



31st Conference
New England Governors and
Eastern Canadian Premiers

31^e Conférence
Gouverneurs de la Nouvelle-Angleterre
et premiers ministres de l'Est du Canada



Resolution 31-1

RESOLUTION CONCERNING ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

WHEREAS, New England and Eastern Canada have shared a long cultural, political and economic relationship, one that was formalized with the establishment of the Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG/ECP) in 1973; and

WHEREAS, promoting economic, reliable and secure energy sources will benefit the economies in the region and enhance the well-being of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the region recognizes the opportunities for improving air quality and meeting regional and jurisdictional environmental goals through reducing energy demand, increasing the use of cleaner energy sources and implementing appropriate transportation policies; and

WHEREAS, the NEG/ECP conducted highly successful forums on energy efficiency and renewable power promotion (Charlottetown, PEI in October 2006) and on transportation and air policy (Portland, ME in December 2006) which brought together leading policy-makers, business representatives and other stakeholders to identify regional opportunities for action; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, the NEG/ECP adopted a Climate Change Action Plan with ambitious targets for slowing the growth of greenhouse gas emissions in the region and reducing overall emissions by 2020; and

WHEREAS, the initiatives of the Northeast states and provinces to achieve specified environmental targets must be integrated with actions at local, regional, and national levels; and

WHEREAS, the NEG/ECP has made considerable efforts towards achieving the goals in its Action Plan but recognizes more remains to be done if the targets of its Plan are to be achieved; and

WHEREAS, the NEG/ECP conducted a ministerial-level forum in February 2007 in Quebec City to recommend appropriate actions the region could take to facilitate intra-regional energy trade, promote the development of renewable energy, increase energy efficiency and address critical transportation planning and air emissions issues.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NEG/ECP adopts the recommendations in the document *Recommendation and Outcomes – NEG/ECP Ministerial Forum on Energy & the Environment*, with any modifications made at the 31st Conference of NEG/ECP, and directs its committees (as noted in the document) to begin implementation of these actions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the NEG/ECP strongly encourages greater cooperation amongst local, national and international governments to expeditiously adopt and implement policies and programs that help to stabilize the climate, increase energy security and promote economic development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Northeast International Committee on Energy (NICE) and the Committee on the Environment (COE) host a workshop on the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) to discuss the impact RGGI will have on the region when implemented, as well as assessing the regional impact of the proposed regulatory development in Canada for air pollutants and GHG emissions, and to examine additional ways to meet the NEG/ECP emission targets; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Northeast International Committee on Energy and the Committee on the Environment explore options for a market-based greenhouse gas emission trading mechanism for the northeast and report back to the next NEG/ECP; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the NEG/ECP, by utilizing existing programs like the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and the Climate Registry and by implementing the actions from the Ministerial Forum and other programs regionally and jurisdictionally will aggressively pursue achievement of the NEG/ECP Climate Change Action Plan's target of a 10% reduction, relative to 1990, in GHG emissions regionally by 2020 and establish a target date of 2050 for achieving the Plan's reduction in GHG emissions relative to 2001 levels compatible with a 75-85% worldwide target reduction in emissions, subject to further scientific analysis of this target.

*Adopted at the 31st Conference of New England Governors
and Eastern Canadian Premiers, June 26, 2007.*



Premier Robert Ghiz
Prince Edward Island
Co-Chair



Governor James H. Douglas
Vermont
Co-Chair