White House Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force

In 2009, the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) initiated the Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force, which includes representatives from more than 20 Federal Agencies.  When the President signed the [Executive Order on Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/President-Obama-signs-an-Executive-Order-Focused-on-Federal-Leadership-in-Environmental-Energy-and-Economic-Performance), on October 5, 2009, he called on the Task Force to develop, within one year, Federal recommendations for adapting to climate change impacts both domestically and internationally.

Interim Progress Report

On March 16, 2010, the Task Force [released an Interim Progress Report](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ceq/20100315-interagency-adaptation-progress-report.pdf)  which outlines the Task Force’s progress to date and recommends key components to include in a national strategy on climate change adaptation.  These six components include:

1. Integration of Science into Adaptation Decisions and Policy
2. Communications and Capacity-building
3. Coordination and Collaboration
4. Prioritization
5. A Flexible Framework for Agencies
6. Evaluation

The Interim Progress Report is available for 60 days of public comment.  [Submit your comment here](http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/adaptation/submit).

Workgroups

The Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force formed workgroups to consider the capabilities of the Federal Government to respond to the impacts of climate change on various critical sectors, institutions, and agency mission responsibilities.  Five initial workgroups began by reviewing existing policies, operations, procedures, and other tools that affect the Federal Government’s response, and will suggest options for improving the government’s capacity for adaptation to climate change.  The five initial workgroups are focused on the following topics:

* **Agency Adaptation**: Develop recommendations on how agencies should plan and implement adaptation
* **Science Inputs to Policy**: Develop recommendations to couple the production of scientific and technical support to adaptation planning, prioritization, and resilience building within the USG, in the US, and internationally
* **Insurance**: Develop recommendations on opportunities for the United States Government to support insurance and adaptation issues
* **Water Resources Adaptation**: Develop recommendations on how Federal water management agencies should plan and implement adaptation actions related to climate impacts on water resources
* **International Resilience**: Develop recommendations on opportunities for the United States Government to support and lead international adaptation efforts

These workgroups have defined their scope and end products, and have begun initial analysis.  Most workgroups have used stakeholder listening sessions to solicit feedback from various government and regional actors on adaptation issues within their respective issue area.

Listening Sessions

The five initial Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force workgroups hosted twenty listening sessions with key stakeholders and experts.  The listening sessions were designed to engage the expertise and recommendations of external organizations into the workgroup deliberations early in this review process.

Final Product

In October 2010, the Task Force will report to the President on the development of domestic and international dimensions of a U.S. approach to climate change adaptation and what Federal Agencies are doing to support this effort. The Task Force also will recommend additional aspects to consider in the development of a comprehensive national strategy.