes	Expansion of LEED cert. requirement to private sector
Transportation	Natural gas powered vehicles, raise mpg, hybrid	Sprawl abatement	Long-term horizon consider Hydrogen

MITIGATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- Prioritize conservation initiatives
- Research carbon sequestration and postpone any new coal power plants until carbon sequestration is proven
- Duplicate My Safe Florida program with a matching My Energy Efficient Florida program
- Develop Environmental Benefit fund similar to other states Clean Energy Funds including funds for:
 - Education of business and consumers
 - Incubation of innovations and job creation in Florida
 - Research and development of longer term strategies

ADAPTATION ECONOMICS

- State should promote opportunity to incorporate energy efficiency and adaptation to climate change conditions. Consider an Energy Procurement Plan for Florida
- Land Preservation, mangroves etc. should be considered as part of the mitigation/adaptation strategy
- Need to build defenses – requires funding
- Plan for a hotter, dryer, more intense rain events, sea level rise and storm prone region

BUSINESS RESPONSES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- General concern with lack of business engagement
- Business needs to be engaged
 - Regarding measurement and require reporting of emissions
 - Information and planning for greenhouse gas constraints
 - Both marketing mechanisms and carbon taxation need to be considered
- Business Opportunities
- Need to investigate the opportunities for Florida to establish Clean Energy industry
- State Green/low carbon consumer engagement plan needs to be developed