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Wisconsin Task Force Offers Plan For 75 Percent Cut In GHGs

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A global warming task force created by Wisconsin Gov. Jim Doyle (D) has unveiled a "[strawman proposal](#)" for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 2005 levels by 2014, 22 percent below 2005 levels by 2022, and a long-term target of a 75-percent reduction below 2005 levels by 2050, as well as regulatory and policy recommendations for achieving emission-reduction goals. A final report containing all task force recommendations will be finalized and submitted to Doyle in July.

Some of the key regulatory recommendations in the Wisconsin plan, some of which would require approval by the state legislature, are:

- * Adopt California's vehicle GHG standards.
- * Adopt a low-carbon fuel standard that is technology and feedstock neutral.
- * Pursue land-use policies that reduce vehicle miles traveled.
- * Pursue participation in a Midwest GHG cap-and-trade program.
- * Modify a current moratorium on new nuclear power plants to stipulate that new reactors could be built under certain conditions approved by energy regulators.
- * Revise utility ratemaking policies to promote conservation and efficiency.
- * Create energy efficiency standards for residential and commercial buildings.
- * Study the feasibility of carbon dioxide geological sequestration.
- * Draft legislation to create uniform standards for siting wind systems.

The task force recommends against any mandatory GHG regulations for some industrial sectors such as refining, agriculture and forestry, unless voluntary measures fail to achieve adequate emission reductions by 2012.