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*Champions for Sustainability  
Business Climate Coalition Steering Committee*

Vol. 2 No. 1  
March 2010

**BCC  
Steering Committee  
Update  
Briefing  
Meeting Date:  
March 23, 2010**

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## C4S Steering Committee

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Sustainability Coordinator  
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Jennifer Young  
Managing Director,  
Advanced Manufacturing  
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Jeaneen Zappa  
Deputy Director  
Green Building Alliance

## Executive Summary

This document contains a compilation of notable information that committee members may want to review until March 23, 2009, as well as a summary of notes from the Business Climate Coalition Steering Committee meeting from November 19, 2009.

## 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 6 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](http://www.C4SPgh.org)
- Sustainable Pittsburgh [www.sustainablepittsburgh.org](http://www.sustainablepittsburgh.org)

## C4S Program Administration

Matthew M. Mehalik, Ph.D.  
Program Manager  
Sustainable Pittsburgh

## Sustainability Coordinator Leadership

Phyllis Barber  
(Steering Committee Co-Chair)  
Sustainability Coordinator  
Environmental Management  
Highmark

**Members of the 2009 Business Climate Coalition Steering Committee:**

**Mr. Steve Bland**  
Port Authority of  
Allegheny County

**Mr. John Burke**  
URA

**Mr. Andrew Butcher**  
GTECH Strategies

**Mr. William Cagney**  
International Union of  
Operating Engineers  
Local 95

**Mr. David Deal**  
evolve environment::  
architecture

**Mr. David Diorio**  
La Prima Espresso

**Ms. Janice Donatelli**  
ARTEMIS

**Ms. Rachel Filippini**  
Group Against Smog  
and Pollution (GASP)

**Ms. Christina French**  
Table Magazine

**Mr. JD Fogarty**  
Port of Pittsburgh  
Commission

**Ms. Ann Gerace**  
CCI Center

**Ms. Lynne Glover**  
Visit Pittsburgh

**Mr. Jon Mathews**  
Fairmont Hotel

**Mr. Peter Johnson**  
Allegheny Design  
Group

**Mr. Tommy Johnson**  
Consol Energy, Inc

**Mr. Robert Jones**  
Dominion Peoples

**Ms. Meg Kelly**  
Frontier Energy

**Ms. Bonny Kwolek**  
Pittsburgh Cultural  
Trust

**Ms. Janet Lauer**  
3 Rivers Clean Energy

**Mr. Greg Lok**  
Constellation Energy

**Dr. Scott Matthews**  
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**Ms. Joyce O'Connor**  
Cardinal Resources  
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**Ms. Carolyn**  
**Pengidore**  
Clear Choice Energy

**Mr. Seth Rice**  
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**Mr. Chris Steffy**  
American Institute of  
Chemical Engineers-  
Pittsburgh Section

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## 1. Prior Meeting Summary (November 19, 2009)

### 1.1 Agenda

Champions for Sustainability  
Business Climate Coalition  
November 19, 2009  
11:30 AM– 1:00 PM

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

Continental Breakfast Provided

Facilitated by Matthew Mehalik and Jillian Ryan, Sustainable Pittsburgh

- 11:30          Arrival & Check-in: Breakfast
- 11:40          Welcome
- Recap last meeting (10.15.09)
  - Update Report
    - Vol. 1 No. 6
  - Events Committee
    - Business Actions Event (10.29.09)
  - Focus Group Committee
    - Sessions (9.29.09, 10.19.09, 10.26.09)
- 12:10          2010
- Measurement initiative
    - Energy Star Portfolio Manager Training Session
    - Green Office Challenge
    - Energy Workshops
  - Water Usage/ Education 2010 initiative
  - Black Carbon (Rachel Filippini)
    - BCC awareness initiative option
- 12:40          SCA Green Cities Fellow Position Suggestion
- 12:50          Discussion
- 12:55          Closing Remarks

## 1.2 Prior Meeting Summary

### I. Call to Order:

A. Matt Mehalik and Jillian Ryan 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

1. Tonya Moximchalk is replacing Dave Grupp from Direct Energy Business as a member of the BCC

### III. Opening Issues:

A. Recap of last meeting (10.15.09)

B. Today's Agenda (November 19, 2009)

1. Report Update (Vol. 1 No. 6)

2. Events Committee

- a) Business Actions event: October 29

3. Focus Group Committee

4. 2010

- a) Measurement Initiative

- (1) Energy Star Portfolio Manager Training Session

- (2) Green Office Challenge

- (3) Energy Workshops

- b) Water Usage/ Education 2010 Initiative

- c) Diesel Campaign Initiative (Rachel Filippini-GASP & Kathy Lawson- Clean Water Action)

- (1) BCC awareness initiative option

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5. Discussion and Planning
6. Adjourn

IV. Overview:

A. Recap of last meeting (10.15.09)

1. Report Update (Vol. 1 No. 5)
2. Pittsburgh Gives (Sustainable Pittsburgh)
3. BCC 2010
4. Events Committee
  - a) October 29, 2009
5. Energy Workshops Update
6. Focus Group Committee
7. Black and Gold City Goes Green
  - a) Employee Challenge

B. BCC Report Update (Vol. No. 6)

1. This report includes a summary of the BCC “Actions for Businesses” event that was held on October 29, 2009 showcasing local business case studies and energy saving/funding resources for businesses. It includes the list of speakers, the organization they represent, the topic that they discussed and if available their PowerPoint presentation. The resources were broken down into state opportunities (DUQ ACT 129, PA DEP programs, & EPA programs), demand response and local energy auditors. To view the event details please visit our website at: <http://www.c4spgh.org/know2.html#BCCEnergy>. The report also includes a brief summary of the three focus group sessions that were held, and climate related articles from 10/15/09 to 11/19/09.

C. Events Committee

1. Fall event: October 29 4:30- 7:30pm
2. Summary:
  - a) 61 attendees
  - b) 51 different organizations

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- c) 30 unique businesses
- d) 10 unique nonprofit organizations
- e) 1 educational institution
- f) 6 unique government organizations
- g) 4 individual representatives
- h) Positive feedback: high interest in solar funding through PA DEP

3. Comments:

- a) We need to design smaller programs for small business, making the information even more accessible and direct. John Burke, from the URA wants to partner to get small businesses to the table.
  - (1) 1-5 employee range
  - (2) Need to get word out to them
  - (3) Need to research who the stake holders are that can get a hold of them (John Burke)
    - (a) SBDC
    - (b) Pittsburgh Business Radio (Nagaraj Sivasubramaniam will contact)
      - (i) Rob Waters: entrepreneur; feature good for business & green team
        - (a) Tie in with World Environment Day
- b) Visit the BCC website to read more: [http://www.c4spgh.org/bcc\\_events.html](http://www.c4spgh.org/bcc_events.html)

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### D. Focus Group Committee

1. 21 participants (From diverse business backgrounds)
  - a) Businesses
  - b) Non-profits
  - c) Individual representatives
2. 7 volunteers (BCC steering committee members and Sustainable Pittsburgh employees)
3. Comments:
  - a) Across all 3 focus sessions we found water conservation, retrofits, infrastructure ranked low due to no or little policy regarding water conservation and it's relatively low cost.
  - b) How can this group tie in with Alcosan or PWSA

### E. BCC 2010

1. Measurement initiative
  - a) Energy Star Portfolio Manager Training Session
    - (1) Next year there will be more focus on measurement, with training sessions held with EPA Energy Star representatives showing how to use Portfolio Manager.
  - b) Green Office Challenge
    - (1) EPA grant denied
    - (2) Hoping to have hold a similar program, but smaller scale through local support and organizations
      - (a) EX: BOMA
  - c) Energy Workshops
    - (1) Access to Local Chambers of Commerce was denied by U.S. Chambers Headquarters
    - (2) Currently, the workshops are planned to be held through the local library system
    - (3) County Federal Grant may cover expenses, and the Business Climate Coalition will relinquish coordinating responsibilities

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2. Water Usage/ Education 2010 initiative
3. Black Carbon (Rachel Filippini-GASP and Kathy Lawson- Clean Water Action)
  - a) BCC awareness initiative option
    - (1) Allegheny County Partnership
    - (2) Reduce Diesel Pollution (Press conference next month—December 2009)
    - (3) Main Projects within this campaign:
      - (a) Pittsburgh Healthy School Bus Fund
      - (b) City of Pittsburgh Waste Hauler Retrofit Project
      - (c) Liberty-Clairton Municipal Vehicle Retrofit Project
    - (4) Next to CO<sub>2</sub>, black carbon may be the largest warming agent in the 20th century.
  - b) Contact Rachel Filippini or Kathy Lawson for additional information:

Rachel Filippini  
Executive Director  
Group Against Smog Pollution  
412.352.7382  
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F. Open discussion/ Brainstorm (Jillian Ryan)

1. How can we leverage to get some action?
  - a) Consolidate challenges and initiatives
    - (1) Businesses & residences on 1 resource for 1 year
      - (a) 2010—water?
2. One stop shop

V. Conclusion

**VI. For Next Year:**

A. Stay tuned for an email from Matthew Mehalik early in 2010 to host an outreach and planning meeting.

**VII. Adjournment:**

A. Matthew Mehalik and Jillian Ryan adjourned the meeting at 10 am

B. Networking continued

\*\*Handouts:

Agenda

Reducing Black Carbon from Diesels: A Near-Term Climate Strategy

Minutes submitted by: Jillian Ryan

Minutes approved by: Matthew Mehalik

**2. Resources****2.1 Paul Mayewski**

Paul is the Director of The Institute for Quaternary and Climate Studies and a Professor in the Department of Geological Sciences at the University of Maine. He is also the Field Leader of the US ITASE expedition. He has led more than 35 scientific expeditions to the Antarctic (where a peak is named for him and where he explored uncharted territories), the Arctic (where he led fellow scientists in the recovery of a 250,000 year long record of climate change), the Himalayas (where he led the first scientific expedition into the glaciers of interior Ladakh since the early 20th century) and the Tibetan Plateau.

Recently much of Paul's work with ice cores in Antarctica was presented in a lecture to the Royal Geographical Society (2.7.10). This presentation takes a scientific look at how climate change and the whole in the ozone layer are affecting Antarctica. To see the slides from the presentation [Click here](#).

**2.2 BCC Climate related articles as of 2.22.10**

- **Are Energy Star products always the most efficient? (2.22.10)** The well-known Energy Star logo, carried on a range of products as diverse as light bulbs and doors, has become increasingly common, especially for certain products.

It was featured on 79% of TVs, 75% of dehumidifiers and 67% of dishwashers sold in the United States in 2008, the most recent year for which the government has data, according to a story in

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today's *Washington Post*. "That has some observers worried about grade inflation," the paper reports.

In my quest to build a green home, I've noticed real differences in the efficiency scores of Energy Star products. I've spent countless hours on Energy Star's website, one of the government's most helpful, comparing the annual kilowatt hours of refrigerators, dishwashers and clothes washers.

[Click here to read more](#)

- **Bipartisan climate bill uses simple system to reduce global warming pollution and spur clean-energy job growth (12.11.09)** U.S. Senators Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and Susan Collins (R-ME) introduced bipartisan legislation to reduce global warming pollution, spur job growth in clean energy technology, and return money directly to consumers. The Cantwell-Collins Carbon Limits and Energy for American Renewal (CLEAR) Act would set up a mechanism for selling "carbon shares" to fuel producers and would return most of the resulting revenue in checks to every American. The legislation will achieve a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 20 percent by 2020 and 83 percent by 2050.

"Energy is a six-trillion dollar market opportunity, and green jobs can transform the U.S. economy," Senator Cantwell said. "But we need a signal on carbon so that this can happen. This bill provides a simple approach to getting off of carbon and on to clean energy alternatives. The CLEAR Act provides businesses and investors with a simple, predictable mechanism that will open the way to clean energy expansion while achieving America's goals of reducing carbon emission." [Click here to read more](#). To view the proposed legislation [click here](#)

- **Cap-and-trade's last hurrah (3.18.10)** In the 1990s cap-and-trade—the idea of reducing carbon-dioxide emissions by auctioning off a set number of pollution permits, which could then be traded in a market—was the darling of the green policy circuit. A similar approach to sulphur dioxide emissions, introduced under the 1990 Clean Air Act, was credited with having helped solve acid-rain problems quickly and cheaply. And its great advantage was that it hardly looked like a tax at all, though it would bring in a lot of money.

The cap-and-trade provision expected in the climate legislation that Senators John Kerry, Joe Lieberman and Lindsey Graham have been working on, which may be unveiled shortly, will be a poor shadow of that once alluring idea. Cap-and-trade will not be the centrepiece of the legislation (as it was of last year's House climate bill, Waxman-Markey), but is instead likely to apply only to electrical utilities, at least for the time being. Transport fuels will probably be approached with some sort of tax or fee; industrial emissions will be tackled with regulation and possibly, later on, carbon trading. The hope will be to cobble together cuts in emissions similar in scope to those foreseen under the House bill, in which the vast majority of domestic cuts in emissions came from utilities. [Click here to read more](#).

- **Clean Tech: A New Way to Hasten Energy Solutions (2.27.10)** If we're going to find a way to fix our long-term energy woes — whether through biofuels made from algae or miniature nuclear-power plants — the solution is likely to come from Northern California. Yes, in Silicon Valley, the same entrepreneurs who brought us the Internet — and, O.K., Pets.com — are exploring new ways to make and use energy. And we'll need them, as much for our economy's well-being as for our planet's.

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The research and advisory company Cleantech Group estimates that by 2020, the global cleantech sector will be worth more than \$3 trillion and could account for as much as 15% of some nations' GDP. [Click here to read more.](#)

- **Climate Goal Is Supported by China and India (3.9.10)** China and India formally agreed Tuesday to join the international climate change agreement reached in December in Copenhagen, the last two major economies to sign up.

The two countries, among the largest and fastest-growing sources of greenhouse gas emissions in the world, submitted letters to the United Nations agreeing to be included on a list of countries covered by the Copenhagen Accord, a three-page nonbinding statement reached at the end of the contentious and chaotic 10-day conference. [Click here to read more.](#)

- **Climate insurance (2.22.10)** The earth is warming. A chief cause is the increase in greenhouse gases accumulating in the atmosphere. Humans are at least in part responsible, because the oil, gas and coal that we burn releases these gases. If current trends persist, it's likely that in coming decades the globe's climate will change with potentially devastating effects for billions of people.

Contrary to what you may have read lately, there are few reputable scientists who would disagree with anything in that first paragraph. Yet suddenly we're hearing that climate change is in doubt and that action to combat it is unlikely. What's going on? [Click here to read more.](#)

- **The clouds of unknowing(3.18.10)** For anyone who thinks that climate science must be unimpeachable to be useful, the past few months have been a depressing time. A large stash of e-mails from and to investigators at the Climatic Research Unit of the University of East Anglia provided more than enough evidence for concern about the way some climate science is done. That the picture they painted, when seen in the round—or as much of the round as the incomplete selection available allows—was not as alarming as the most damning quotes taken out of context is little comfort. They offered plenty of grounds for both shame and blame. [Click here to read more.](#)

- **EPA lays out timetable for regulating greenhouse gas emissions (2.23.10)** Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa P. Jackson laid out the timetable for regulating greenhouse gas emissions Monday, writing in a letter to lawmakers that she plans to start targeting large facilities such as power plants next year but won't target small emitters before 2016.

The letter makes it clear the Obama administration will move ahead with curbing global warming pollution under the Clean Air Act unless Congress moves to stop it. Jackson emphasized that the administration was required to act under a 2007 Supreme Court decision that said greenhouse gases from motor vehicles qualified as a pollutant under the 40-year-old air-quality law. [Click here to read more.](#)

- **Governor Rendell: New Solar Energy Investments to Help Businesses, Municipalities Conserve Energy, Cut Expenses (2.22.10)** Pennsylvania is strengthening its position as a leader

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in solar energy with new investments of more than \$5 million in 13 new projects, Governor Edward G. Rendell said today.

“We have made remarkable progress in making Pennsylvania a leader in renewable energy in a very short period of time,” said Governor Rendell. “We’ve invested nearly \$1 billion in projects that put more than 8,300 people to work. And now, with the federal Recovery funds President Obama and Congress wisely dedicated to the renewable sector, we’re able to achieve even more growth.”

The projects announced today, which will generate enough electricity to power approximately 500 homes, are benefiting from the \$650 million Alternative Energy Investment Fund that Governor Rendell signed in 2008. They were approved for funding by the Commonwealth Financing Authority. [Click here to read more.](#)

- **Greening Deserts for Carbon Credits (2.24.10)** Poor farming practices have degraded the world's soils causing them to release carbon that should have stayed in the soil. In the past 150 years soils have released twice as much carbon as fuel burning. Improved farming methods could quickly rebuild degraded land and store enough carbon to offset the damage already done by fuel burning. Dr Rattan Lal of Ohio State University, a leading expert on soil carbon, estimates that the potential of economical carbon sequestration in world soils may be .65 billion to 1.1 billion tons per year for the next 50 years. This is enough to draw down atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> by 50 ppm by 2100. This is a one-time opportunity, however. We must ultimately stop burning fossil fuels.

Man has already degraded about five billion acres of land on the planet by misguided farming practices and overgrazing. In fact, many of the world's deserts were once rich land. Desertification from overgrazing, plowing and growing annual crops has greatly reduced the carbon retained in the earth's soils. Many of our deserts started as forests that were cut or burned down to clear the land and then ruined by overgrazing. If we could reclaim these ruined lands we could restore the carbon balance of our planet. [Click here to read to more](#)

- **Lack of will on climate hobbling carbon trade (2.15.10)** Touted by its supporters as the best and cheapest way to fight global warming, carbon trading is losing momentum amid the uncertainty created by the failure of the Copenhagen summit meeting and President Barack Obama's political troubles in the United States.

Investors are steering clear of energy-saving projects meant to generate carbon credits, and traders in Europe are hunkering down through a period of consolidation that is disappointing to those who had hoped carbon markets would grow quickly into a \$2 trillion-a-year business.

While the European Union's Emission Trading System is ticking along, it is looking increasingly likely to be the only big game in town for years to come. Those who see carbon trading as the best way to cut worldwide emissions quickly are wondering if their vision of a global network of markets, encompassing the United States, Australia, Japan and other countries, will ever be realized. [Click here to read more.](#)

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- **More Warming Worries: Methane from the Arctic (3.4.10)** A string of 'gates over the past few months — Climategate, Himalayagate, among others — have landed some hard punches on the politics of climate change science. They haven't laid a glove on the science itself, however. Humans are pumping out planet-warming greenhouse gases at a prodigious rate, and the planet is warming. That's no coincidence.

But climate scientists don't have all the answers, as they will freely and frequently admit, and even when researchers uncover a new piece of data, it isn't always clear what it means. That's very much the case with a new paper about methane emissions, published Thursday in *Science*. Based on a series of expeditions to the margins of the Arctic Ocean by ship and helicopter, University of Alaska researcher Natalia Shakhova and her colleagues report that methane, a greenhouse gas that is 30 times more effective in trapping heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide, is bubbling up from the continental shelf and leaking into the atmosphere. The estimated total: 8 teragrams — that's 8 trillion grams — per year. [Click here to read more.](#)

- **Pairing Oil Recovery with Carbon Capture a Win-Win for U.S. (3.11.10)** Enhanced oil recovery -- a technique that stimulates aging wells -- combined with carbon capture and storage (CCS) could slash U.S. petroleum imports if there is a strong price on carbon, according to a report commissioned by an environmental group and released yesterday.

The Natural Resources Defense Council backed the report that says combining CCS with enhanced oil recovery could boost U.S. production by 3 million to 3.6 million barrels a day. [Click here to read more.](#)

- **Recession, Elections Put Cap-And-Trade Legislation On Ice (2.22.10)** Steelmakers concerned about the fallout from proposed cap-and-trade legislation can breathe a temporary sigh of relief as the proposed law will probably not be enacted this year, sources said.

The impact of the recession, upcoming elections and the debated validity of climate-change claims have all worked against the initiative. And major corporations and U.S. states are now withdrawing their support for various climate initiatives.

"The whole issue of cap and trade has collapsed," said Paul Chesser, director of Climate Strategies Watch for the Chicago-based Heartland Institute. "With the upcoming elections, the recent 'Climategate' stuff and all the errors that bloggers in Britain are identifying on the issue, cap and trade is dead." [Click here to read more](#)

- **Senators share emission bill's details with industry groups (3.17.10)** Lawmakers at the heart of Senate energy and climate negotiations revealed key details today of their legislative proposal during a closed-door meeting with major industry groups they are courting in hopes of winning over Senate moderates and avoiding an expensive advertising war.

Sens. John Kerry (D-Mass.), Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) and Joe Lieberman (I-Conn.) shared an eight-page outline of their draft legislation that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions over the next four decades, including provisions to limit business costs while ramping up domestic production of oil, gas and nuclear power.

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According to several sources in the meeting room, the bill calls for greenhouse gas curbs across multiple economic sectors, with a 2020 target of reducing emissions by 17 percent below 2005 levels and an 80 percent limit at midcentury. Power plant emissions would be regulated in 2012, with other major industrial sources being phased in starting in 2016. [Click here to read more.](#)

- **Solar Industry Learns Lessons in Spanish Sun (3.8.10)** Armed with generous incentives from the Spanish government to jump-start a national solar energy industry, the city set out to replace its failing coal economy by attracting solar companies, with a campaign slogan: “The Sun Moves Us.” Soon, Puertollano, home to the Museum of the Mining Industry, had two enormous solar power plants, factories making solar panels and silicon wafers, and clean energy research institutes. Half the solar power installed globally in 2008 was installed in Spain. [Click here to read more.](#)
- **Two wind farm projects in the region receive \$17.8M in stimulus funding (2.23.10)** Two major wind energy projects in Southwestern Pennsylvania will generate jobs and renewable energy thanks to \$17.8 million in federal stimulus funding.

Gov. Rendell announced three separate grants for the state this week, including two on the western side of the state. Cambria County wind turbine manufacturer Gamesa will receive \$7.8 million toward the construction of 19 two-megawatt wind turbines at the Chestnut Flats Wind Farm in Cambria and Blair counties. The project is expected to create 85 jobs.

Gamesa temporarily sidelined 79 workers last November; many of those workers are expected to be rehired, according to the state. [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