

# UNITED STATES CLIMATE ALLIANCE

## US Climate Alliance Winter Meeting February 4-7, 2019

UN Foundation Headquarters  
1750 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, D.C.

### Agenda

Overview: This meeting will convene senior representatives from governors' offices to make substantial progress towards defining a three-year strategy for the Alliance to achieve the vision set forward by the governors' teams. States are encouraged to read the strategy ahead of time, and come prepared to indicate what elements they support, where adjustments are needed, and what objectives their state specifically intends to work towards with the group.

Participants will build on the 3-year strategy to inform a work program with concrete deliverables, timeframes and implementers. The work to support implementation of the strategy and its associated work plan will be conducted through the Working Groups. Each of the Working Groups will provide an update and share their own strategies or work programs for feedback from the governors' offices. Finally, the group will iterate and finalize a communications strategy and elaborate on its international work. Specific objectives include:

1. Welcome and introduce new members to the US Climate Alliance.
2. Develop and agree on the elements of a 2019-2021 Strategic Plan, to be finalized in the weeks following the semi-annual meeting.
3. Develop a program of work with workstreams and deliverables, and identify specific state needs that can be addressed through peer-to-peer cooperation or by outside support.
4. Provide input to each initiative on specific actions where states can be engaged to deliver results, agree on partners for our USCA Impact Partnership (as relevant), and identify additional areas that could be strategic opportunities for cooperation – thinking towards priorities for 2019.
5. Develop a communications strategy to create moments and take advantage of milestones to elevate the Alliance's work.
6. Determine a way forward for international engagement through the North America Climate Leadership Dialogue and through a proposed new partnership with the European Union.

February 4, 2019

## US Climate Alliance Winter Meeting Official Program Opening

### 5:30 – 7:00p **Welcome reception with Climate Community**

Location: 12<sup>th</sup> Floor, UN Foundation Headquarters, 1750 Pennsylvania Ave NW

To kick off the meeting, state representatives are invited to a reception with environmental organizations and business groups. Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

February 5, 2019

Location: Room 1204, UN Foundation, 1750 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, D.C.

### 8:30 – 9:00a **Registration**

Coffee and pastries served

### 9:00 – 9:15a **Meeting Expectations and Progress Update**

The Secretariat will layout the objectives for the meeting and provide a brief overview of accomplishments to date. Co-chairs will be invited to provide reflections.

Speaker: Julie Cerqueira, U.S. Climate Alliance Secretariat

Outcome: Information only

Documents: N/A

### 9:15 – 9:30a **Welcome and Introduction to New Members**

Representatives from new governors' offices will be invited to introduce themselves, including any priorities that have already been set and opportunities for engaging with the Alliance to advance those priorities.

Facilitator: Julie Cerqueira, U.S. Climate Alliance Secretariat

Speakers: New members

Outcome: Familiarize new members with the Alliance teams

Documents: N/A

### 9:30-10:45a **Tour-de-Table**

Alliance states will be given the opportunity to highlight their major priorities for the year and how those fit with the Alliance priorities. States are asked to respond to the questions below. Each state will have up to 2 minutes to present using a slide template to be provided.

Questions are:

1. What are your 1-3 top climate priorities for 2019?
2. In what issues have you demonstrated leadership where you would want to share that experience or incorporate it into Alliance priorities?

Facilitator: Julie Cerqueira, U.S. Climate Alliance

Speakers: All Alliance state focal points

Outcome: Information for consideration during the Strategic Planning session

Documents: N/A

**10:45 – 11:00a** *Coffee break*

**11:00-12:15p** **Working Group Updates – Round 1** (5 min presentation; 10 min discussion each)

Working Groups will give an overview of progress-to-date, focusing on areas that need feedback from the governors' teams in order to reach consensus on coordinated, multi-state actions or are political in nature. Leads are asked to provide a high-level overview and focus on specific outputs that need the feedback of governors' teams. Working Group leads are also encouraged to highlight cooperation with external partners, including those that form the USCA Impact Partnership.

**1. Transportation**

Speakers: Tim Sexton, Minnesota

**2. Product Energy Efficiency Standards**

Speaker: Chris Davis, Washington

**3. Short-Lived Climate Pollutants**

Speaker: Ryan McCarthy, California

**4. Natural & Working Lands**

Speaker: Claire Jahns, Senior Advisor, U.S. Climate Alliance

Outcome: Consensus on initiative strategies where appropriate, indications of actions individual states can support, and any resources/assistance needed to assess or take action.

Documents: Organizational Chart of Alliance Bodies; relevant Working Group Updates

**12:15-1:15p** *Lunch Break (provided)*

**1:15-2:00p** **Briefing on the National Climate Assessment**

Authors of the 4<sup>th</sup> National Climate Assessment (NCA4) will provide an overview of the assessment's findings to elaborate on the impacts of climate change in Alliance states. Regional experts will join remotely to answer any regional or state-specific questions.

Speaker: NCA4 Authors and Regional Experts

Outcomes: To inform state resilience planning and the Climate Resilience Working Group

Documents: [Link to Fourth National Climate Assessment](#)

**2:00-2:30p Working Group Updates – Round 2** (5 min presentation; 10 min discussion each)

**Climate Resilience**

Speaker: Katie Theoharides, Massachusetts

**Green Banks and Power Sector Initiatives**

Speaker: John O’Leary, New York

Documents: relevant Working Group Updates

2:30 – 2:45p *Coffee Break*

**2:45 – 3:30p 2019-2021 Strategic Planning: International Collaboration**

Alliance states will provide feedback on pillar 4 of the proposed strategic plan, titled *“Demonstrate leadership at home while sharing best practices through national and international collaboration.”* The session will kick off with an update on the Alliance’s International Partnerships Working Group

Facilitator: Julie Cerqueira, U.S. Climate Alliance Secretariat

Speaker: Reed Schuler, Washington

Outcomes: Move towards consensus on the draft 2019-2021 Strategic Plan; Identify implementation steps for the North America Climate Leadership Dialogue and possible areas for collaboration with the European Union

Documents: Elements of a 2019-2021 Strategic Plan; International Working Group Update; NACLD Draft Implementation Framework

**3:30 – 4:15p 2019-2021 Strategic Planning: Jobs and Business Opportunities**

Alliance States are invited to share information on their jobs and just transition programs as they relate to climate. Alliance states will then provide feedback on pillar 2 of the proposed strategic plan, titled *“Strengthen high quality job creation and business opportunities while ensuring a just transition for vulnerable communities in the low carbon economy.”* Participants will also identify information such as data, research, and case studies that could help make a strong jobs and economy case for ambitious climate action.

Facilitator: Julie Cerqueira, U.S. Climate Alliance Secretariat

Outcomes: Refinement of Pillar 2 of the Strategic Plan; Identification of relevant jobs/economy resources that could be used or are needed

Documents: Elements of a 2019-2021 Strategic Plan

**4:15 – 5:00p Federal Funding and Action Pathways**

Alliance states and federal policy experts will engage in dialogue to discuss opportunities and strategies to advance low-carbon outcomes through federal legislation and appropriations related to infrastructure, resilience/disasters, clean energy, Green New Deal, offshore wind, R&D, carbon removal technology and other issues.

Facilitator: Dan Carol, California *and* Michelle Marchello, New York  
Speakers: Kalee Kreider, Kreider Strategies *and* Rich Powell, ClearPath  
Outcome: Map and identify key areas where joint USCA state voices could help advance climate-smart outcomes in Congress and the Administration.  
Documents: N/A

**5:00 - 5:15p    Wrap up and Expectations for Day 2**

Speaker: Julie Cerqueira, U.S. Climate Alliance Secretariat  
Outcome: Information only  
Documents: N/A

February 6, 2018

Location: Room 1204, UN Foundation, 1750 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, D.C.

**8:30 – 9:30a (OPTIONAL) Cooperation with European Union**

Alliance states will have the opportunity to meet with EU officials to share areas of expertise, indicate areas where cooperation would be beneficial, and explore ways in which the European Union can work with Alliance states.

Outcomes: Begin to coalesce around specific areas of cooperation and identify next steps  
*Coffee and pastries served*

**9:45 – 10:45a 2019-2021 Strategic Planning: United Voice for Governors on Climate**

Alliance states will provide feedback on pillar 3 of the proposed strategic plan, titled “*Be a strong and united voice for Governors to champion climate solutions*” and the related Alliance communications strategy. The discussion will focus on ways the Alliance can better elevate gubernatorial climate leadership and build state and national support for climate action. Participants will be asked to reflect on the Alliance’s main messaging goals and communications objectives for 2019, identify how communication activities can be improved, and provide feedback on key moments in 2019 that can serve as platforms for future announcements, op-eds, and press statements.

Speaker: Kristin Igusky, U.S. Climate Alliance Secretariat  
Outcomes: Alliance states provide feedback to finalize and adopt the strategy  
Documents: Draft Communications Strategy; Elements of a 2019-2021 Strategic Plan

**10:45 – 12:30p 2019-2021 Strategic Planning: Pathway towards the Paris Agreement’s Goals**

Alliance states will provide feedback on pillar 1 of the proposed strategic plan, titled “*Accelerate ambitious climate and clean economy outcomes grounded in science and oriented toward achievement of the Paris Agreement.*” Discussions are intended to build on updates from the Working Groups during the previous day. States are invited to consider what a USCA statement or action could mean for a future national climate framework and climate target. States are also asked to highlight areas where additional technical support is needed, including through the USCA Impact Partnership. A presentation providing background on deep decarbonization pathways analysis, carbon budgets, and key opportunities for emission reductions will kick off the session, followed by an update on the Data & Tools Working Group and current thinking around a potential new deep decarbonization initiative. Breakout sessions will be used to facilitate small-group discussions.

Facilitator: Julie Cerqueira, U.S. Climate Alliance Secretariat  
Speaker: Shara Mohtadi, New York

Outcomes: Move towards consensus on the draft 2019-2021 Strategic Plan  
Documents: Elements of a 2019-2021 Strategic Plan; Data & Tools Working Group Update;  
GHG Reductions Pathways Background Note

*Coffee served in session*

**12:30 – 1:30p** *Lunch (provided)*

**1:30 – 3:30p** **Work Plan Development**

Alliance states will work in small groups on specific goals, deliverables, and activities to support implementation of the priorities identified through the strategic planning process. This will build on proposed strategies for initiatives. They will also identify resources needs and potential outside partners and funding sources.

Facilitator: Julie Cerqueira, U.S. Climate Alliance Secretariat

Outcomes: Develop a draft work plan

Documents: Elements of a 2019-2021 Strategic Plan; Worksheet for Workplan Development

*Coffee break during session*

**3:30 - 3:45p** **Wrap-up**

The Secretariat will give an overview of the meeting's progress and next steps.

Speaker: Julie Cerqueira, U.S. Climate Alliance Secretariat

Outcomes: Information only

Documents: N/A

**8:30 – 9:30a (TBC) Briefing for the House Energy and Commerce Committee**

*Venue TBD*

The House Energy and Commerce Committee legislates on a wide variety of issues, including environmental protection, clean air and climate change, national energy policy, renewable energy and conservation, among others. Alliance states have the opportunity to brief both Committee and Members' staff on the U.S. Climate Alliance and their state's priorities around climate, energy, resilience, and infrastructure. This is also an opportunity to identify potential areas of collaboration with Congress in the year ahead.

**9:30 – 12:15p (OPTIONAL) North America Climate Leadership Dialogue**

*Venue: 1750 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC*

*Note: this may move back 30min if the Energy Committee meeting is confirmed*

Alliance states will meet with officials from Canada and Mexico to build out an implementation framework for regional cooperation. The framework aims to deliver on the commitments made at the Global Climate Action Summit, and will begin to flesh out near-term activities, such as issue-specific workshops.

Facilitator: U.S. Climate Alliance

Outcomes: Move towards consensus on an implementation framework and next steps for the NACLD

Documents: NACLD Agenda; NACLD Implementation Framework; Strawman for Reporting; NACLD International Calendar Session Note

**3:00 – 4:00p (TBC) Briefing for Congresswoman Castor (D-FL), Chair of the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis**

*Venue TBD*

This select committee is instructed "to investigate, study, make findings, and develop recommendations on policies, strategies, and innovations to achieve substantial and permanent reductions in pollution and other activities that contribute to the climate crisis which will honor our responsibility to be good stewards of the planet for future generations." Alliance states have the opportunity to brief Congresswoman Castor directly on the U.S. Climate Alliance and their state's priorities while also identifying areas of potential collaboration.