

WYOMING

Legislation

Wyoming State Climate Office

2008

On September 5, farmers and ranchers from across the Rocky Mountain region gathered in Cheyenne to learn about the affects of climate change on farming and ranching. The symposium, titled “Climate Change in Western Rangelands,” addressed issues such as longer droughts, heavier rain, longer growing seasons, increased insect and pest infestation, and the effects of erratic weather. [Press release.](#)

On June 16, policy-makers, scientists, sportsmen and members of the media met to discuss the effects of climate change on Wyoming. The day-long workshop included members from state and federal agencies who came together to discuss the impact of climate change on state resources, adaptation, and carbon mitigation. [Press release.](#)

On March 4, Governor Dave Freudenthal signed legislation to to establish a comprehensive regulatory framework for carbon capture and sequestration. House Bill 89/HEA 18 recognizes that surface owners control the underground pore spaces where carbon dioxide could be stored or sequestered. Its companion, House Bill 90/HEA 25, gives the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality the authority to regulate the long-term storage of carbon dioxide. Governor Freudenthal said the state’s Department of Environmental Quality, rather than the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, should oversee the capture, injection and sequestration of the gas underground since it poses clear environmental protection issues. Neither of the two bills will interfere with enhanced oil recovery efforts in Wyoming, which will remain subject to regulation by the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission.

[Press Release](#)

Carbon Sequestration Advisory Committee

<http://www.wyomingcarbon.org/>

The Carbon Sequestration Advisory Committee was created through state legislation under the Wyoming Carbon Storage Law. The work of the committee is authorized for eight years from 2001 until 2009.

The main goals of the committee are:

To provide the state with scientifically-sound information and advice concerning management practices and economic opportunities to store carbon in Wyoming’s agricultural and forest lands.

Educate the citizens of Wyoming about carbon sequestration, through conferences, presentations, demonstration sites and published media among other means.

Committee [members](#) are appointed by the governor and include people from a wide variety of occupations including agricultural producers, state agency officials, power company executives, federal employees and professors.