

# **Knowledge Transfer and State-level Renewable Energy Policy: Insights from the Front line**

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Absence of comprehensive national and global climate change policy in the U.S., has left individual states to develop policies to address climate, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, energy efficiency, and carbon sequestration on their own. The authors describe their education, research and policy roles during a multi-partner promulgation of incentive-based solutions to impending climate change.

In 2006, North Carolina began policy development to address renewable energy and climate change through a two legislative commissions: 1) Global Change (LCGC) and a Climate Action Plan Advisory Group (CAPAG). The LCGC's charge was to develop targets for the state to achieve reduced GHG emissions and increase carbon sequestration. Specific policy recommendations will be made to the N.C. General Assembly for consideration as legislation, and regulation. The CAPAG is charged with developing global warming strategies by North Carolina's Department of Environment and Natural Resources,. Involvement in a structured an 18-month facilitated process has enabled the authors to impart their 55 years of collective forestry and natural resource experiences to bear on these complex policy deliberations.

Involvement in forest-related climate change policy options is anticipated to result in well-designed extension and technology transfer programs to educate landowners, professionals, and policy makers and to recruit markets and entrepreneurs. The authors note that having technical skills (silviculture, soils, physiology, and carbon sequestration did not prepare them for their "trial by fire" education in the policy deliberations. They share their observations for other professionals who are preparing to demonstrate that management of existing forests, establishment of additional forests, and management of urban trees represent cost-effective solutions to global change.