

## II. INTRODUCTION

The Blue Ribbon Advisory Council (BRAC) on Climate Change was established by Governor Jon M. Huntsman, Jr. on August 25, 2006. The broad, stakeholder based membership of the BRAC<sup>1</sup> provided a forum where government, industry, environment and community representatives could identify proactive measures that Utah might take to mitigate the impacts of greenhouse gases (GHG). The completion date for the report was established for the end of August 2007.

Governor Huntsman provided the following charge to the Council:

1. Consider science, economics, and policy around climate change in a forum where we as a State – industry, environment, community – could have productive dialogue;
2. Understand and recognize what we are trying to leave for the next generation; and
3. Bring back information and policy recommendations for review and consideration.

In order to utilize the expertise of BRAC member's staff and other resource experts, work to identify and initially evaluate potential options was assigned to Sector Workgroups.<sup>2</sup> Recommendations on options for GHG reductions were grouped in five sectors:

Agriculture and Forestry,  
Cross-Cutting,  
Energy Supply,  
Residential/Commercial/Industrial,  
Transportation and Land Use.

The Utah Department of Environmental Quality had already commissioned an inventory of GHGs in Utah,<sup>3</sup> which provides information on GHG concentrations as of 2005 in Utah, and considered the benefit of natural GHG sinks, such as forest. The BRAC looked to a group of Utah scientists with expertise in climate science and GHG concentrations to evaluate existing studies on GHG and Climate Change, to provide information on the potential impact on Utah.<sup>4</sup>

The BRAC represents a broad range of stakeholders from state agencies, the Legislature, local government, industry, utilities, and interest groups. The value of these recommendations reflects the broad stakeholder participation. Similarly, successful implementation will depend on the ongoing involvement and feedback from stakeholders. The recommendations of the BRAC, including the priority and relative ease of implementation, will be presented to the Governor for his consideration and further action. Some of the options can be implemented administratively within existing statutory and regulatory authorities. Other options may require additional statutory

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<sup>1</sup> BRAC members are listed in Appendix C.

<sup>2</sup> BRAC Stakeholder Working Group and Sector Group members are also listed in Appendix C.

<sup>3</sup> Emissions Inventory is provided in Appendix B

<sup>4</sup> Science Report is provided in Appendix A

authority and some will require funding. The option papers contain notes from the comments made by sector group members during their working meetings, comments made at the final meeting of the SWG to which all members agreed, and comments made by BRAC members. The option papers also include information on the cost per ton of CO<sub>2</sub> avoided or reduced that was obtained from analyses used by other western states. That information was typically quite cryptic and rarely included detailed explanation. However, it gives some idea of the range of costs that might be relevant in Utah. Future, Utah-specific economic cost benefit analyses must be completed on policy recommendations where appropriate. The BRAC acknowledges that while there may be costs and benefits associated with the policy recommendations in this report, any economic analyses conducted must also take into account the potential costs associated with inaction. Both may need to be considered. Finally, any process followed from this point on should include stakeholder involvement.

In June 2007, Governor Huntsman requested that the BRAC also evaluate options for a Renewable Energy Initiative. The BRAC established a work group and will prepare final recommendations for the Governor in October 2007. Those recommendations will be included in this report in Appendix E.

The BRAC membership was established by Laura Nelson, Ph.D., former Energy Advisor to the Governor. Dianne Nielson, Ph.D., was appointed Energy Advisor and Chair of the BRAC in May 2007. The BRAC wishes to thank the members of the Stakeholder Working Group and Sector Groups, Gary Bryner and Brigham Young University Public Policy Program staff and students, staff of the Department of Environmental Quality and the Governor's Energy Advisor's Office, and facilitator Michele Straube for their assistance in the preparation of this report, and the authors of the Science Report for their evaluation. Some of the funding for this work was provided by the Hewlett Foundation.