

**Seventh Annual Regional Sustainable Development Forum:
Being a Part of the Climate Change Solution:
Individual Action for Collective Impact**

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Keynote Addresses:

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Bracken Hendricks, Co-Author Apollo's Fire: Igniting America's Clean Energy Economy, Senior Fellow, Center for American Progress

Ann Berwick:

Priorities of Patrick Administration's Energy Policy- energy efficiency, renewable energy, development of clean energy sector

Rationales for priorities- climate change; economic considerations- volatility of natural gas process, development of clean energy sector to capture economic benefits of low carbon sector; conventional pollution reduction

To date the Patrick Administration has completed the following:

- Signed Massachusetts onto the Regional Green House Gas Initiative
- Committed MA to 100% option of allowances
- First state in US to have state environmental impact assessment (MEPA) commit to evaluating GHG emissions of projects
- Leading by example by passing executive order committing state facilities to GG reductions. Ex. Banned incandescent light bulbs
- Signed environmental review of Cape Wind project (also approved by federal govt.)
- Committed to 2 order of magnitude increase (2MW → 250 MW) in renewable by 2015
- Commonwealth Solar- \$68M rebate funding for PV installations in residential, commercial, and industrial buildings
- Public Utilities Department is examining 'decoupling' and restructuring electricity rate system
- Recently announced MA Climate Roadmap Initiative- examining what is feasible, what else needs to be done- systematic analysis

Energy Legislation

- House and Senate unanimously passed progressive legislation
- The following is in both bills
 - o Significant expansion of energy efficiency programs- there is currently a cap on resources for energy efficiency which requires purchase of all technology that is less than the cost of the product
 - o Yearly 1% increase in renewable energy portfolio

- Financing of programs
- Solar and wind metering program
- The following is in Senate bill
 - Home energy scoring program for houses on the market, so buyers know extent of energy use of house
 - Provisions for cellulosic biofuels
 - Renewable in ocean sanctuaries
 - MA adoption of international energy conservation code, which would automatically update the MA building code at a more regular basis
- The following is in neither bill
 - Siting reform for power plants and renewable- currently only power plants can appeal to state for override of town's decision, but renewable can not
 - Establishing regulations and policies to expand efficiency and renewable technology and the clean energy sector

Questions

-Q: Are there subsidies for fossil fuels that could be eliminated at the state level?

-A: Does not believe so. State can make changes to renewable standards, combined heat and power, and carbon sequestration

-Q: Alternative Energy portfolio- funds for particular technologies or let the market decide?

-A: legislation provides some programs, but letting market drive down process

-Q: PV rebates- who are eligible entities?

-A: visit Commonwealth Solar website. Program started 2 days ago, \$68M over 4 years, first come first serve basis

-Q: What is the administration doing to support smart growth and compact development?

-A: Executive Office of Transportation and HUD working to address this issue; legislation focused on transportation and cluster development; will also play in the Climate Action Roadmap

Braken Hendricks:

Green Home- greening affordable housing and neighborhoods- social equity

-<group participation> envision environment- how many have people in them?

-Most people do not think of people, communities, and networks as part of the environment

-environment is core issue of human concern → eco-justice

-Apollo's fire- hope and leadership

-science- urgency of global warming- steps removed and numbing

-natural systems are at stake- distressing and tragic

-working to give human face to global warming- communities can develop action

-Human dimensions- affecting communities and homes- personalize it

-Scale of problem- 3 degree increase- IPCC

-2 billion people- without reliable access to drinking water

-human toll- malnutrition, malaria

-inevitability of problem unless we start to act

- status quo is no longer an option- equates climate catastrophe- human economic catastrophe
- ‘we have thumbs’ – ability to make change and build our future
- consequences of Katrina- small scale in comparison to climate change
- Scale of Opportunity
 - 1 city in US- 25% increase in building efficiency, 50x wind production, 700x PV radiation
- organizing issue for our economy- must be green
- currently political and economic barriers to climate change
- Grey’s Harbor, Seattle WA- collapse of timber industry, center of spotted oil controversy
 - biofuel plant- largest in America
 - cluster of env related businesses
 - environmentally sound solutions
- GM Volt Car
 - extend life of battery; use electricity instead of gas; electrify vehicle infrastructure
- Ausra Energy- 200MW solar thermal
 - FL renewable energy project; political base is not built
- clean energy→economic and environmental benefits → creates jobs
- Social justice and greening- Sustainable Bronx- green job training program
- Community based solutions- scale of opportunity
- Cap and trade- \$50-300 billion revenue-
- investments in green infrastructure- private sector growth
- Movement
 - bring environmental thinking into our lives
 - play and active role
- Related to civil rights movement
 - deep social change- deep organizing
 - understand positive systems to build- hold image and work toward positive future
- Apollo mission- JFK- NASA- can we do this? Absolutely, we have to...
- Clean energy jobs
 - people re-entering society
- web of people really matter
- ACTION at the community level

Questions:

- Q: What is your opinion on cap and trade versus carbon tax?
- A: Its important to put a price on carbon- tragedy of global commons. Well structured cap and trade while reinvesting money into efficiency programs would be ideal. Carbon tax does not provide certainty of level of emissions
- Q: speak to tax reform

-A: revenue from cap and trade- where does it get reinvested? There is currently political momentum for carbon, opportunities over time to improve tax code, identify incentives, opportunities tax benefits for solar and wind

-Q: Are there state actions to finance solar and clean technology?

-A: local investments in community economic development- provides toolkit for community economy- build skilled jobs, infrastructure, green jobs

-Q: can you address the impact of smart growth versus sprawl?

-A: In regards to climate and environmental issues land use has not been addressed at the federal level. Provides an opportunity for local action. There is a federal transportation program- GreenT, however best approach is education- not creating emissions in the first place.