

United States Virgin Islands Climate Change Program

Technical Advisory Group

Introduction

The typical role of a technical advisory group (sometimes referred to as a technical advisory committee or technical working group) in program development or project implementation is to provide advice on technical issues relevant to the program or project.

Following his return from the U.S. Insular Areas Climate Change Stakeholder's Meeting in Guam in June 2015, which was organized by the Office of Insular Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior, Governor Kenneth E. Mapp appointed Mr. Shawn-Michael Malone as the Federal Relations Coordinator for the Government of the United States Virgin Islands. Governor Mapp also announced the launch of a climate change initiative for the territory, and assigned to Mr. Malone the responsibility of coordinating the initiative.

In June 2015, Mr. Malone established a task force to provide advice to the Office of the Governor regarding the proposed climate change initiative for the United States Virgin Islands (USVI). In addition to general advice on possible scope and design, the advisory task force provided the following support and outputs:

- Provided concepts for the project that was to be submitted to the Department of the Interior for funding under the department's Fiscal Year 2016 Technical Assistance Program.
- A project concept prepared by the Foundation for Development Planning, Inc was submitted to the Department of the Interior (DoI) as the template for the territorial program.
- Prepared a pre-proposal to be submitted to the Department of the Interior.
- Participated in the preparation of the USVI climate change project that was funded by the Department of the Interior in 2016.
- Prepared and reviewed presentation materials and content for use by Mr. Shawn-Michael Malone.
- Prepared the draft of the climate change executive order that was signed by Governor Mapp in October 2015.
- Reviewed the November 2015 draft memorandum of understanding between the Government of the United States Virgin Islands, the Government of Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for cooperation on climate change programming.
- Participated in meetings with the Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs in the Department of the Interior, and in a meeting with the Secretary of the Department of the Interior.
- Participated, in April 2016, in a '*Hearing on the Economic Impact of Climate Change on the U.S. Virgin Islands*' convened by the Committee on Economic Development, Agriculture, and Planning of the 31st Legislature of the USVI.
- Participated in the February 2017 two-day workshop on climate change in the USVI, organized by the Governors' Institute on Community Design.

United States Virgin Islands Climate Change Program

The current effort to design and establish the territorial climate change program will benefit from guidance on technical and operational issues, as well as knowledge of institutional arrangements and community dynamics. The foregoing provides the context for formal (re)establishment of the Technical Advisory Group.

Purpose of the (new) Technical Advisory Group

The purpose of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) is to provide advice to the Office of the Governor and the project team in the design and establishment of the territorial climate change program. The functioning of the TAG is also intended to facilitate seamless integration of the climate change program with relevant territorial and federal policies, strategies, and programs.

In order to meet the above objectives, the TAG will:

- (1) Provide advice on strategies, tools, and methods for program development.
- (2) Provide advice on the design and operational modalities of the climate change council.
- (3) Share knowledge of territorial institutional arrangements and community dynamics.
- (4) Share information on past and current initiatives relevant to the territorial climate change program.
- (5) Share information on relevant policies, initiatives, networks, expertise, and knowledge products available outside the United States Virgin Islands.
- (6) Function as a review panel for program documents prepared by the Program Consultant.
- (7) Provide, as appropriate, peer review of reports and other products generated by the DoI-funded project.
- (8) Provide advice on mainstreaming the outputs from various territorial climate change projects.

Members of the TAG will be recommended by the Program Consultant and appointed by the Office of the Governor. The Program Consultant will function as the convener of the TAG, and is responsible for ensuring its smooth operation and interface with the other program components.

The duration of the TAG will be June 2018 to February 2019 (the termination date of the current DoI-funded project). The terms of reference and composition of the TAG will be revised as necessary to effectively support the full establishment of the territorial climate change program.

United States Virgin Islands Climate Change Program

The members of the TAG will include:

- Current members; and
- Experts as necessary to provide require technical and operational guidance.

The public agencies that are appointed to the climate change council will be asked to each designate a technical person to function as point of contact for liaison with the TAG¹.

The operation of the TAG will be continuous for the duration, with formal meetings on a quarterly basis.

Approved by: Office of the Governor and Office of Management and Budget

Date: Inception Meeting, June 7, 2018

¹ Agency technical liaisons will also be required for the climate change council, and the point of contact for the TAG could serve in both roles.