Preface

This report contains recommendations from a voluntary stakeholder advisory group on potential measures to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that are worthy of consideration by policy makers in North Carolina. This advisory group represents a broad range of interests in North Carolina. The Climate Action Plan Advisory Group (CAPAG) consists of more than 40 volunteers from business, industry, environmental groups, academia, government and the general public. A consultant, the Center for Climate Strategies (CCS), provided facilitation and technical analysis expertise. From over 300 potential GHG mitigation options, more than 50 were analyzed considering likely GHG reductions, costs and benefits.

The North Carolina General Assembly created a Legislative Commission on Global Climate Change (LCGCC) in the fall of 2005 to address climate related issues. These issues included whether North Carolina should set a goal for reduction of GHGs in this state, and if so, what that goal should be. CAPAG coordinated closely with the LCGCC and shared several members with that Commission.

This report is not intended to be a climate action implementation plan for North Carolina. Such a plan will come only after State policy makers assess these and other recommendations further. However the data, results and recommendations contained in this report provide valuable guidance for the creation of an action plan(s) for legislative, administrative, regulatory or voluntary action.

The Appalachian State University (ASU) Energy Center and CCS and their team of analysts worked together to conduct a secondary economic impact analysis of the potential economic and jobs impacts of various options developed by the CAPAG. The ASU Energy Center examined thirty of the fifty-six mitigation options bundled into twenty- three mitigation option scenarios with similar policies grouped together for analysis. Combined, these options account for more than 90% of the GHG emissions reductions and offsets identified by the CAPAG.

For the study, the ASU Energy Center utilized the NC Energy Scenario Economic Impact Model (NC ESEIM). Originally developed in 2005 for the North Carolina Energy Policy Council, the peer-reviewed model assesses the impacts of various energy policies on the North Carolina economy, measured in terms of employment, employee and proprietor compensation (income), and the incomes earned by labor and capital (gross state product). The results and discussion of the secondary economic impact analysis are summarized in Chapter 1 of the CAPAG report. The results and the report methodology are discussed in detail in a separate report entitled, "Secondary Economic Impact Analysis of Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Options for North Carolina" available at "http://www.ncclimatechange.us" or "http://daq.state.nc.us/monitor/eminv/gcc."