



**Minnesota Pollution
Control Agency**



**MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE**

February 1, 2008

The Honorable Yvonne Prettner-Solon
Minnesota State Senator
G-9 Capitol Building
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Bill Hilty
Minnesota State Representative
559 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Prettner-Solon and Representative Hilty:

Please accept this document as our preliminary climate change action plan required by Minnesota Statute 216H.02, Subd. 2. The final report of the Minnesota Climate Change Advisory Group (MCCAG) is forth-coming.

Over 100 Minnesotans of the MCCAG and Technical Work Groups representing environmental, religious, academic, energy production and delivery, manufacturers, farmers, businesses and many other perspectives spent countless hours tackling an extraordinarily complicated topic on an aggressive timetable. We thank them for their thoughtful work. Much of this preliminary plan is based on their efforts. The details of this extensive process can be found at www.mnclimatechange.us.

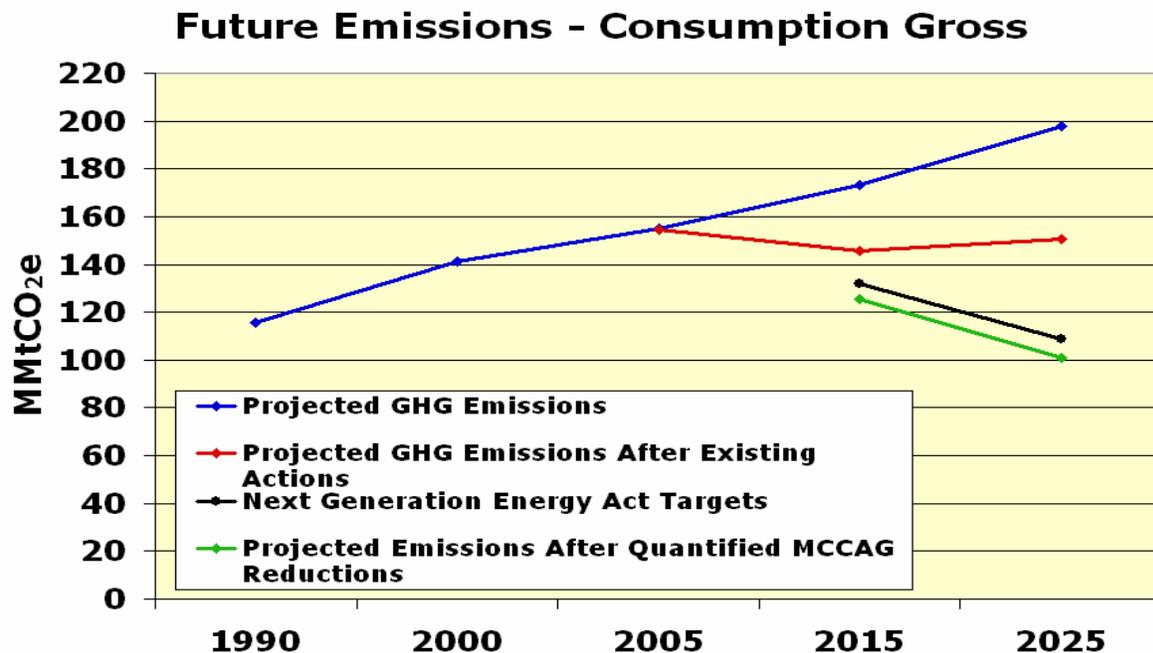
The threat of climate change due to human-caused emissions of greenhouse gases is real and growing. Minnesota is already taking action to reduce these emissions. The attached preliminary climate change action plan proposes to do even more to reach the state's goal of reducing "statewide greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors producing those emissions to a level at least 15 percent below 2005 levels by 2015, to a level at least 30 percent below 2005 levels by 2025, and to a level at least 80 percent below 2005 levels by 2050" (MN Stat. sec. 216H.02, Subd. 1).

Success depends on the Next Generation Act and other Existing Actions

As the chart from the January 24, 2007, MCCAG meeting below shows, the 2015 and 2025 reduction goals are very aggressive. The chart also shows that about half of the reductions needed to achieve these goals come from existing policies and actions:

- The renewable energy standard and energy efficiency provisions of the Next Generation Energy Initiative proposed by Governor Pawlenty and enacted by the Minnesota Legislature in 2007;
- The state's aggressive ethanol and biodiesel biofuels initiatives; and
- Xcel Energy's Metropolitan Emissions Reduction Plan to convert two metro area coal-fired generation facilities to natural gas, and upgrade efficiencies and pollution control equipment at a third.

MN Greenhouse Gas Targets 2025



The chart also shows that it is possible to meet the goals through additional actions if done in a thoughtful, incremental and iterative way in order to avoid adverse consequences to Minnesotans and the state's economic vitality. The preliminary climate action plan we are presenting here will move the state in this direction.

Guiding Principles

To achieve the greenhouse gas emissions goals, this preliminary proposal adheres to the following principles:

1. Implementation of the existing actions must be the number one priority;
2. Actions and policies should be thoughtful, incremental and iterative to avoid adverse consequences to Minnesotans and the state's economic vitality;
3. Structure a portfolio of policies and measures that are tailor-made for Minnesota;
4. Create opportunities for all people and communities to participate in and benefit from energy transformation to the low-emitting future;
5. While we take actions in Minnesota, those actions must be mindful of, and compatible with, the actions going on elsewhere in the region, nation and world;
6. Gather more information and research regarding the economic and societal affects as well as re-assess our analytical assumptions and check them with reality through reporting and measurement mechanisms; and
7. Develop the regulatory structures and organizational design to manage the transformation.

We look forward to working with you to address the threat of climate change by meeting the state's greenhouse gas reduction goals through the implementation of this preliminary plan.

Sincerely,

Edward Garvey
Director
Office of Energy Security

Brad Moore
Commissioner
Pollution Control Agency

cc: Governor Tim Pawlenty
Speaker of the House, Margaret Kelliher-Anderson
Senate Majority Leader Larry Pogemiller
House Majority Leader Tony Sertich
Senate Minority Leader David Senjem
House Minority Leader Marty Sieffert
Sen. Ellen Anderson, Chair, Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Budget
Division
Sen. Satveer Chaudhary, Chair, Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Rep. Jean Wagenius, Chair, Environment and Natural Resources Finance Division
Rep. Kent Eken, Chair, Environment and Natural Resources Policy Division