



*Champions for Sustainability
Business Climate Coalition Steering Committee*

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**BCC
Steering Committee
Update
Briefing
Meeting Date:
September 7, 2010**

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BCC Steering Committee Meeting, September 7, 2010

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Executive Summary

This document contains a compilation of useful information that committee members may want to review through September 7, 2010, as well as a summary of notes from the Business Climate Coalition Steering Committee meeting from July 13, 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 others 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 (July 13, 2010)

1.1 Agenda

Champions for Sustainability
Business Climate Coalition
July 13, 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 (5.18.10)
 - BCC Update
- 8:50 Recap of Portfolio Manager Event
- 8:55 Focus Group Update
- 9:05 Green Office Challenge
 - Status Update
 - Moving Forward
- 9:30 Transportation Transformation
- 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 (5.18.10)

B. Today's Agenda (7.13.10)

1. Introductions
2. Recap of last meeting (5.18.10)
3. BCC Update
4. Portfolio Manager Recap
5. Focus Group Study
6. Green Office Challenge
7. Transportation Transformation

IV. Overview:

A. BCC Update

1. The Climate Majority
2. Telecommuting
3. Climate Legislation

Take Away Points: There was a study done that shows the majority of people do believe in climate change. This includes 74% believe that the earth is heating up and 86% would like to see the Federal Government regulate emissions. A separate report was completed showing the potential savings an organization could attain by allowing an employee to telecommute even part time. One key figure was that an organization could save \$1.1 million annually by allowing 100 employees to telecommute half

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time. There are many climate bills floating around the senate right now, but if one is going to be passed in the before elections it most likely will not cap carbon and may be utility focused.

3.1 Portfolio Manager Recap

Event Recap

Key Survey Results

Capabilities of Portfolio Manager

3.1.1.1 Tool

3.1.1.2 Baseline

3.1.1.3 Comparison

Take Away Points: The event was an overall success. Survey results show a majority of participants being interested in further training and participating in a Green Office Challenge if one is offered.

3.2 Focus Group Study Update (Presented by Matt)

4. Technical Results

5. Behavioral Results

6. Next steps

a) See how experience reflects on results

b) Type up final report

c) Work to publish in journal

Take Away Points: Some Technical items show High feasibility, effectiveness, and cost value. These items should be heavily promoted due to their high marks. Other lower ranking items may need incentives to encourage implementation. Behavioral items were less clear. Water related items were rated low showing that they may require significant incentives in order to entice businesses to take these actions.

B. Green Office Challenge

1. Design

a) Measurable

b) Unique

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2. Funding ideas:
3. Cost to participate w/ incentives
4. Act 129 Funds
5. Other energy company funds
6. Grants

Take Away Points: The Green Office Challenge seems to be something that the BCC as a whole would like to continue to see moving forward. There appears to be a variety of funding sources that can potentially be tapped into. A Green Office Challenge committee may need to be formed in order to guide the progress and implementation of this program.

C. Transportation Transformation

1. National Geographic article
2. Design
3. Car Free Calculator
4. Potential partners
5. Funding opportunities

Take Away Points: There was a lot of interest shown in pursuing this event. There are a good number of transportation related organizations in the area that could assist and benefit from this event.

V. Conclusion

VI. Adjournment:

- A. Matthew Mehalik and Jake Baechle adjourned the meeting at 10 am
- B. Networking continued

****Handouts:**

- Agenda
- Green Office Challenge Summary
- Transportation Transformation Outline

Minutes submitted by: Jake Baechle

Minutes approved by: Matthew Mehalik

2. Resources

2.1 BCC Climate related articles as of 9.7.10

- **After the Climate Bill Failure (7.23.10)** The Senate majority leader, Harry Reid of Nevada, center, with Senator John F. Kerry of Massachusetts and Carol Browner, the White House's climate adviser, announcing that climate change action had been shelved.

With the Senate slinking away from any effort to control climate-altering carbon emissions, the frustrated and perplexed are asking, now what? Can federal and state governments move ahead under existing law to achieve some or all of the greenhouse gas reductions envisioned in the failed legislation?

Just in time comes a [report](#) from the respected World Resources Institute attempting to answer just that question. The 60-page paper was released on the very day that the Senate majority leader, Harry Reid, Democrat of Nevada, pulled the plug on the already-comatose Senate climate bill. [Click here to read more.](#)

- **CCT is a medium term global solution (8.18.10)** Clean coal technology is not viable without carbon capture and carbon sequestration. Both of these could prove to be stumbling blocks toward a cleaner coal future. What we are dealing with now are mostly demonstration projects and other projects that some tout as major. But relative to the problems we face on CO₂ they are miniscule.

Carbon sequestration is rife with technical and legal problems. One of the biggest legal problems is who will hold the liability, especially the long term liability that is potentially inherent in carbon sequestration fields. The carbon once captured and then sent into the ground could be there for pretty much forever. The places to store the carbon also have to be chosen very carefully. In the US and worldwide there are massive spaces underground that could be used to store the carbon. The best of these are deep enough that the carbon turns to liquid due to the pressures involved in such deep caverns.

The technology of carbon sequestration also seems to have some way to go. If the safety, economic and legal issues are resolved, and these are very complex problems to solve, then clean coal could be on its way to some extent, but with politics, policies, and lobbying pending. [Click here to read more.](#)

- **Dangerous Climate Picture Impossible to Ignore (8.30.10)** The headlines from the hottest year-to-date on record paint a dangerous climate picture, consistent with the overwhelming scientific evidence.

Scientists, skeptical by both nature and training, always urge a dose of caution when looking at any one event as evidence of climate change. They look at the totality of events and discover patterns that help determine how our climate is changing.

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It is the high level of professional skepticism--not the useless back-and-forth encouraged by deniers--that makes the overwhelming scientific consensus that climate change is real and caused by man all the more powerful. [97 to 98 percent](#) of climate researchers support the fundamental conclusion of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The head of the National Academy of Sciences has indicated that we know more about the link between man and climate change than we do smoking and lung cancer.

Scientists have warned us that climate change will result in more frequent and intense heat waves and wildfires, increased drought and flooding, and accelerated melting of glaciers and polar ice. With that prognosis in mind, let's review some of what has happened in 2010, which has seen the hottest January to July period on record. [Click here to read more.](#)

- **Double Dividend: Make Money by Saving Nature (7.15.10)** Saving nature is the central issue. Carbon fuels destroy nature. The Gulf Death Gusher is the most visible sign. But signs are everywhere. Overall global warming increases hurricanes and floods, destroys habitats for plants, fish, birds, and ground animals, spreads deserts, causes deadly waves, and destroys glaciers and our polar ice caps. The use of carbon fuels has been destroying nature. Our job now is to save it.

Interestingly, there is a short, 39-page bill before the Senate that would allow us to save nature and get paid substantially for doing it. It is the CLEAR bill, first suggested by Peter Barnes, and introduced by Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and Susan Collins (R-ME). It is simple, it works, and it pays you!

The principle behind it is this: We US citizens own the air over the US equally. Carbon-fuel sellers are dumping pollution in our air, not just poisoning the air, but destroying nature. At least they should pay for permits to dump, poison, and destroy, and should be forced year-by-year to stop. Who should the sellers pay for permits? All of us, the citizens who live here, should be paid handsomely. And there should be predictably fewer permits every year, till the practice ends or reaches tolerable levels. [Click here to read more.](#)

- **How U.S. Can Lead Clean Energy Race (8.3.10)** U.S. economic leadership is at a crossroads. Recent outlooks suggest we may experience long-term stagnation and unemployment comparable to Japan's lost decade. Yet while we have suffered an economic crisis produced by our own financial sector – losing millions of jobs, trillions in economic output, and further damaging our industrial base – China has largely shrugged off the global recession with high levels of growth and self-financed stimulus, all while purchasing billions of Treasury bills to finance our own deficit.

Meanwhile, as we documented in [“Rising Tigers, Sleeping Giant,”](#) China and other nations are establishing dominance in one of the largest growth industries of the century. According to World Economic Forum, the global clean energy market will reach \$450 billion annually by 2012 and \$600 billion by 2020. Full market potential for clean energy products is much larger, with [one analysis](#) estimating Chinese market potential alone at \$500 billion to \$1 trillion. No wonder President Obama declared in the State of the Union, “The nation that leads the clean-energy economy will be the nation that leads the global economy.”

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The United States must quickly pursue a new growth agenda, and clean energy technology offers one of our greatest opportunities. For over a decade, the primary goal of U.S. climate and clean energy advocates has been to establish a strong carbon pollution cap. This agenda is dead for the foreseeable future, and precious time has been wasted. The United States must quickly pivot from pollution regulation to an aggressive clean energy competitiveness and innovation agenda, and we can begin with new leadership in the next Congress. [Click here to read more.](#)

- **Insurance Companies Find There Is Money to Be Made in Green Technology (8.8.10)** Every day, national and local officials, municipal utilities, corporations, homeowners and consumers are weighing the risks and rewards of adopting renewable energy. The up-front costs can be daunting.

Sure, putting solar panels on my house might be good for Mother Earth and could save me money in the long term, but what if they break in two years and I'm out \$5,000 before I have recouped my investment?

Unfortunately, good karma points are not going to pay the power bill. But insurance might. Increasingly, insurers are stepping in to bridge the gap between green intentions and actual capital outlays on green technology. [Click here to read more.](#)

- **National Top 50 (7.6.10)** The Green Power Partnership works with a wide variety of leading organizations — from Fortune 500 companies to local, state and federal governments, and a growing number of colleges and universities. The following Top Partner Rankings highlight the annual green power purchases of leading organizations within the United States and across individual industry sectors.

These green power purchases help reduce the environmental impacts of electricity use and support the development of new renewable generation capacity nationwide. Purchase amounts reflect U.S. operations only and are sourced from U.S.-based green power resources. Organizations can meet EPA purchase requirements using any combination of three different product options (1) Renewable Energy Certificates, (2) On-site generation, and (3) Utility green power products.

Pennsylvania did well, with the state government ranking in the top 50 organizations along with Penn, PSU, CMU, and BNY Mellon. [Click here to read more.](#)

- **Obama orders federal workplaces to cut emissions, improve safety (7.21.10)** President Obama wants federal workers to take a bike, bus or subway to work more often and is ordering agencies to make their offices a safer place to work.

Two White House memos issued this week aim to reduce the federal government's environmental footprint and cut the number of workers' compensation claims made by federal employees.

Obama signed orders on Tuesday requiring the government to cut its carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions from indirect sources, including employee commutes and travel, by 13 percent in 2020.

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The federal government owns 600,000 vehicles, almost 500,000 buildings and paid \$24.5 billion on utility and fuel bills in fiscal 2008, making it the nation's largest energy consumer. [Click here to read more.](#)

- **So far, 2010 is the world's hottest year on record, NOAA data show (8.14.10)** On Friday, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration released data showing that, from January to July, the average global temperature was 58.1 degrees. That was 1.22 degrees over the average from the 20th century, and the highest since 1880, when reliable records begin.

Although NOAA experts say global climate change isn't the only reason 2010 has been so hot -- an El Niño event earlier in the year pushed temperatures up -- they said it's still the most important reason.

"We would not be where we are without" the influence of climate change, said Deke Arndt of NOAA's National Climatic Data Center.

NOAA data show that last month was the second-hottest July on record, following July 1998. It came after a four-month string of broken records: March, April, May and June were all hotter than they've ever been.

Even if the globe cools down in the remaining months of 2010, Arndt said, the year seems on track to be one of the hottest of all time. "It'll be in the top three -- I can safely say that," Arndt said. [Click here to read more.](#)

- **Support For Addressing Climate Change Holds Firm (8.2.10)** The Senate will not be voting on legislation this week that would limit greenhouse gas emissions. But the public is overwhelmingly in favor of such limits, according to the latest Society for Human Resource Management/National Journal Congressional Connection Poll, conducted with the Pew Research Center.

Sixty-five percent of the public favor limits on carbon dioxide or greenhouse gas emissions, while only 28 percent oppose such limits. Such support is consistent. In the June 10-13 Congressional Connection Poll, 66 percent favored addressing climate change.

Perhaps reflecting the fallout from the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, 69 percent of the public favors stricter regulations on oil drilling. If the Senate addresses any environmental issue this week after voting on the Supreme Court nomination of Solicitor General Elena Kagan, it will be on legislation responding to the Gulf spill, including raising the liability cap companies have when they are responsible for a spill. [Click here to read more.](#)

- **Meeting Schedule for 2010:**

- Meetings occur every 6 weeks.
- Schedule
 - ~~March 23~~
 - ~~May 18~~
 - ~~July 13~~



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- Sept. 7
- Nov. 2