

GREENHOUSE GAS ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING NEWS

Helping Federal leaders keep track of the world of GHG accounting.

National Developments

Chamber of Commerce Again Challenges EPA on GHG Regulation

On August 13, 2010, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce sued the EPA in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. The suit comes a month after the EPA rejected the Chamber's administrative challenge to its 2009 endangerment finding under the Clean Air Act.

A statement by the National Chamber Litigation Center, said:

The Chamber's lawsuit challenges the wisdom of regulating greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act, which simply was never intended to regulate something as complex as global climate change... The Chamber's lawsuit does not address the science of climate change.

The Chamber of Commerce petition to the DC Circuit Court of Appeals is available [here](#).

Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment: Four Case Studies

EPA has released a draft report for comment. The report is summarized as:

A series of case studies describing the approaches currently being taken by four water utilities to assess their vulnerability to future climate change.

The report is intended to illustrate the types of analyses, models, and climate change information being developed and used by selected utilities that are leaders in climate adaptation to understand and respond to climate risk.

Comments should be in writing and must

be received by EPA by October 7, 2010.

[Read EPA's report here.](#)

Federal Agency Strategic Sustainability Performance Plans

September 9, 2010 marks the first time government agencies have submitted Federal Agency Strategic Sustainability Performance Plans.

These plans help agencies achieve environmental, economic and energy goals required by an Executive Order on Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy and Economic Performance (Executive Order 13514). Agencies submitted plans to the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and are required to update plans on a yearly basis.

Examples of agency GHG reduction goals reported in their SSPPs are shown in the table below:

Agency	Scope 1 and 2	Scope 3
DOC	21%	6%
DOD	34%	13.5%
DOE	28%	13%
Education	29%	3%
DOI	20%	9%
DOJ	16.4%	3.8%
DOL	27.8%	23.4%
DOT	12.3%	11%
EPA	25%	8%
GSA	28%	44%
HHS	10.4%	3.3%
HUD	47.4%	16.2%
State	20%	2%
Treasury	33%	11%
USDA	21%	7%
USPS	20%	20%
VA	29.6%	10%

EPA Sends GHG Rule For Heavy-Duty Vehicles to OMB for Review

The EPA sent a proposal to regulate GHG emissions from heavy-duty trucks and buses to OMB for review on August 13, 2010.

At present, only light-duty cars and trucks are subject to fuel economy and GHG emissions standards, while medium- and heavy-duty trucks are not.

After OMB review, the proposed rule will likely be released for public comment.

[Read more here.](#)



Heavy duty vehicles like these may soon have to meet GHG emission standards.

Obama sets target to reduce emissions from commutes, travel

On July 20, 2010, President Obama announced new requirements for Federal agency GHG reduction.

Specifically, he added the following scope 3 indirect emissions: employee business and commuter travel, contracted waste disposal, and electricity transmission and distribution losses. The reduction goal for these sources is 13 percent by 2020.

[See the Presidential announcement here.](#)

Local, State, and Regional Developments

TX Tells EPA of Refusal to Implement GHG Permit Requirements

The EPA plans to require GHG emissions control and permitting for new and modified stationary sources as of January 2, 2011, under prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) provisions of the Clean Air Act.

The EPA asked states to respond by August 2, 2010, as to whether “their state laws and regulations will allow them to implement the permitting requirements.”

In a letter to the EPA on August 2, 2010, the Texas Attorney General and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Chairman explain that the State of Texas refuses to implement EPA requirements, saying:

On behalf of the State of Texas, we write to inform you that Texas has neither the authority, nor the intention of interpreting, ignoring, or amending its laws in order to compel the permitting of greenhouse gas emissions...

In order to deter challenges to your plan for centralized control of industrial development through the issuance of permits for greenhouse gases, you have called upon each state to declare its allegiance to the Environmental Protection Agency's recently enacted greenhouse gas regulations—regulations that are plainly contrary to United States law...

To encourage acquiescence with your unsupported findings you threaten to usurp state enforcement authority and to federalize the permitting program of any state that fails to pledge fealty to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

EPA responded in a statement saying, “EPA's measured steps are in response to a Supreme Court decision issued more than three years ago. We are not at liberty to ignore the law, and the letter's unsubstantiated claims are the same sort that

have been made—and ultimately proven wrong—every time EPA has, over the past forty years, moved to implement the Clean Air Act's protections of public health and welfare.”

International Developments

India Imposes Tax on Coal Production

India has imposed a tax on coal production as part of its effort to reduce carbon intensity by 25 percent in this decade. The tax, which is 50 rupees per metric ton, includes imported coal and is estimated to generate over \$500M per year. These funds will be used for clean-energy projects.

[Read more here.](#)

UK Firms Face Carbon Emissions Fines

The UK's Energy Agency estimates that less than a third of the large businesses and organizations that are encompassed by the new [Carbon Reduction Commitment](#) have registered.

Businesses that do not comply with these new carbon emission regulations face heavy fines. The deadline for registering is September 30, 2010.

[Read more here.](#)

China Municipality to Launch Pilot Carbon Bond

The government of Tianjin is planning to pilot test carbon bonds, which could raise \$73.8M. Earlier this year, Tianjin started the first city-wide cap-and-trade program in China. Tianjin is at the forefront of emissions trading in China.

[Read more here.](#)

Testing Completed for new GHG Protocol Standards

The road test of the new global corporate GHG protocol is complete. Over sixty corporations have used the protocol to measure their emissions during 2010.

The protocols were developed by the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the

World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD).

A summary of the feedback is posted on [the GHG Protocol Website.](#)

Offsets and Renewable Energy Credits (RECs)

Reforestation Projects Store Carbon Better Than Monoculture Plantations

Australian scientists have found that reforestation projects that restore damaged rainforests are more efficient for capturing carbon than industrial tree plantations, although also more expensive.

The research is published in *Ecological Management & Restoration*.

[Read more here.](#)

Restored Wetlands Store Carbon, Regardless of Restoration Method

Researchers from Ohio State University have found that both restored wetlands planted by humans and those naturally recolonized by plants and animals are effective carbon sinks, showing no difference after 15 years.

[Read more here.](#)

Technical Developments

Webinars on America's Climate Choices Reports

The Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) has created a series of webinars on the National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council reports, *America's Climate Choices (ACC)*, including:

- Advancing the Science of Climate Change
- Limiting the Magnitude of Climate Change
- Informing an Effective Response to Climate Change
- Adapting to the Impacts of Climate Change

The webinars are available on the [UCS website.](#)

To read the America's Climate Choices reports, [click here.](#)