

**From:** [Aimee Barnesgon.gov>, "matt.swen](#)  
**To:** [Alexander Cochran](#), [Dan Carol](#), [Davis, Chris \(GOV\)](#), [Ricketts, Sam \(GOV\)](#), [Kate Dineen](#)  
**CC:** [John O'Leary](#), [Kleysteuber Alexa@EPA](#)  
**Date:** Jul 7, 2017 at 1:52 PM  
**Subject:** Re: USCA outline for yall to look at based on the last few weeks of Co chair discussions

---

Hi Alexander. Thanks to John and you for pulling this together. I think it's a great starting points and builds on a number of good iterations I know we'd all swirled around before this thing launched.

I'd be interested to know more about what you are envisioning for the MOU and the Summit at Climate Week, as well as the establishment of a "USCA Inc." Maybe we can tee these up for discussion on our call next week before we get together in person.

I've got a couple of additional thoughts I'll work into this draft and recirculate to the group. Thanks again for taking a first stab at this.

On the "possible activities" list I think this is a great starting point to tee up for folks before the meeting next week. I'll send it around before our call and hopefully we can tee up a quick convo to see if folks think there is anything that is missing and needs to be added. From there I can email around the complete list after the call and ask everyone to pick their top 5. We can use that top 5 list as the basis for discussion in RI.

Thanks!  
Aimee

---

**From:** Alexander Cochran <Alexander.Cochran@exec.ny.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 7, 2017 8:42 AM  
**To:** Dan Carol; Aimee Barnes; Davis, Chris (GOV); Sam Ricketts; Kate Dineen  
**Cc:** John O'Leary  
**Subject:** Re: USCA outline for yall to look at based on the last few weeks of Co chair discussions

Ps apologize for all the typos on that last one. U get the point. Enjoy.

ALEXANDER

Alexander Cochran, Special Counsel to the Governor  
202.434.7100

---

**From:** Alexander Cochran  
**Sent:** Friday, July 7, 2017 11:40 AM  
**To:** Dan Carol; Aimee Barnes; Davis, Chris (GOV); Sam Ricketts; Kate Dineen  
**Cc:** John O'Leary  
**Subject:** Re: USCA outline for yall to look at based on the last few weeks of Co chair discussions

---

Hey team

John O'Leary, looped in here, ffor our energy team and I have put together an overview outline of what we have been talking about with next steps: Determine needs, working groups etc. Addition some of our internal team think a MOU might be good, others thought a legal entity would be helpful because of FOIL or other internal communication reasons.

Take a look and take the red pens out. We tried to capture what each of yall have been easing over the last few weeks and distill it down.

## **UNITED STATES CLIMATE ALLIANCE**

### **July 7, 2017**

#### **Background**

The United States Climate Alliance is a bipartisan coalition of U.S. states and territories committed to upholding the greenhouse gas emission reduction goals of the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change. Members of the Alliance will collaborate to ensure that there continues to be a contribution from the U.S. to the global effort to address climate change.

The Alliance was established on June 1, 2017 following the federal government's decision to withdraw the U.S. from the Paris Agreement. Governors Andrew Cuomo, Jay Inslee and Jerry Brown established the Alliance as co-chairs. The Alliance currently consists of 13 members: California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Puerto Rico. The Alliance now represents **XX** million people and **XX** trillion USD in GDP.

#### **Principles**

*States are continuing to lead on addressing climate change:* Alliance members recognize that climate change presents a serious threat to the environment and our residents, communities, and economy.

*State climate action is benefitting our economies and strengthening our communities:* Alliance members are growing our clean energy economies and creating new jobs, while reducing air pollution, improving public health, and building more resilient communities.

*States are showing the nation and the world that ambitious climate action is achievable:* Despite the U.S. federal government's decision to withdraw from the

Paris Agreement, Alliance members are committed to supporting the goals of the international agreement and are pursuing aggressive climate action to make progress toward its goals.

**Each member state commits to:**

1. **Implement** the goals of the Paris Agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 26-28 percent below 2005 levels by 2025 and meet or exceed Clean Power Plan targets at the state level;
2. **Track** and issue annual collective progress and emissions reports, including prior to meetings of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; and
3. **Accelerate** new and existing policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote clean energy deployment at the state and federal level.

**USCA 90-DAY PLAN**

Near-term announcements Identification:

- End of July:
  - Formal signing of MOU with new state recruits or new release if we don't want to do an MOU (nys can draft MOU)
  - Announce USCA summit during NYC Climate Week in September
- September NYC Climate Week summit
  - Draft proposal summit logistics, announcements, substance, etc.

Interim Emissions Alignment and Needs Analysis:

- Each state: analysis of inventorying and reporting protocols (pathways analysis on Paris/2030/2050); alignment on granularity and protocols.

Interim Work Plan Development Based on Short-term and Long-term Needs:

- Determine key activities for the Alliance, and establish “phase 1” approach (post 90-days) including work organization, deliverables, milestones, any staffing based on needs.
- Program/policy triage and prioritization (See “Possible Activities” below)
  - Identify outsider needs (if any)
- Development and funding for determined needs
  - Topic-specific technical work
- Inventorying mechanism for state-conducted GHG emissions reduction

analysis

Interim Communications:

- Website – content and maintenance
- Reactive, enquiry response
- Communications development and approval
- Aggregate Numbers/accomplishments and goal hitting
- State-specific announcements
- Balance of Alliance vs Members

Governance model development, and legal analysis to support:

- Co-chair activities
- Resource allocation
- State collaboration

## **DRAFT USCA ROLES**

- **Co-Chairs:**
  - As founding co-chairs, CA/NY/WA formally establish the US Climate Alliance through an MOU. All decision-making and strategic direction rests with the co-chairs and MOU signatories.
  - USCA MOU establishes “United States Climate Alliance Inc.”
- **US Climate Alliance Inc.: (may be helpful to have entity in keeping internal communications internal)**
  - USCA Inc. is subject to co-chair and USCA MOU signatory oversight and direction.
  - USCA Inc. acts as a neutral entity to perform specific roles:
    - Convene private and public discussions and meetings.
    - Coordinate communications, subject to direction from co-chairs and signatories
    - Act as a central forum for the “*Track*” commitment, aggregating progress from state participants and determining how to disseminate publicly or report.
    - Coordinate collaborative work among states on elective “Possible Activities”
      - States participating in specific workgroups can provide resources to their respective workgroups.
      - Funding and resource allocation issues are worked out amongst the workgroup specific to objectives unless outside funding need and then would be run through co-

chairs to ensure no conflicts with overall direction and strategy.

**POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES:**

- Appliance standards
- Agriculture
- Building codes
- Carbon pricing and market linkage
- Clean-tech innovation, entrepreneurial development and R&D
- Community Microgrid Competitions
- Encouraging market growth for clean transportation alternatives
- Expansion of alternative financing – PACE, OBR
- Federal backstop – Energy Star, Portfolio Manager, ARPA-e etc.
- Green Banks
- Greenhouse gas reduction pathways analysis
- Grid efficiency and non-wire utility procurement:
- Innovative in-state climate financing
- Lifecycle procurement for sustainable infrastructure and clean energy
- Multi-state funding and prize mechanisms
- New workstreams to be considered by the financing group may include:
  - Public utility policies
  - Scaling markets for EE, RE, and other clean energy resources
  - Vehicle standards

*Possible Activities may be categorized by: 1. Proven state activities ready for scale; 2. New areas for state collaboration; 3. Filling gaps created by the federal government*

ALEXANDER

Alexander Cochran, Special Counsel to the Governor  
202.434.7100

---