

EQC Comments

The list below includes comments received from EQC members on specific recommendations.

RCII-1

Demand side management programs, efficiency funds and requirements

Many of these options have more than one part, and they are not always complimentary. Therefore if you rank one that you like, you may also rank one that you cannot support. Sen Story

Wind power in excess of 15% places an instability on the grid creating a need for peak power costs if power is available to meet demand. Mr. Pattison

No expansion of government programs. Sen. McGee

RCII-2

Market transformation and technology development programs

Incentives ALWAYS work better than mandates. Mr. Pattison

RCII-3

State level appliance efficiency standards and state support for improved federal standards

Support regional approach. Rep. Dickenson

If these standards result in a higher purchase price, there should be an expectation that the consumer can recover that expense in energy savings in a reasonable amount of time. Mr. McRae

Why limit the appliances poor folks can use? High efficiency appliances are the MOST expensive in terms of purchase cost. Mr. Pattison

No standards. Sen. McGee

RCII-4

Building energy codes

Need to get local entities to collaborate on this. Need muscle from the state to make this happen.. Rep. Dickenson

Support increased standards for conservation; I would more fully support if inspections in the unincorporated areas were handled by county governments. Sen. Wanzenried

Many schools are saving tax dollars and decreasing fire risks buy using logging slash to heat boilers. Mr. Pattison

No statewide building codes. Sen. McGee

RCII-5

"Beyond codes" building design incentives and mandatory programs

I'm for improving incentives but creating taxes or "fees" is bad thinking. Mr. Pattison

Not government's role. Sen. McGee

RCII-6

Consumer education programs

Need appropriations for DEQ in HB2 Rep. Dickenson

Don't teach "Climate Change" garbage science in the schools. Educate public on energy efficiencies and create incentives to pay extra for energy efficient devices. Mr. Cebull

Shut the door, close the window, turn down the thermostat. Montana's people don't want to waste energy especially since it costs so darn much. Don't waste the time or money on this one. Mr. Pattison

We do enough indoctrination of children. Sen. McGee

RCII-7

Support for implementation of clean combined heat and power

If this means go "green" I don't support. Rep. Lambert

Who defines clean combined heat and power? Mr. Pattison

RCII-8

Support for renewable energy applications

Sustainable is not always renewable though. Mr. Pattison

RCII-9

Carbon tax

Feds lead on this. Rep. Dickenson

Discrepancy of a fad. Is carbon heavier than air? GHG says it is, but carbon credit pundits say you can capture it in the soil for credits. Duplicity in this case is not feasible. Mr. Pattison

No! Sen. McGee

RCII-10

Industrial energy audits and recommended measure implementation

I hope this means reducing individual site usage, not a total reduction which could be accomplished by regulating some business out of existence. Sen. Story

Incentives are ok if you have the money to implement. What happens to mom and pop in 2020 if they didn't have the funding to meet this? Mr. Pattison

No! Sen. McGee

RCII-11

Low income and rental housing energy efficiency programs

Both of example pieces of legislation are doable with commitment of funds; saves money in the long-term. Rep. Dickenson

At who's cost? Rep. Lambert

Currently a 2 bedroom low income apartment in Wolf Point MT, averages \$20 a month for energy costs. Not going to be easy to knock off another \$6 in energy costs. Mr. Pattison

No! Sen. McGee

RCII-12

State lead by example

This is one of those multiple choice options that I could support some concepts but not all. Sen. Story

Currently most power already comes from green hydropower. Too much % reductions. Figures on current usage are off. Mr. Pattison

RCII-13

Metering technologies w/opportunity for load management and choice

Easy, market-based approach. Rep. Dickenson

Who isn't getting an energy bill? Look at the usage -times it by the rate- and you have how much you are using. Less usage = less energy costs. Mr. Pattison

ES-1

Environmental Portfolio Standard

Agree with including co-ops, but feel the window for the requirement for them needs to be extended. Sen. Wanzenried

Hydro power = renewable green power currently in use and in the future. Mr. Pattison

This is about control. Sen. McGee

ES-2

Renewable energy incentives

May take more than one session to accomplish. Rep. Dickenson

In addition to maximizing energy production at the existing hydroelectric facilities we have in Montana, the state should explore the potential for power generation at existing dams which have no electrical generating capabilities such as Tongue River dam. Also, in addition to investigating the use of compressed air for energy storage some research should be dedicated to study the feasibility of using water storage for the same purpose. Wind, solar or off-peak power could be dedicated to pumping water from a stream, river or even a lake to an off-stream reservoir which would then be released at a rate more consistent with demand. An additional benefit might be buffering the effects of seasonal low flows. This same concept might be applicable to existing dams resulting in an increase in the overall electrical generating output. Mr. McRae

Increase transmission capacities first, then work on other sources of power. What's carbon got to do with this? Mr. Pattison

Wind is not the solution because it requires so much backup. Sen. McGee

ES-3

Research and Development (R&D), including R&D for energy storage and advanced fossil fuel technologies

See ES-2. Mr. McRae

Ethanol is a classic example of alternative fossil fuel R&D that has gone nowhere even after incentives, tax breaks, tax holidays, and other attempts to promote it. Mr. Pattison

Focus on fuel cell, solar, etc. -- not wind. Sen. McGee

ES-4

Incentives and barrier removal (including interconnection rules and net metering arrangements) for Combined Heat and Power (CHP) and Clean Distributed Generation (DG)

But not at the expense of other power sources. Mr. Pattison

No expansion of USB. Sen. McGee

ES-5

Incentives for advanced fossil fuel generation and Carbon Capture and Storage or Reuse (CCSR), including Combined Hydrogen and Electricity Production with carbon sequestration

A little nervous about the eminent domain aspect of this. Must have stringent EIS requirements. Rep. Dickenson

I could not support DEQ writing rules with no oversight, otherwise I could support. Rep. Lambert

We cannot limit the ability of development of new energy with requirements that cannot be met with existing technology. Sen. Story

I have concerns about expanding eminent domain law to accommodate carbon dioxide without specific knowledge of the language which would protect the landowner. Another possible component of this recommendation could be the establishment of the ownership of the geologic formation where the carbon would be sequestered. I believe the Wyoming legislature is addressing that concern now. Mr. McRae

I have concerns about the cost and effectiveness of large scale geologic carbon sequestration. If money is to be spent, I would rather see it go toward more cost effective, predictable methods. This concern applies to all legislative efforts to focus on carbon sequestration. Ms. Conradi

Any infringement on property rights will be met with a BIG lawsuit lasting years and costing millions. Mr. Pattison

ES-6

Efficiency improvements and repowering of existing plants

What's "do-firing"? Should have numerical goals identified. Rep. Dickenson

How much GHG does a hydro dam produce? Mr. Pattison

Humans are not a significant source of GHG. Sen. McGee

ES-7

Demand-side management

See RCII answer. Mr. Pattison

ES-8/9

Market based mechanism to establish a price signal for GHG emissions

Feds lead. We support. Rep. Dickenson

Not needed here. Mr. Pattison

No! Sen. McGee

ES-10

Generation performance standards or GHG mitigation requirements for new (an/or existing) generation facilities, with/without GHG offsets.

ESSENTIAL! as we are an exporter. Rep. Dickenson

Who is going to establish the standard and who wants no power? Mr. Pattison

No government standards. They are not needed. Sen. McGee

ES-11

Methane and CO2 reduction in oil and gas operations, including fuel use and emissions reduction in venting and flaring

I'm afraid this could get out of hand. Rep. Lambert

Encourage away. Mr. Pattison

ES-12

GHG reduction in refinery options, including in future coal-to-liquids refineries

Need Governor's support here. Rep. Dickenson

Was this intended to apply to existing refineries? Mr. Cebull

Carbon capture should be required for coal to liquids so as to prevent an overall increase in carbon dioxide emissions over conventional diesel fuel. Some consideration should be given to the total greenhouse gas contribution of mining and transporting of the coal used in a CTL process. Mr. McRae

As long as the standards are attainable and cost effective. Mr. Pattison

This is an effort to eliminate all coal power sources -- that is wrong. Sen. McGee

ES-13

CO2 capture and storage or reuse (CCSR) in O&G operations, including refineries and coal-to-liquids operations

Must be contingent on available workable technology. Sen. Story

I would support if there was incentives not mandates. Rep. Lambert

Do not need to capture CO2. Sen. McGee

TLU-1

Light duty vehicle clean car standards

I don't want to let California decide what Montana's policy will be. After they adopt standards and they are proven effective, then we should look at this option. Sen. Story

This is Montana NOT CA. Mr. Pattison

Montana should never follow California's lead. Sen. McGee

TLU-2

Fuel efficient replacement tire program

Most new purchases should already be equipped. The motor pool should be assessing the effectiveness and safety of these tires. Sen. Story

Statistics indicate that less than 60% of drivers check their tire pressure. Proper tire inflation would yield an increase in fuel economy but I'm uncertain as to how you encourage the public to be more responsible. Possibly this could be combined with TLU-3. Mr. McRae

I don't think LRR are a 4 season tire. If Montana had one season. Mr. Pattison

Put these tires first only on environmentalist's cars for one winter. This should eliminate much pollution in Montana. Sen. McGee

TLU-3

Consumer information on vehicle miles per gallon (mpg)

Most people can already read the stickers already provided. Sen. Story

Who doesn't look at the guess-ta-mate of MPG on the sticker now? Mr. Pattison

Do you think businesses don't consider this now? Sen. McGee

TLU-4

Financial and market incentives for low GHG vehicle ownership and use

Another example of two concepts in one option. Incentives might work, but we cannot put

penalties on people who need certain vehicles for their work. Sen. Story

No new fees. Rep. Lambert

Efficiency of semi-tractors is a whole lot different than a hybrid used to commute a hour every day, even though both are needed for working different jobs. Mr. Pattison

That's right -- punish working Montanans for coal plants in China. Control again! Sen. McGee

TLU-5

Growth and development bundle

Tricky politically; need to work closely and helpfully with local governments, particularly in high growth areas. Rep. Dickenson

Who would make polices? Would it have legislative oversight? Would not support the last listing in the "possible legislative action" column. Rep. Lambert

Tax the rural folk to pay for city buses? Mr. Pattison

Congrats to Tim Davis -- good ploy. Some people want to be free, Tim. They don't want to live by your ideals. But this will help a lot with global warming. Sen. McGee

TLU-6

Low carbon fuels

I could support all but the increased tax on high carbon fuels. Rep. Lambert

If you have a state vehicle and you are in very rural MT running out of fuel in one of Montana's bad 4 seasons quarter do you ,fuel up with what's there or.... Mr. Pattison

Government control, restriction, regulation, taxation -- No, No, No. Sen. McGee

TLU-7

Heavy-duty vehicle emissions standards and retrofit incentives

This could foster economic development as these vehicles are retrofitted. Payback for industry just a few years. Rep. Dickenson

Not a cost effective option. Sen. Story

With fuel costs already over \$3.50 a gallon, tires averaging over \$300, shop labor running close to \$100 an hour how many truckers do you think can afford a retrofit? The big companies will just pass the cost on to you the consumer for food, clothing, and anything delivered by truck.

There goes the little guy again. Mr. Pattison

I favor biodiesel, but not this way. Sen. McGee

TLU-8

Heavy-duty vehicle and locomotive idle reduction

Working in several states. Investment payback fairly short time frame for industry. Rep. Dickenson

No. Sen. McGee

Requiring schools to implement policies is not the state's job. Top down control will not work as we don't know what is best for local circumstances. Safety of students should come before minimal fuel savings. Sen. Story

Come up to NE MT in Jan. when its -38 and the wind is blowing and tell ANYONE to shut off their school bus or truck. Mr. Pattison

TLU-9

Procurement of efficient fleet vehicles

Not realistic or feasible. Mr. Pattison

Get rid of the state fleet all together and rent. Sen. McGee

TLU-10

Transportation system management

Major cost savings. Rep. Dickenson

Better ideas. Mr. Pattison

Government should already be doing these -- but they are not. Government is the problem. Sen. McGee

TLU-11

Intermodal freight transportation

This could backfire -- we don't have enough rail service already. Rep. Lambert

Good luck. Farmers have been trying to get trains to haul wheat out to the coast for years. Don't think you are going to have much luck on this one. Mr. Pattison

More control. Let the market work. Sen. McGee

TLU-12

Off-road engines and vehicles GHG emissions reductions

Retrofitting is not an economic activity. Replace with compliant equipment when the time comes. Sen. Story

See TLU-7. Mr. Pattison

Just stop trying to "help". Sen. McGee

TLU-13

Reduced GHG emissions from aviation

Feds lead. Rep. Dickenson

Montana already cannot keep needed aviation services. Any more costly requirements that are not nationally driven will only make the travel problems worse, making economic development even harder. Sen. Story

Big Sky already shut down. Who's next? Input costs us all. Mr. Pattison

Leave them alone. Sen. McGee

AFW-1

Agricultural soil carbon management-conservation/no till

Agricultural soil carbon management-organic farming

These ideas sound good on paper but are hard to put into practice for small and medium farmers due to the cost of specialized equipment. Sen. Story

Until the Chicago Climate Exchange recognizes organic farming as an agricultural practice which is eligible for carbon credits, I am reluctant to include it in this recommendation. It is being considered for inclusion so it may be beneficial to provide some funding for research to identify the farming protocol which would be acceptable to the CCX. The CCX does accept properly managed grazing land. As grazing land encompasses such a large part of the state I believe that should be a larger component of this recommendation. Mr. McRae

To quote the farmer "you pay - we play." Mr. Pattison

I'm sure ag folks want more government help. Sen. McGee

AFW-2

Biodiesel Production (Incentives for feedstocks and production plants)

Economic Development for Ag sector. Rep. Dickenson

If this a voluntary program. Sen. Story

As suggested in TLU-6, there needs to be verification that the end result of this production results in lower net carbon being produced. Mr. McRae

At \$20 a bushel for wheat who's going to grow a lower returning crop of anything? Mr. Pattison

Right idea, wrong approach. No mandates. The market will take care of itself. Sen. McGee

AFW-3

Ethanol production

Would prefer higher % of cellulosic. Rep. Dickenson

Everyone knows how to make ethanol, the problem in Montana is cost, feedstock, no market for product or by-products. We have had incentives for years and still cannot secure financing for a plant because it is not financially viable. Sen. Story

Recently General Motors acquired a share of Coskata, an Illinois company which claims to have developed a process which makes ethanol from almost any renewable source including garbage, tires, and plant waste. According to Argonne National Lab, Coskata's process produces 7.7 units of energy for every unit of energy input. It uses less than one gallon of water to produce one gallon of ethanol. The company claims to be able to produce this for less than 1\$ per gallon. I think we need to be cautious about promoting starch based ethanol. In light of developments like the aforementioned and questions about net energy gain and the effects on our food supply, most of the emphasis of this recommendation should be placed on cellulosic ethanol. Mr. McRae

As long as the fuels do not result in a net increase in co2 emissions. For example, if biomass is imported from other countries (carbon footprint) and is shipped in trucks from the port (carbon footprint) I would have concerns. Ms. Conradi

See ES-2 Mr. Pattison

Forget ethanol -- Too expensive and requires too much power to do. Sen. McGee

AFW-4

Incentives for enhancing GHG benefits of conservation provisions of Farm Bill programs

This would be a good idea, but it will take quite a bit more money with the current incentive to farm these acres due to the high price of wheat. Sen. Story

Whatever you do has to provide the farmer with as much or more dollars than they would receive through another farming practice. Mr. Pattison

I'm sure ag folks want more government help. Sen. McGee

AFW-5

Preserve open space and working lands: forests and agriculture

A local decision that needs to be dealt with though zoning and planning with some way to compensate landowners for lost land value. Sen. Story

This would border on violating private property rights. Rep. Lambert

Take state lands out of production for this first. Remember though where the revenues for the schools comes from. Mr. Pattison

No more government. Sen. McGee

AFW-7

Expanded use of biomass feedstocks for energy use

Have to be careful not to deplete organic matter in soil by encouraging removal of too much straw. Sen. Story

It may be necessary to allow more flexibility in the operating permits of existing coal fired plants to allow for the use of biomass. Mr. McRae

See RCII-4. Mr. Pattison

No more government solutions. Sen. McGee

AFW-8

Afforestation/Reforestation programs -- restocking

Economic Development for Libby and other forest communities; however it would not include federal forests, right? Need federal collaboration here. Rep. Dickenson

Logging currently plants more trees than this, and helps the growth of the whole forest, reducing fire hazard overgrowth and providing for economic stimulus in our economy. Mr. Pattison

Interesting. From the folks who don't want to cut trees. Sen. McGee

AFW-9

Improved management and restoration of existing stands

Let the logging industry cut and replant. Mr. Pattison

Never. Sen. McGee

AFW-10

Expanded use of wood products for building materials

Economic development. Rep. Dickenson

Commercial building codes are going the opposite way. Sen. Story

Let the logging industry cut and replant making a holistic circle of removal of choked unhealthy forest to economic stimulus to production materials for this suggestion to planting new trees that will grow faster and more healthy to capturing carbon again in greater abundance. Mr. Pattison

Interesting. From the folks who don't want to cut trees. Sen. McGee

AFW-11

Programs to promote local food and fiber

GREAT for MT Ag. Rep. Dickenson

Don't prohibit the processing of the Ag products though. Currently there are very few "total" packages in the state. Mr. Pattison

Government control, restriction, regulation, taxation -- no, no, no. Sen. McGee

AFW-12

Enhanced solid waste recovery and recycling

It makes little sense to use a lot of fossil fuel to dig holes, haul garbage, pack it in the hole and bury it. Incineration and generation would be more efficient. Sen. Story

How much of an increase is 28%? Are we talking 5 cents for a pop or beer bottle returned? Who and where do we ship the recycled waste for collection and then distribution or processing plant? Mr. Pattison

Good idea. Wrong approach. No more government!!! Sen McGee

CC-1

GHG inventories and forecasts

CRITICAL! Some of this being done now, I believe. Rep. Dickenson

Who in Montana believes that the governor will keep anything private? He dug into campaign records and violated the trust of people on what they thought was personal info by sending them out "give me I know how much you gave" letters. Mr. Pattison

Government control, restriction, regulation, taxation -- no, no, no. Sen. McGee

CC-2

State GHG reporting

Critical. Rep. Dickenson

Should not be a burden on industry. Sen. Story

Just as soon as China gives us a report. Mr. Pattison

No. Sen. McGee

CC-3

State GHG registry

Also critical. Rep. Dickenson

Look at the program first then decide if you want to lock us into a trading partnership. Mr. Pattison

No. Sen. McGee

CC-4

State climate public education and outreach

One of the most important steps to take. Will require funding source, but payback will be major. Rep. Dickenson

This assumes that everyone is in agreement of the cause of climate change, so this is an education program and not a propaganda program. Sen. Story

Education is great, but we cannot promote the garbage science that is part of the Climate Change movement. Mr. Cebull

Continue evolving and spreading over time, and involve all parties and sectors sounds too much like "OR ELSE" Mr. Pattison

Government control, restriction, regulation, taxation -- and let's indoctrinate the kids with these ideals. Sen. McGee

CC-6

Options for state GHG goals or targets

Yes, yes. Rep. Dickenson

Does this mean we are going to tell the feds where to put their "let it burn policy"? Mr. Pattison

OK. Let's set in statute no goals Re "Climate Change". P.S. The climate changes every day (and

night).

CC-7

The state's own GHG emissions

Save energy. Mr. Pattison

CC-7.1

Establish a target for reducing the state's own GHG emissions

And 80% below 1990 by 2050. Rep. Dickenson

In 1990 MT had 800,000 people, 2000 just 902,200. In 2006 this was 944,000 2% less growth than the US. We have 6 persons per square mile compared to 80 for the US. MT is less than 1% of the GHG emissions. Don't paint us into the corner. Common sense not emotional hype. Mr. Pattison

OK with me. Let's reduce government to below 1990 level -- that should work.

CC-7.2

Climate-neutral bonding

I don't know what this means. Sen. Story

Sounds ok, but is it cost effective. Mr. Pattison

Right -- "climate neutral bonding" -- why didn't I think of that?

CC-7.3

Require evaluation of GHG emissions in environmental studies

Great incentive for more progressive technologies. Rep. Dickenson

Until technology is available this will only stop all development in the State. Sen. Story

Caution on how much weighting it would have in the evaluation. Mr. Pattison

CC-7.4

Join WCI and consider joining Chicago Climate Exchange

Already done (WCI); not so sure about CCX Rep. Dickenson

I'm uncertain as to how the state benefits by joining the Chicago Climate Exchange. It's my understanding that state and federal land are not eligible for carbon payments. The current program in Montana is being administered by the North Dakota Farmer's Union. Mr. McRae

Overall comments: I think all of the recommendations made by the climate change action committee bear further review. As with the implementation of every plan, the devil is the details. I am heartened by the quality and depth of work that went into the report, and I am confident that the report will inform whatever steps the EQC chooses to take. I will look forward to learning more about the recommendations, hearing from experts in more detail, and exploring options to implement the recommendations. Just because a recommendation is not currently feasible, or would benefit from federal legislation, I think it is important to keep all options on the table, to add more when available, and to remove those options that are not helpful. Ms. Conradi

Implementing change is ok but folks in Chicago or other big cities don't even know where milk comes from. You want these people controlling your livelihood? Mr. Pattison

No -- I don't think so. Sell air -- fascinating! Selling portions of air -- ingenious! You don't think this is about control? Let's sell portions of air that don't exist, but they might some day, so we can control "climate change." This whole issue lends another perspective on the term "air head."
Sen. McGee