



Tribal Input Wanted on Federal Climate Action Plan

By Mark Fogarty

The federal government wants input from tribes and other interested parties about an [Ocean Climate Action Plan \(OCAP\)](#) to come from its Office of Science and Technology Policy.

And although the posted deadline for responses was Nov. 18, 2022, tribes have until December 20 to comment as the government is specifically looking for tribal input.

In fact, one of the questions the government is looking for responses to is “How can Indigenous knowledge be highlighted to inform solutions?”

The purpose of the OCAP is “to address ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes-based mitigation and adaptation solutions to climate change,” according to the government.

The OCAP, to be coordinated by an inter-agency group called the Ocean Policy Committee, “will summarize planned Federal ocean-based climate action and the benefits of these actions, identify gaps in knowledge and application of knowledge to emerging ocean-climate issues, and recommend actions to advance the effectiveness of the Nation’s response to the impacts of climate change,” according to the request for information published in the Federal Register.

The notice lists several questions the agency would like responses on:

***Critical Actions.** What ocean-based climate solutions should be considered, and over what time scales? What are specific examples of ocean-based climate mitigation and adaptation activities that the United States should seek to advance?

***Knowledge, Science, and Technology.** What kind of research is needed to implement and evaluate the effectiveness and impacts of ocean-based climate solutions? What are important questions, issues, and unknowns that need to be addressed? What existing technologies might advance the implementation of ocean-based climate solutions, and what innovations are needed?

***Environmental Justice, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.** How can the benefits of ocean-based climate solutions be shared equitably? How should we engage communities in local implementation? How should we ensure that ocean-based climate solutions are implemented in ways that do not harm underserved communities?

***Partnerships and Collaboration.** What solutions can/should come from outside of government? Where and how can the Federal government partner with external stakeholders across regions and sectors to effectively mitigate and adapt to climate change through ocean-based climate solutions?

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It listed examples of ocean-based climate solutions, that include: harnessing ocean renewable energy, protecting and restoring ecosystems that sequester carbon and support biological diversity, expanding the extent and level of protection of marine protected areas, pursuing responsible and efficacious ocean-based carbon dioxide removal and sequestration, and decarbonizing shipping.”

The benefits are many, the agency observes. “These ocean-based climate solutions can also provide abundant co-benefits, including good-paying jobs, sustainable livelihoods and communities, and healthier ocean ecosystems that support future discovery and innovation. Ocean-based climate solutions can also provide an opportunity to advance more equitable access to the benefits provided by the ocean to people, and to create a diverse workforce.”

Interested individuals and organizations should submit comments electronically to ocean@ostp.eop.gov and include “RFI Response: OCAP” in the subject line of the email.

