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SLIDES: A Climate Change Initiative for the Rockies

Jim Norton

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A Climate Change Initiative for the Rockies

Jim Norton

New Mexico Environment
Department



Overview

- ☛ **What's Happening in New Mexico** – Executive Order and related actions
- ☛ **Western Regional Air Partnership** – a structure for regional education and action
- ☛ **Southwest Climate Initiative** – Includes NM and AZ, but could be expanded

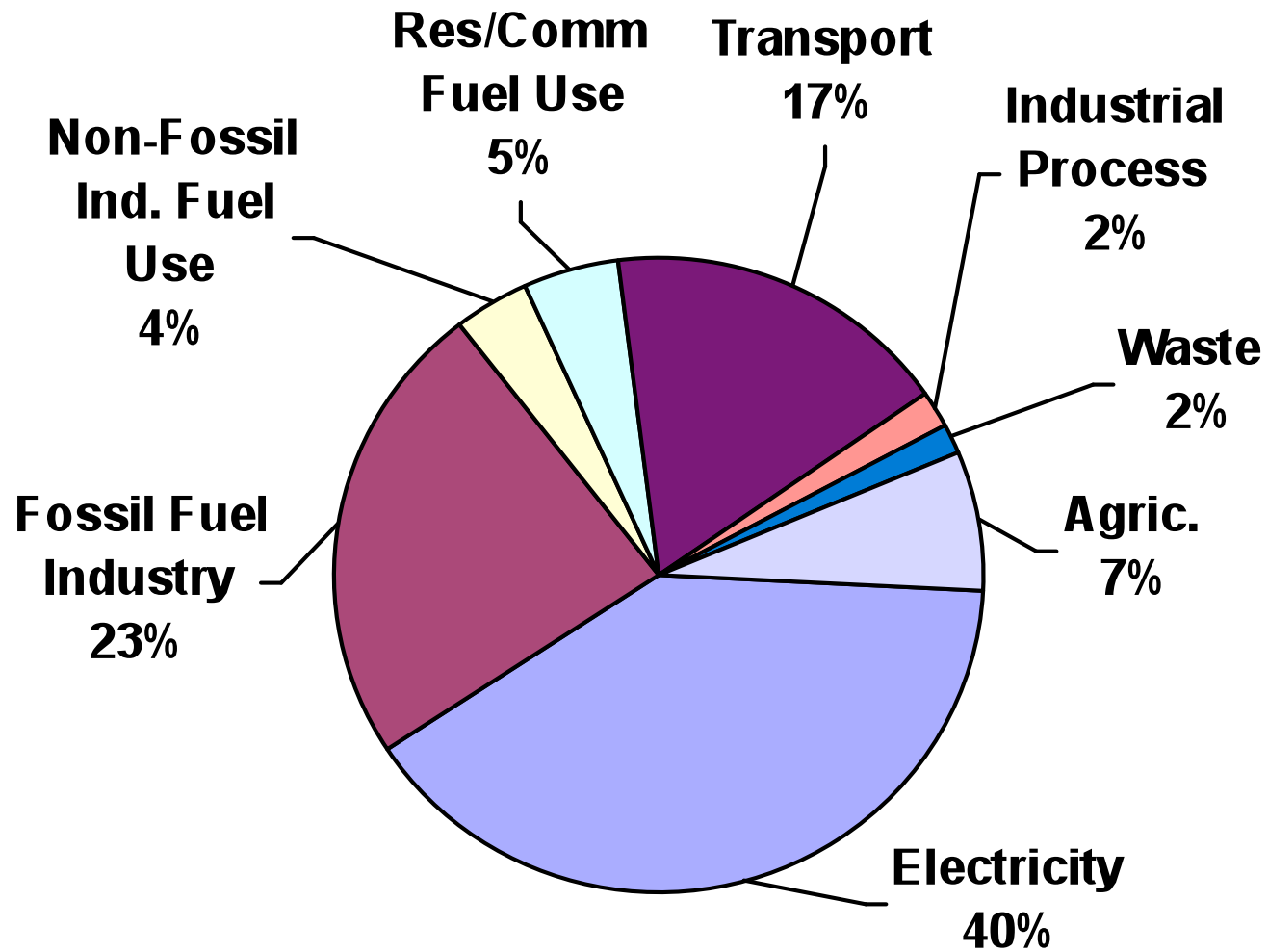
Executive Order

- ☛ Signed by Governor Richardson in June 2005
- ☛ Inventory
- ☛ Impacts report
- ☛ Aggressive Emissions Reduction Targets
- ☛ Broad Based Advisory Group makes recommendations for meeting targets.

NM Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

- On a per capita basis, NM produces twice the national average of GHG emissions.
- Electricity Generation is the largest emitter of GHGs in NM followed by the Fossil Fuel Industry.
- Transportation is predicted to be the fastest growing sector.

New Mexico



Impacts of Climate Change on New Mexico

- ☞ Hotter temperatures
- ☞ Less Snowpack
- ☞ Reduced streamflows in summer and early fall
- ☞ More Forest Fires
- ☞ Loss of suitable trout habitat and an overall reduction in biodiversity
- ☞ Disproportionate public health impacts on low income and minority populations

Climate Change Advisory Group

- ☞ Representatives from industry, non profits, agriculture, national labs and universities
- ☞ Emission Reduction Targets
 - **2000 levels by 2012**
 - **10% below that by 2020**
 - **75% below by 2050**
- ☞ Recommendations for meeting targets are due December 2006
- ☞ Fifth meeting to be held in Santa Fe on August 8.

Chicago Climate Exchange

- The North America's only voluntary and legally binding GHG emissions trading program.
- Members commit to reducing GHG emissions to a specific target and purchasing credits to offset emissions if targets not met.
- New Mexico is the first state to join.

Related Actions

- Renewable Portfolio Standard of 10 percent by 2011
- Renewable Fuels Executive Order -- 15% of transportation fuel from renewable fuels by 2010, 75% of new vehicles must be alternatively fueled or gas-electric hybrids
- Governor's Directive requiring that 10% of power purchases be "green power"
- Green Building Executive Order mandating LEEDS silver for new and renovated state buildings
- Many other clean energy actions

Western Regional Air Partnership

- Primary focus is on regional haze
- Composed of top environmental officials from each state
- Collaborative approach has worked in the past
- Climate work fills a niche for states in the Rocky Mountain West

WRAP Actions So Far

- Began Climate Change discussions in 2004
- Stand alone meetings interspersed with regular meetings on regional haze.
- Scientific Panels
- West-wide Emissions Inventory
- Preliminary discussions on a west-wide Registry

SW Climate Change Initiative

- Signed February 28 by Governors Napolitano and Richardson
- AZ and NM agree to collaborate in identifying, evaluating and implementing ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve related co-benefits
- Can be expanded to include other states when politics and interest allow it