



# NEWS FROM COP22

## NACAA's Daily Report



### Report #5

Thursday, November 17, 2016

As COP22 approaches its final day, delegates continued to iron out the details of what is being called the **Marrakech Action Proclamation for Climate and Sustainable Development**. According to a [leaked draft](#) of the text, the proclamation signals “a shift towards a new era of implementation and action on climate and sustainable development.” It references the “alarming and unprecedented rate” of climate change, welcomes the quick ratification of the Paris Agreement and calls for even more rapid mitigation and adaptation efforts. It urges nations participating in COP22 to, among other things, demonstrate “the highest political commitment to combat climate change,” to show “strong solidarity” with the countries most vulnerable to climate change, to strengthen the ambition of emission reduction goals, to provide greater finance for climate projects and to seek continued support from non-state actors.

Stu Clark and Phil Assmus attended a side event sponsored by Climate Action Reserve, Georgetown Climate Center, and the Climate Registry, entitled **Different Routes, Same Destination: Sub-national Approaches to Climate Action in North America**. The speakers presented views from three U.S. states and Canada. **Matt Rodriquez, California's Secretary for Environmental Protection**, offered the first of two California perspectives. He emphasized that the state is already experiencing the impacts of climate change on its coasts, in its forests and through heavy droughts. He listed many of the state's climate initiatives, namely the state's goal of achieving 50 percent renewable generation by 2030, the cap-

and-trade program and collaboration with other jurisdictions both within and outside of the U.S. He also asserted that future work should focus on the transportation sector, which accounts for 37 percent of California's emissions. **Kevin De Leon, President pro Tempore of the California State Senate**, added that many of California's programs are structured to benefit communities disproportionately impacted by air pollution. He also affirmed the state's resolve to continue to address climate change following the recent U.S. presidential election. **Jordan Sturdy, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment and Member of the Legislative Assembly for West Vancouver**, presented the Canadian provincial perspective from British Columbia. Like Secretary Rodriguez, Sturdy identified climate impacts already being experienced by his citizens, flagging bark beetle infestations and flooding. He noted that British Columbia instituted a carbon tax in 2008, which is now at \$30 per ton, covers 70 percent of the province's total emissions and is revenue neutral. Beyond the tax, British Columbia recently released a climate leadership plan addressing emissions in 21 sectors and pledged that the government would achieve carbon neutrality. **Kate Sullivan, Director of North America and Climate Finance for the International Emissions Trading Association**, provided a broader overview of sub-national Canadian climate actions. She called it a "microcosm of the COP22 process" whereby many entities are setting different targets based on different baselines while trying to achieve a common goal. Canada has proposed a national carbon-pricing program requiring every Canadian jurisdiction to have a carbon tax or cap-and-trade program in place by 2018. Kate argued that it would be challenging to stitch together sub-national Canadian actions to meet the country's NDC and, similarly, to repeat that process at the international level to reach the Paris Agreement's goals. **Chris Davis, Senior Advisor for Energy and Carbon Markets to Washington State Governor Jay Inslee**, spoke about Washington's recent climate efforts. He emphasized that states have authority to act on climate change without needing federal guidance, pointing to the electricity grid, vehicle fuel economy standards, building codes and land use. He highlighted Washington's work with other sub-national entities via the Pacific Coast Collaborative and the state's recent "Clean Air Rule," the first carbon cap and reduce program based on state law. **Deborah Markowitz, Secretary of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources**, reinforced many of the points made by earlier speakers. She too argued that states have significant authority to address

climate change and that they are already witnessing the impacts of climate change. “We are where the rubber meets the road,” she said. Secretary Markowitz highlighted the state’s incentives for distributed generation, support for solar and wind generation and participation in RGGI. She identified transportation sector emissions, which account for 50 percent of the state’s total greenhouse gas emissions, as the most challenging and critical frontier to achieve deeper emission reductions. “State and local governments in the U.S. really matter, and we are ready to step up,” she concluded.