

**Considerations for discussion of 15 Climate Change Advisory Committee
Recommendations
Environmental Quality Council
Draft April 2008**

The information below is a summary of key points from the Montana Climate Change Action Plan and the associated appendices. The legislative and administrative options prepared by staff and participating agencies do not include an economic analysis.

AFW-12

Enhanced Solid Waste Recovery and Recycling

(75% of participating EQC members voting 4 or 5 and 63% of the public voting 4 or 5)

✓ Increase Montana solid waste recycling rates by 17% by 2008, 22% by 2011, 25% by 2015, and 28% by 2020 using a variety of methods, including source reduction, reuse, recycling and composting.

Conservation Considerations:

- Reduces the manufacturing of products
- Reduces materials stored in landfill
- Pages I-71 through I-78 Appendices

What's Being Done:

- DEQ responsible for implementing Integrated Solid Waste Management Act, 75-10-803, MCA, which requires them to convene a group of interested parties to review and recommend goals for increasing recycling. This recommendation (AFW-12) sets higher goals. Goals would be updated in 2011, based on current law.
- State's recycling rate is now over 18%, ahead of state's 2008 goals (17% was goal). DEQ has put more resources toward recycling and is doing more with private businesses, schools, nonprofits, and state government. There has been a 2% increase in state recycling rate and community electronics recycling events, pesticide plastic recycling collections, mercury thermostat and thermometer collections, and more market development.
- DOA and DEQ are establishing a task force on recycling and purchasing in state government. In Winter 2007 DEQ hosted an educational event for all state agencies in the Capitol Rotunda.
- DEQ educates consumers on benefits and opportunities for recycling as outlined in 75-10-215, MCA.
- State government, lead by example source reduction and recycling program, as outlined in 75-10-805, MCA.
- State government, procurement of recycled supplies and materials. DOA develops specifications for purchasing materials and supplies that have recycled content, 75-10-806, MCA.
- Licensing. DEQ provides licenses for recycling and composting businesses at no cost.
- Tax credit for investment in property used to collect or process reclaimable material and for purchase of recycling equipment. Set to expire in 2011, 15-32-601, MCA.
- Recycled materials deduction. Taxpayers purchasing recycled material as a business-

- related expense can deduct 10% of the expense from federal adjusted gross income in arriving at Montana adjusted gross income. Set to expire in 2011, 15-32-609, MCA.
- Deduction for purchasing Montana produced organic fertilizer. Taxpayers may deduct expenditures for organic fertilizer, such as compost, that is produced in Montana, 15-32-303, MCA.
- Credit against air permitting fees for certain uses of post-consumer glass. Can receive credit against fees imposed in 75-2-220, MCA, for using glass in recycled material. Expires in 2009.

Potential Action:

* Legislative or EQC options (not complete, intended to be starting point for discussion):

- Provide additional resources to broaden educational outreach program through DEQ, expand upon program in 75-10-215, MCA. Lead by example. Evaluate and update state government source reduction and recycling program, 75-10-805, MCA.
- Redevelop or expand incentives for recycling. For example, the 2007 Legislature contemplated House Bill No. 607 to create the waste reduction and recycling grant act. It authorized a fee on solid waste to fund grants. Died in committee. House Bill No. 258 contemplated by the 2007 Legislature would have created a tax credit for recycling certain electronics. Died in committee.
- New legislation could assist small businesses and assist in developing local markets for recycling.
- Increase, require, and incentivize recycling of construction and demolition waste. In Western Montana and high growth areas, construction and demolition waste may account for 30% of total waste.
- Extend tax credits or programs set to expire in 2011, as noted above.
- Tax credit for investment in property used to collect or process reclaimable material and for purchase of recycling equipment is currently only in Session Law. With legislative changes, could become permanent.
- Provide for demonstration projects to encourage waste to solid energy or biogas. New legislation could offer assistance to waste to energy sewage treatment plant upgrades.

* Resolution or recommendation stating intent

* No Action

* Administrative options:

- Develop local markets for recycled materials. Investigate methods for developing markets for local uses of recycled materials.
- Encourage inter-county cooperation, using Headwaters Recycling Model. (Program utilized and paid for by collection of southwest Montana counties). Work with local governments or MACO to increase effectiveness.
- Encourage Montana landfills to participate in the EPA Methane Outreach program. When landfills come in for permitting, plan could be presented.
- Encourage composting of biosolids over landfilling.