

SOCCR Stakeholder Involvement Process

- Stakeholder Assessment
- 3 Stakeholder Workshops
- Scientific Peer Review
- Briefings at Relevant Meetings (e.g. AGU)
- Public Web Site
- Electronic Newsletter
- Other?



Stakeholder Assessment

- Methodology
 - Interviews with 30 stakeholders, chosen from previous involvement, in Oct. 2004
 - From the following stakeholder groups:
 - Scientists (governmental and non-governmental)
 - Policy Makers (federal, state and local)
 - Climate Policy Advocates (environmental interests, business interests)
 - Carbon Related Industries (transportation, energy, agriculture, and forestry)
 - Interviews lasted approx 45 minutes
 - Comments compiled, sent out as draft, revised, and finalized

Stakeholder Key Issues

- Science
 - What is known, what is not?
 - Especially about carbon sequestration
 - Can the North American carbon sinks and sources be more accurately quantified?
 - What are the sources of carbon fluctuations?
- Policy
 - How do energy systems alter the carbon cycle?
 - What CO₂ mitigation strategies have the greatest potential?

Additional Information Needs

- What land management strategies affect the carbon cycle?
- How, when and where does carbon sequestration work most effectively?
- How do oceans and aquatic systems interact with the carbon cycle?
- What are the costs and benefits of different carbon mitigation strategies?
- Where is the “lost” carbon sink?
- Can conflicting information on climate change be reconciled?

Draft Outline Comments

- Science must be objective
- SOCCR should be written so as to be easily understood by the intended audience
- Many liked the well-rounded outline
- Range of opinions on the relevance and importance of Section IV (Human Dimensions)
 - A few people felt that this should be omitted
 - Many more felt this was the most crucial portion of SOCCR, especially for policy makers

Draft Outline Comments (2)

- Substantial questions about the choice of North America as the study area:
 - Why only North America (scientifically)?
 - Unclear geographical boundaries
 - Why include Canada and Mexico if the intended audience is U.S. policy makers?
- Recommended section additions:
 - Economics of Carbon
 - Urban Ecosystems
 - Soil Carbon
 - Product Sequestration
 - Arctic Ecosystems
 - Political & Sociological Aspects of the Carbon Cycle

Draft Outline Comments (3)

- Interviewees provided names of many potential stakeholders and authors
- Politics of SOCCR:
 - How does it fit with Kyoto Protocol?
 - How does it fit with the IPCC?

Candidate Author Feedback

- Much positive feedback for those listed
- Goal: select authors who can present the range of scientific information rather than just one perspective
- Add authors concerned with: energy, smart growth, climate change nay-sayers, and economists

First Stakeholder Workshop

- 15 participants from scientific, gov'tal, environmental and business groups, plus SOCCR team and 1 Exec. Ctee member
- Reviewed and discussed SOCCR purpose, audience, initial draft outline
- Jointly developed new outline
- Became basis for Part I of current outline

Key Points from the Workshop

SOCCR Purpose and Audience

- Scientists don't need another purely scientific assessment, and non-science stakeholders wouldn't read it
- Focus on non-science stakeholders
- Explain why they should care about the carbon cycle, what it is, how it's changing, what the implications are, and what they can do about it

Presenting What We Know about the Carbon Cycle

- Clarify why N.America, how N.America relates to global carbon cycle
- Show the whole carbon cycle in one diagram
- Provide both a N.America overview and sector/ecosystem specific information
- Be as clear as possible about types and magnitudes of uncertainty

Presenting Carbon Management Options

- Don't talk about policies, talk about options
- Be clear about the relative magnitudes of impact for different emissions reduction and sink enhancement options
- Show the diversity and complexity of response options available (additionality, separation, permanence, second order effects)
- Provide a cost curve for response options