

CBJ SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON GLOBAL WARMING

CBJ Scientific Panel on Global Warming created.

There is created within the City and Borough of Juneau a Scientific Panel on Global Warming to be composed initially of at least five, but no more than seven, members appointed by the Mayor to serve for six months, unless extended by the Mayor.

Background.

The national debate surrounding Global Warming no longer focuses on whether it exists. There is now a general consensus that the warming already underway will lead to changes in the earth's physical and biological systems that will be extremely adverse to human beings, their communities, economies and cultures. Human activities clearly are contributing to this Global Warming, though disputes persist over the extent of the human contribution.

Debate now is focused on the extent to which governments should mandate limits on emissions, rely on voluntary cutbacks, or some combination of both.

Several organizations representing municipal and state governments have urged the City and Borough of Juneau to join them in focusing on Global Warming. These include the West Coast Governors' Global Warming Initiative, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, the Climate Protection Agreement, the U. S. Conference of Mayors and Kyotousa.

Purpose.

The purpose of the scientific panel is as follows:

- *Decide on Agreed Impacts.* The scientific panel will gather relevant factual information, including present impacts and potential future projections of Global Warming's effects on Juneau.

- *Present Findings to the Public and Assembly.* The scientific panel should provide a forum for the public about Global Warming's likely impacts on Juneau.
- *Make Recommendations to the Assembly.* The scientific panel should advise the assembly on whether to participate in any of the regional or national initiatives. In addition, it is free to make recommendations on other municipal public policy options respecting Global Warming.

Meetings, Officers, Records, and Quorum.

The scientific panel shall hold regular meetings at least once a month. All meetings shall be open to the public and advertised through the Municipal Clerk's office.

The Mayor shall appoint the chair and vice-chair.

The scientific panel shall follow the procedures used by the Assembly and other CBJ boards and commissions for transaction of its business, as interpreted by the City Attorney as necessary. The scientific panel shall keep a record of its meetings, resolutions, transactions, findings, determinations, and written public comments received, which shall be filed with the Municipal Clerk and be open to public inspection at reasonable times.

A majority of the appointed membership of the scientific panel shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.