

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 4th, 2007

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Press Conference - TODAY

Friday May 4th, 11am - AkPIRG Canvass Office

507 E Street, Suite # 210, Anchorage

IPCC Releases 3rd Report Focused on Solutions to Stop Global Warming

- **Alaskan Groups Promote Local Solutions**
- **AkPIRG Kicks off Summer Canvass on Renewable Energy**

On Friday, May 4th, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the global body charged with assessing the scientific record on global warming, released the third volume of its Fourth Assessment Report on global warming. This volume examines the solutions to global warming and concludes that we already have solutions – energy efficiency and renewable energy – to substantially reduce global warming pollution and protect future generations and that these solutions will have other far-ranging benefits, such as improving energy security.

“Alaska can be a leader in renewable energy, to help decrease utility costs and to create jobs here in Alaska. The latest IPCC report reaffirms that we also need to do it to address global warming,” stated Steve Cleary of AkPIRG. “The legislature is poised to pass the Alaska Renewable Energy Fund. This is a critical investment in Alaska's future,” Cleary continued.

Alaska Conservation Solutions and AkPIRG will highlight solutions, including the Alaska Renewable Energy Fund, that can be implemented here in Alaska NOW – to curb global warming and save consumers money.

Major findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) “Mitigation of Climate Change” includes the following:

- **Pollution Will Skyrocket Unless Governments Act:** Global emissions are projected to rise by 25-90% over 2000 levels by 2030, unless policies are adopted to reduce emissions.

- **Still Possible to Avoid Dangerous Global Warming:** To prevent dangerous global warming (as documented in the second volume of the IPCC's report), global emissions would need to peak no later than 2015 and then decline by as much as 50% by 2050, thereby limiting the global average temperature increase to about 2°C over pre-industrial levels (which is equivalent to 3.6°F, or about 2°F over today's levels). This level of reduction "can be achieved by deployment of a portfolio of technologies that are currently available today and those that are expected to be commercialized in coming decades." (*While not specified in today's release, the U.S. must reduce its emissions by at least 80% by 2050 to meet the global target of about 50% reductions, given our greater contribution to the problem.*)
- **Action Cheaper than Inaction:** Stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations at relatively safe levels will cost less than 3% of expected economic growth by 2030 (less than 0.12% per year). Costs would be lower if carbon permits are auctioned and the revenue is invested in energy efficiency and the development of new, clean energy technologies. The former chief economist of the World Bank, Sir Nicholas Stern, has put the price of unmitigated warming at as high as 20% of global GDP by 2100.
- **Vast Potential for Energy Efficiency:** Energy efficiency in vehicles and buildings could significantly reduce global warming emissions "with net economic benefit" and with "large co-benefits," but "many barriers exist against tapping this potential." The co-benefits include improved energy security, job creation, lower costs, and reduced air pollution.
- **Vast Potential for Renewable Energy:** "Given costs relative to other supply options, renewable electricity...can have a 30-35% share of the total electricity supply in 2030..." "Renewable energy generally has a positive effect on energy security, employment, and on air quality."
- **Reducing Global Warming Pollution Can Improve Health:** "[N]ear-term health co-benefits from reduced air pollution as a result of actions to reduce [greenhouse gas] emissions can be substantial and may offset a substantial fraction of mitigation costs."
- **Voluntary Action Ineffective:** "The majority of [voluntary] agreements has not achieved significant emissions reductions beyond business as usual."