

**SUMMARY OF EARLY ACTIONS IDENTIFIED BY ISSUE TABLES\***  
**AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MINISTERS**  
 (ANNEX A TO THE RECORD OF DECISION ON EARLY ACTIONS)

REC	PROPOSED EARLY ACTION	RECOMMENDATION
1	<p><b><u>Agriculture and Agri-Food Table</u></b></p> <p>Atmosfarm would be a farmer designed and delivered outreach program that would provide information on climate change and mitigation opportunities for farmers that are science based, make good economic sense, enhance the environment and contribute to the competitiveness of Canadian agriculture.</p> <p>The proposal has two components or modules:            Module 1: Best Management Practices, Workshops and Curriculum on Actions that Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions;            and            Module 2: Projects for Farm Children and Youth to Encourage Uptake of Actions that Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions</p>	<p>Ministers indicate their general support for projects of this kind. They note that insufficient information was submitted on the project details to enable a decision to be taken, and encouraged the proponents to provide additional information for consideration.</p>

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\* Excluding Public and Outreach Table to be considered in a separate agenda item.

<p>2</p>	<p><b><u>Agriculture and Agri-Food Table</u></b></p> <p>The project would involve the design and preparation of a package of communications tools for the purposes of demonstrating to both lay and scientific audiences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the state of science and on-going research on measuring and verifying;</li> <li>• the various technologies for improving soils sinks capacity; and</li> <li>• the potential sequestered values for various types of soils and activities.</li> </ul> <p>Emphasis would also be placed on demonstrating applications to countries with climates and soils which are different from Canada's.</p> <p>The communications package, including a video, would be prepared by November 1998.</p>	<p>Ministers indicate their general support for projects of this kind. They note that insufficient information was submitted on the project details to enable a decision to be taken, and encouraged the proponents to provide additional information for consideration.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p><b><u>Agriculture &amp; Agri-Food Table</u></b></p> <p>To provide a generic computer-program module that would be incorporated into two existing decision-support models, MCLONE3 and NMAN98, to enable producers to identify the likely emissions of two key greenhouse gases, methane and nitrous oxide, under current management practices.</p> <p>The module would allow the generation of options for reducing these emissions. The management options leading to reductions would be limited to those that would not result in an increase in the potential for other forms of environmental contamination.</p> <p>The module would be available to farmers within one year of project initiation.</p>	<p>Ministers indicate their general support for projects of this kind. They note that insufficient information was submitted on the project details to enable a decision to be taken, and encouraged the proponents to provide additional information for consideration.</p>

4	<b><u>Agriculture and Agri-Food Table</u></b>  Design and construction of a hog barn and manure composting system for a large hog operation that would eliminate methane emission during manure storage and likely reduce nitrous oxide and carbon dioxide emission following field application. This project would take place in British Columbia.	Ministers recognize that methane and nitrous oxide from the rapidly expanding hog industry must be controlled. They note that insufficient information was submitted on the project details to enable a decision to be taken, and encouraged the proponents to provide additional information for consideration.
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**Agriculture and Agri-Food Table**

Funding requests have been submitted for the following projects on the basis that they have the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions:

1. Use of an interactive CD-ROM and a web-site to allow farmers to individually estimate and manage energy use and associated GHG emissions from their operations.
2. Development of a database and management tools for use by the research community and forage-based livestock producers in western Canada to improve their ability to manage grasslands and thereby enhance the sequestering of carbon.
3. Development of a training program for Manitoba cattle producers that focuses on the environmentally and economically sustainable management of native rangelands.
4. Assessment of GHG emissions from hog manure treatment systems and holding symposia in western Canada to showcase hog manure treatment technologies.
5. Holding a workshop for research, industry and agricultural extension personnel to design a strategy to promote more effective nitrogen fertilizer use and thereby reduce nitrous oxide emissions.
6. Development of best low GHG emissions management practices for manure composting that would be used initially in Atlantic Canada
7. Develop nitrogen use measurement and management tools (“N crediting”) for potato producers to assess nitrogen carry-over from the previous crop year.
8. Accreditation of provincial agriculture laboratories for manure testing and develop extension materials to assist Atlantic livestock producers in testing their manure for its nitrogen content at source rather than at application.
9. Publication of an information bulletin to producers in Quebec to inform them of ways to formulate feed or use additives to reduce the GHG emissions of livestock.
10. Evaluation of current nitrogen use efficiency and nitrous oxide emissions at a commercial livestock operation, with subsequent recommendation of best management practices to reduce these emissions.
11. Evaluation of composting best management practices and strategies for separated hog manure in Nova Scotia.

The broad sectoral objectives reflected in these proposals suggest that they would be addressed more appropriately by a sectoral ministerial forum. Ministers agree that these proposals should, therefore, be referred to agriculture ministers for appropriate decision at the earliest possible opportunity.

6	<p><b><u>Enhanced Voluntary Action Table</u></b></p> <p>Recognizing the work underway in the Credit for Early Action Table, the Enhanced Voluntary Table emphasized that an effective credit for early action program that, at a minimum, provides baseline protection for those taking such actions will be among the most effective incentives for voluntary action.</p>	<p>Ministers reinforce their interest in establishing a system for providing credit for early action in 1999, and look forward to reviewing the options to be put forward by the Credit for Early Action Table.</p>
7	<p><b><u>Enhanced Voluntary Action Table</u></b></p> <p>Federal, provincial and territorial governments should work with VCR, Inc. to implement appropriate and meaningful recognition programs. Such rewards could include official public or private recognition by governments, and the granting of the right for qualifying organizations to use symbols of their level of voluntary accomplishment.</p>	<p>Ministers agree to build on the improvements to be made to the VCR Inc. by contributing to the formal recognition of those participants that will be identified as having the most significant accomplishments. They ask to be kept abreast of these improvements to enable them to assess how their contribution can be most effective.</p> <p>Ministers commit to proactively encouraging quasi-governmental organizations, government suppliers and participants in government programs to participate in VCR Inc. or enhance their participation.</p>
8	<p><b><u>Enhanced Voluntary Action Table</u></b></p> <p>The industrial, commercial and institutional sectors should be early target audiences for a climate change awareness building initiative, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• custom-tailored information programs for Chief Executive Officers and senior decision-makers in these sectors;</li> <li>• showcase ‘innovators’— companies that have successful programs in place or that have taken notable actions to address climate change – and encourage them to act as mentors to other organizations;</li> <li>• government and/or industry associations facilitate or sponsor on-site services to identify opportunities for energy efficiency improvements and GHG mitigation technologies;</li> <li>• provide regular and frequent communication between Prime Minister, Premiers and key decision-makers on issues and opportunities.</li> </ul>	<p>Ministers agree that this is an important audience for public education and outreach activities, and will add this element to the interim strategy proposed by the Public Education &amp; Outreach Table for the purposes of implementation. Ministers request that, in the development of their options, the Enhanced Voluntary Action and Public Education &amp; Outreach Tables give further consideration to what specific action can be taken to reach this audience more effectively. Federal, provincial and territorial governments will look for opportunities to facilitate information exchange, and welcome specific proposals from the private sector. Industry associations are invited to consider developing a program to inform their members.</p>

9	<p><b><u>Municipalities Table</u></b></p> <p>Governments should promote improvements in community energy planning, including in the areas of land use planning, transportation management, site design, and local energy supply and delivery planning. Specifically, they should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute to work aimed at developing a replicable framework for communities to become eco-efficient by supporting a pilot project program, beginning with pilot projects in Banff, Alberta and Perth, Ontario; and,</li> <li>• Support district energy projects such as those in the Toronto area (heating project in the Portlands district and the deep lake water cooling project), Halifax and Watson Lake.</li> </ul>	<p>Ministers recognize the importance of projects such as those in Banff and Perth, and are pleased that many levels of government have been working in partnership to make these pilots happen. Specific requests for participation and support will be considered as they are presented.</p> <p>Ministers commend the efforts that are being made in the Toronto area, Halifax and Watson Lake, with respect to district energy, and encourage other municipalities to explore the opportunities available to them. Federal Ministers note that requests for funding from the Climate Change Action Fund for technology projects are anticipated in this area, and look forward to reviewing the detailed proposals.</p>
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10	<p><b><u>Municipalities Table</u></b></p> <p>Governments do more to facilitate and encourage the installation of landfill gas recovery systems and, more generally, to maximize the potential for greenhouse gas emission reductions from the improved management of municipal waste. Specifically, governments should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage municipalities to install landfill gas recovery systems;</li> <li>• At the provincial level, introduce regulation to require landfills to recover and combust more landfill gas;</li> <li>• Help identify landfill sites in Canada with the most potential;</li> <li>• Continue to build capacity and expertise with respect to effective landfill gas installations; and,</li> <li>• Publicly recognize the efforts of state-of-the-art facilities.</li> </ul>	<p>Ministers agreed that it is important to reduce greenhouse emissions from landfills. In support of this objective, they agreed to act as soon as possible to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage municipalities to install landfill gas recovery systems;</li> <li>• Consider, within each province that has not yet done so, the possibility of introducing regulations or tools to require landfills to recover and combust more landfill gas;</li> <li>• Have developed a list of landfill sites in Canada with the most potential for expansion or installation of landfill gas recovery systems;</li> <li>• Continue to build capacity and expertise by having new tools developed, such as a guidance document to inform landfill operators of methods for more efficient landfill gas recovery and utilization; and,</li> <li>• Ensure efforts of state-of-the-art facilities are publicly recognized, for example, in technical bulletins.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, Ministers agreed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Criteria will be developed to enable those jurisdictions that so decide to allow landfill gas installations to be considered as sources of “Green Power”; and,</li> <li>• Within their government’s relevant technology programs, Ministers would promote projects that result in reduced emissions from landfills.</li> </ul>
11	<p><b><u>Technology Table</u></b></p> <p>Initiate development of methodologies for life-cycle analysis of CO<sub>2</sub> for new projects.</p>	<p>Ministers agree that it is important to develop the tools necessary to make informed decisions on greenhouse gas emission reductions, and direct officials to determine how to best develop methodologies for life-cycle analysis of CO<sub>2</sub> for new projects and to assess the costs of implementation before the fall JMM.</p>
12	<p><b><u>Technology Table</u></b></p> <p>For Enhanced Oil Recovery Projects analyze the life-cycle Co<sub>2</sub> budget and CO<sub>2</sub> geological storage potential.</p>	<p>Ministers recognize the potential importance of geological sequestration as a tool for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Canada, and express their support for further study in this area.</p>

13	<p><b><u>Technology Table</u></b></p> <p>Improve small and medium enterprises access to information on climate change technology and thereby foster an innovative environment by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expanding the scope of activities of Industrial Technology Advisors in the National Research Council’s Industrial Research Assistance Program to include pathfinding support for climate change initiatives from small and medium enterprises;</li> <li>• Develop and publish a searchable database of all climate change-related technology; and,</li> <li>• Enlarging the scope of information available on cost-effective processes, equipment and market opportunities via a proposed greenhouse gas technology web-site.</li> </ul>	<p>Ministers recognize the importance of ensuring small and medium enterprises have access to information about what technological approaches are available to them. Insufficient detail was submitted with respect to the specific project proposals for a recommendation to be made. Ministers will pass these recommendations along to appropriate Ministers for consideration.</p>
14	<p><b><u>Transportation Table</u></b></p> <p>Tax Exemption for Transit Pass:</p> <p>Change income tax regulation/legislation to make employer-provided transit passes a non-taxable employee benefit, and/or enforce current tax law that requires free employee parking to be treated as a taxable employee benefit</p>	<p>Ministers agree that addressing GHG emissions from the urban transportation will be critical to meeting climate change and pollutant objectives. This proposal will be referred to appropriate federal and provincial ministers for consideration.</p>