



*Champions for Sustainability
Business Climate Coalition Steering Committee*

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July 2010

**BCC
Steering Committee
Update
Briefing
Meeting Date:
July 13, 2010**

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BCC Steering Committee Meeting, July 13, 2010

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Executive Summary

This document contains a compilation of useful information that committee members may want to review through July 13, 2010, as well as a summary of notes from the Business Climate Coalition Steering Committee meeting from May 18, 2010.

C4S Business Climate Coalition Steering Committee

Champions for Sustainability convenes leaders from Pittsburgh area businesses to recommend actions related to Pittsburgh's climate. The group meets every 8 weeks. The goals of the BCC are to:

- To provide an opportunity for businesses in Pittsburgh to learn what other companies and organizations are doing related to climate initiatives
- To design and oversee BCC events which raise awareness of climate related activities
- To create a best practices guide and case studies for local businesses relating to climate initiatives
- To oversee the Pittsburgh Business Climate Leadership Awards Program

About C4S

Champions for Sustainability brings together companies large and small, from many different industries, entrepreneurs, community leaders, university researchers, educators, and other social ventures to put sustainability into practice. C4S aspires to be the most effective region-based collaboration of leaders accelerating the practice and policy of sustainability in business and civic circles. Champions for Sustainability provides value to firms and organizations that seek sustainable solutions to operational practices through convening, networking, and direct consulting.

Memberships and Information:

- Champions for Sustainability www.C4SPgh.org
- Sustainable Pittsburgh www.sustainablepittsburgh.org

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1. Prior Meeting Summary (May 18, 2010)

1.1 Agenda

Champions for Sustainability
Business Climate Coalition
May 18, 2010
8:30 AM– 10:00 AM

Location:
George Room
23rd Floor, Regional Enterprise Tower
425 Sixth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Continental Breakfast Provided

Facilitated by Matthew Mehalik and Jake Baechle, Sustainable Pittsburgh

- 8:30 Arrival & Check-in: Breakfast

- 8:40 Welcome
 - Recap last meeting (3.23.10)
 - BCC Update

- 8:45 Presentation (Miriam Parson)
 - Emissions Inventory

- 9:00 Subcommittee Reports
 - Goals
 - Events

- 9:35 Green Office Challenge

- 9:45 Discussion

- 9:55 Closing Remarks

1.2 Prior Meeting Summary

I. Call to Order:

A. Matt Mehalik and Jake Baechle called to order the meeting for the Champions for Sustainability Business Climate Coalition Steering Committee

II. Roll Call

A. Each attendee introduced themselves: name & organization

III. Opening Issues:

A. Recap of last meeting (11.19.09)

B. Today's Agenda (May 18, 2010)

1. Introductions
2. Recap of last meeting (3.23.10)
3. Emissions Inventory
4. Subcommittee Reports
5. Green Office Challenge
6. Discussion and Planning
 - a) Programming for 2011
7. Adjourn

IV. Overview:

A. BCC Update

1. Articles from John Kerry and Bill Gates on energy in U.S.
2. Article linking lizard deaths to climate change

Take Away Points: Two key figures urge the United States to invest in improving the energy sector. Scientists have warned that certain species would be at risk of extinction as a result of climate change; these lizards in Central America may be the first of many.

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B. Meeting Review (3.23.10)

1. Report Update (Vol. 2 No. 1)
2. Paul Mayewski
 - a) Ice core samples
3. Climate Change Legislation
 - a) CLEAR Act
 - b) Kerry, Lieberman Legislation
4. Focus Group Results
5. Subcommittees
6. Discussion and Planning

C. 2008 Pittsburgh Green House Gas Emissions Inventory (Presented by Miriam)

1. Improvements in data accuracy
 - a) Municipal
 - (1) Includes employee commute
 - (2) Data from vehicle source
 - (3) URA Properties
 - (4) Includes refrigerants
 - b) Community
 - (1) Natural gas combustion
 - (2) Transportation
 - (3) Commercial coal
 - (4) Fuel oil and kerosene
 - (5) Solid Waste
2. Reductions

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a) Municipal

(1) Must reduce 45,311 Tons CO2 emissions/ year to reach 20% by 2023

b) Community

(1) Must reduce 2.6 million tons CO2 emissions/year to reach 20% by 2023

3. Questions

a) Is the jump due to an increase in commercial sq ft in operation?

(1) Possibility

b) Will 2003 numbers be corrected?

(1) Most likely, over time.

c) What is the difference between County and City?

(1) County is only the county municipality & not authorities

(2) City includes everything; municipalities, authorities, buildings, commercial, residential, transportation, water, etc

Take Away Points: There were many improvements in data accuracy in the 2008 emissions inventory, therefore the overall emission count is higher than in the past. Also 2008 was before PCI actions were implemented. By understanding these figures we can determine the necessary reduction of CO2 per year and set goals appropriately.

D. Review of Pittsburgh Climate Action Plan for Businesses (presented by Jake)

1. Actions completed

2. Discussion of future actions

a) Green leases

b) Issues related to Sustainable Business Seal

c) Reduction in parking spaces and subsidies could cause sprawl

Take Away Points: To date the BCC has been generally successful at achieving the goals set forth for businesses in the original Pittsburgh Climate Action Plan. We can use these actions as a point of reference in the creation of our goals for new Climate Action Plan.

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E. Subcommittee Recap and Discussion

1. Goals

a) Subcommittee ideas

- (1) Focus Group Brainstorm
- (2) Surveys
- (3) Committee Empowerment
- (4) Research
- (5) Focus Group Results

b) Discussion

- (1) Measurable
- (2) Tell a story
- (3) Video
- (4) Case studies
- (5) National attention
- (6) What are businesses hedging against?

2. Events - Green Office Challenge

a) Subcommittee ideas

- (1) Promotions
- (2) Increase Budget
- (3) All or Nothing

b) Discussion

- (1) Take the time and do it right
- (2) Government generally plays a large role
- (3) Buildings and tenants

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Take Away Points: 1) Telling a good story inspires people and businesses to take action. We need our goals to be founded in stories businesses can see from beginning to end. We may be able to achieve this through case studies and videos. 2) If the BCC is going to put on a Green Office Challenge it should be well thought out and done right even if that requires more time and more funding.

V. Conclusion

VI. Adjournment:

A. Matthew Mehalik and Jake Baechle adjourned the meeting at 10 am

B. Networking continued

**Handouts:

- Agenda
- Pittsburgh Climate Action Plan Business Goals
- Slides

Minutes submitted by: Jake Baechle

Minutes approved by: Matthew Mehalik

2. Resources

2.1 BCC Climate related articles as of 7.13.10

- **The Climate Majority (6.8.10)** In our survey, which was financed by a grant to Stanford from the National Science Foundation, 1,000 randomly selected American adults were interviewed by phone between June 1 and Monday. When respondents were asked if they thought that the earth's temperature probably had been heating up over the last 100 years, 74 percent answered affirmatively. And 75 percent of respondents said that human behavior was substantially responsible for any warming that has occurred. For many issues, any such consensus about the existence of a problem quickly falls apart when the conversation turns to carrying out specific solutions that will be costly. But not so here. Fully 86 percent of our respondents said they wanted the federal government to limit the amount of air pollution that businesses emit, and 76 percent favored government limiting business's emissions of greenhouse gases in particular. Not a majority of 55 or 60 percent — but 76 percent. [Click here to read more.](#)
- **E.P.A. Lags on Setting Some Air Standards, Report Finds (6.26.10)** The Environmental Protection Agency is 10 years behind schedule in setting guidelines for a host of toxic air pollutants, according to a report from the agency's inspector general.

The report, which was released last week, found that the agency had failed to develop emissions standards, due in 2000, for some sources of hazardous air pollutants. These included smaller sites often located in urban areas, like dry cleaners and gas stations, but also some chemical manufacturers.

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The inspector general also found that the agency had not met targets outlined in a 1999 planning document, the Integrated Urban Air Toxics Strategy, including tracking urban dwellers' risk of developing health problems from exposure to pollutants.

Some experts said the failures were persisting largely because the E.P.A.'s Office of Air and Radiation, which is responsible for regulating air pollutants, lacked the money needed to meet its deadlines. [Click here to read more.](#)

- **EPA Unveils Rules on Smog-Forming Emissions From Power Plants (7.7.10)** U.S. EPA released proposed rules today for smog and soot-forming emissions from power plants, setting up the start of a rulemaking process that could influence Senate negotiations on an energy and climate bill.

Cleared by the White House Office of Management and Budget last week, the program announced today by EPA air chief Gina McCarthy would supersede the Clean Air Interstate Rule, a George W. Bush-era program that capped emissions of sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) from power plants. Those pollutants are frequently carried by air currents, accumulating in the northeastern United States and making it more difficult for those "tailpipe" states to meet air quality standards.

Though the "transport" rule could have teeth on its own, experts say, it could also suffer the same legal fate as its predecessor, which was struck down in 2008 by U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. The court's unusually acerbic [decision](#) (pdf) described the program as "fundamentally flawed," saying it failed to "connect states' emissions reductions to any measure of their own significant contributions."

With both industry groups and public health advocates seeking a measure of certainty, the release of the CAIR replacement rule could prod the Senate to get moving on legislation. [Click here to read more.](#)

- **Global CO₂ Trends Show Scope of Climate Challenge (7.2.10)** There's still thinking in many quarters that if the United States acts to restrict its emissions of carbon dioxide, the long-lived greenhouse gas at the heart of the climate challenge, the fast-growing developing countries of the world will voluntarily follow. Global data on emissions of carbon dioxide vividly illustrate the wishful nature of such thoughts when considered against powerful underlying trends.

The latest analysis by the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, described at the Green blog and Roger Pielke Jr.'s blog, shows how the decline in per-capita emissions from the deep recession was overcome by growth in the industrializing world. [Click here to read more.](#)

- **GOP: Obama using oil crisis to push cap and trade (6.15.10)** House Republicans on Tuesday accused President Barack Obama of using the oil spill crisis as an excuse to push a new energy policy and an unpopular cap and trade proposal.

Republican lawmakers, who have long advocated much more aggressive drilling policies, also ripped the moratorium on deepwater drilling.

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"This job killing ban on drilling is causing more problems right now than the oil [spill] long term because it's threatening over 40,000 jobs," said Rep. Steve Scalise (R-La.). "It's starting to already have reverberating, crippling effects to our economy and it doesn't do anything to cap the well and to actually address the problems of the oil coming onto our shore."

Scalise, who visited Grand Isle, La. last week, said he heard from local leaders that they're "spending more time battling the federal government and BP than they are battling the oil." He said he's heard that workers on the ground have waited as long as five days to get answers from federal agencies. [Click here to read more.](#)

- **Historic oil spill fails to produce gains for U.S. environmentalists (7.12.10)** For environmentalists, the BP oil spill may be disproving the maxim that great tragedies produce great change.

Traditionally, American environmentalism wins its biggest victories after some important piece of American environment is poisoned, exterminated or set on fire. An oil spill and a burning river in 1969 led to new anti-pollution laws in the 1970s. The Exxon Valdez disaster helped create an Earth Day revival in 1990 and sparked a landmark clean-air law.

But this year, the worst oil spill in U.S. history -- and, before that, the worst coal-mining disaster in 40 years -- haven't put the same kind of drive into the debate over climate change and fossil-fuel energy.

The Senate is still gridlocked. Opinion polls haven't budged much. Gasoline demand is going up, not down. [Click here to read more.](#)

- **John Kerry, Joe Lieberman tout EPA projection on climate bill (6.15.10)** Senate authors of a controversial climate change bill heralded EPA modeling results unveiled Tuesday as proof that their plan would have a limited pinch on Americans' pocketbooks.

Sens. John Kerry (D-Mass.) and Joe Lieberman (I-Conn.) found many reasons to gloat after getting the 74-page study that showed the overall costs from their legislation's major global warming provisions would cost an average household between \$80 to \$150 per year.

"There'll be some people who will want to demagogue that politically, but that's less than \$1 a day," Lieberman told reporters. "Is the American household willing to pay less than \$1 so we don't have to buy oil from foreign countries, so we can create millions of new jobs, so we can clean up our environment? I think the answer is going to be yes." [Click here to read more.](#)

- **Lieberman: Reid should bring climate bill to the floor regardless of vote count (6.15.10)** One of two key sponsors of a Senate proposal to rein in climate change said he hoped the proposal would be brought to the floor, regardless of whether or not it has the votes.

Sen. Joe Lieberman (I-Conn.), the co-author of the American Power Act alongside Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.), encouraged Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) to move forward with their legislation, regardless of whether it has the ostensible 60 votes needed to pass.

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"Sen. Reid didn't have 60 votes for healthcare reform when he brought it to the floor," Lieberman said during a press conference in which the pair of senators promoted an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimate of their legislation showing reductions to emissions at a minimal costs to consumers.

Both healthcare — which, ironically, Lieberman had opposed in part for some time — and Wall Street reform were able to pick up votes during the course of floor debate and amendment, the Connecticut independent noted. [Click here to read more.](#)

- **Q+A: Obama's speech and U.S. energy legislation (6.16.10)** President Barack Obama used a national address on Tuesday to review steps he has taken to deal with the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and to encourage Congress to come up with ideas on how to revamp energy and environmental policy.

Obama did not lay out specific actions he is seeking from lawmakers. But Congress is likely to debate energy and environmental legislation in coming months. The fate of such legislation this year will hinge on some of the questions posed here: [Click here to read more.](#)

- **Senate Energy Chairman Drafting Utility-Only Climate Bill (6.29.10)** Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.) is writing legislation to cap emissions from the utility sector, an approach that is gaining traction in Washington amid fresh concerns about what carrots might be dangled in front of power plants as incentive to sign on.

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee chairman said yesterday that he has a bill that would cap greenhouse gas emissions from power plants. "I've done some work on that, but I haven't introduced anything," he told reporters, adding it has some "significant differences" from the Kerry-Lieberman cap-and-trade measure.

A utility-only cap shepherded by Bingaman may have a better shot at winning bipartisan support than if it were championed by Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.), a co-sponsor of a Senate cap-and-trade climate bill who became a partisan magnet after his failed bid during the 2004 presidential contest. [Click here to read more.](#)

- **String of floods raise climate change questions** Call it the spring of flash floods. Rare and deadly flash flooding events have struck several parts of the south-central U.S. from Tennessee to Oklahoma this spring, with two remarkable events occurring in just the past five days: the astounding six-to-ten-inch gully washer that resulted in numerous swift-water rescues in Oklahoma City yesterday morning, and the tragic deluge in rural Arkansas late last week.

With precipitation extremes already increasing in frequency and severity due to global climate change, it is especially important that journalists and the public learn how to discuss the climate context of such extreme weather events, provided such discussions stick to the scientific evidence. [Click here to read more.](#)

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- **Telecommuting Saves \$10K Per Employee Yearly (7.6.10)** Businesses that let 100 employees work half of their time from home can save more than \$1 million a year according to Telework Research Network's (TRN) latest study of telework programs and their benefits.

TRN looked at more than 250 case studies, research papers and other documents on telework (also called telecommuting and workshifting), and combined that with interviews with companies, researchers and more to figure out how telecommuting benefits employers, employees, the environment and communities.

In "[Workshifting Benefits: The Bottom Line](#)," TRN says that letting one employee work half of their time out of the office saves their company about \$10,000 per year and the employee up to \$6,800 per year.

While 80 percent of workers want to telecommute and 30 percent would take a pay cut in order to telecommute, less than 2 percent of employees work from home the majority of their time and at least 40 percent have jobs that are compatible with telecommuting. [Click here to read more.](#)

- **Meeting Schedule for 2010:**

- 2010's meetings will be changed from every 6 weeks to every 8 weeks.
- Tentative Schedule
 - ~~March 23~~
 - ~~May 18~~
 - July 13
 - Sept. 7
 - Nov. 2