

GREENHOUSE GAS ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING NEWS

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

National Developments

Presidential Budget Increases Climate Change Funding

The President's budget request for fiscal year 2012 (released February 14, 2011) includes a 28 percent increase in funding for Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) climate change programs, over fiscal year 2010 funding. Read a summary of the 2012 EPA budget request [here](#).

The President's budget request for fiscal year 2012 includes a 28 % increase in funding for EPA climate change programs. The focus of the funding would be on regulatory policies and helping states implement the new GHG permitting requirements for large stationary sources.

Although the budget decreases overall funding for the EPA by approximately 13 percent, it increases EPA climate change programs to \$252.9 million. The focus of the funding would be on formulating and implementing regulatory policies and helping states implement the new GHG permitting requirements for large stationary sources. Programs at EPA to help industry and other institutions reduce GHG emissions, including *Energy Star* and *Methane to Markets*, would receive a slight reduction in funding.

In addition, the President's budget would increase the federal government's inter-agency US Global Change Research Program by about 21 percent, to \$2.6 billion.

GOP Seeks to Block GHG Regulation Funding

On February 14, 2011, Republicans in the House of Representatives introduced a continuing resolution that would prohibit the EPA from regulating CO₂ emissions and cut funding for energy and climate research. As submitted, it would cut the EPA's budget by 29 percent compared to fiscal year 2010 and block funds for EPA regulation of GHGs through September 2011. The President has said he will veto any bills that attempt to remove the EPA's GHG regulating powers. A compromise continuing resolution is now carrying the federal government through to March 18, 2011. Previously, Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) introduced a bill that would stop the EPA directly regulating GHGs under the Clean Air Act, while Sen. Jay Rockefeller (D-W.Va.) introduced a bill that would delay EPA emission regulations by two years.

Local, State, and Regional Developments

Regulators Propose to Tie TN State Controls To Fate of Federal Greenhouse Gas Rules

Tennessee, just as many states, adopted GHG rule revisions in October 2010 to comply with EPA regulations. But now, the Tennessee Air Pollution Control Board has proposed rule changes that would rescind state requirements for GHG permitting if the EPA rules become invalid through federal appellate court ruling or statutory change.

The proposed changes ensure that no undue burden remains on GHG sources in Tennessee, relative to sources in other

states. If unchanged, reversing the rules through a regular rulemaking process could take a year or more. A public hearing on the proposed regulatory changes is scheduled for April 4, 2011, in Nashville, when comments are due. Read more [here](#).

International Developments

Global Environmental Ministers Considering New Environmental Governance

The 26th session of the governing council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) took place during the week of February 21, 2011, with the most significant topic of discussion centered around whether the UNEP and its governance structure could adequately deal with global challenges as far reaching as climate change. The event was attended by delegates from 140 countries. While no decisive actions took place regarding this issue, future discussion of global environmental governance is expected at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012. The international community remains divided over whether it is better to reinforce existing institutions, starting with UNEP, or whether a new international body should be set up.



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Offsets and Renewable Energy Credits

CARB Releases Cap-and-Trade Rulemaking Activities Schedule

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) issued a [schedule of activities](#) leading to the implementation of the state cap-and-trade program, which will go into effect on January 1, 2012. The schedule includes workshops on offset protocols, compliance, linkage with the Western Climate Initiative, and a proposed timeline for drafting the regulations, which is expected to be finalized fall of 2011. The goal of the program is to reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020.

Technical Developments

USDA Requests Comment on Tools and Guidance for Estimating GHGs

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is seeking public comment on a new effort to provide tools that will help farmers, ranchers and forest land owners to assess the greenhouse gas (GHG) footprint of their operations. The goal of the new tools will provide a comprehensive, transparent approach to calculating changes in GHG emissions across all management activities within a farm, ranch or forest operation. The current effort aims to provide user friendly tools and guidance to farmers, ranchers and forest landowners who are interested in quantifying the GHG benefits of management changes within their operation.

Pew Center Updates its Climate Change 101 Series

The Pew Center on Global Climate Change has updated its [Climate Change 101 series](#). The series may be interesting to Federal staff new to the climate change area, or those wishing to brush up on their knowledge. The new 2011 edition incorporates new developments since 2009.

The series includes an overview and briefs covering climate science and impacts, adaptation, technological solutions, business solutions, international action, federal action, state action, local action, and cap and trade.

EPA Interim Report on Combined Heat and Power at Wastewater Facilities

EPA announced the release of an interim report, *Evaluation of Combined Heat and Power Technologies for Wastewater Facilities*, which serves as a planning tool for wastewater professionals. It examines commonly used and emerging combined heat and power (CHP) technologies for converting anaerobic digester gas to electricity and heat (also known as biogas-to-energy). The report includes four in-depth facility case studies from California.

The Global Nitrous Oxide Budget Revisited

An article in the first volume of the journal *Greenhouse Gas Measurement and Management* updates the global budget of atmospheric nitrous oxide (N_2O) that accounts for recent revisions in global emis-

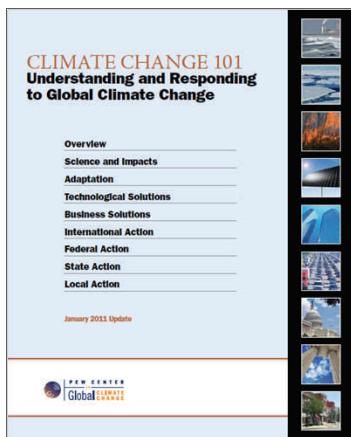
sions estimates, including new estimates of emissions from agriculture and oceans, and the presence of a surface sink of N_2O . The authors estimate that current food production is the largest anthropogenic source of N_2O , accounting for about 60 percent. This is a reduction from previous studies, and is shown to be consistent with observed trends. The article is available [here](#) upon registration (free).

New ISO Brochure on Standards

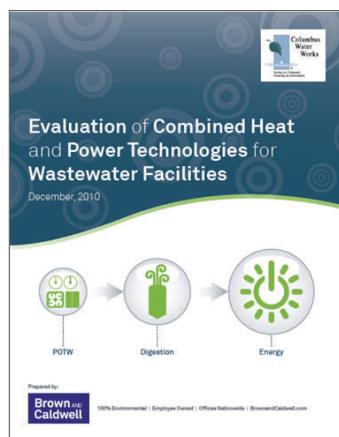
The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has published a new brochure on GHG measurement and reporting schemes and the role of standards, including but not limited to ISO standards. The brochure clarifies and explains the variety of GHG emission measurement and reporting standards/programs in use around the world.

It also includes an overview of standards in development, the development processes in different organizations, and the different roles standards can play. In addition, the brochure looks ahead, with opportunities to both enhance existing standards and to broaden their use.

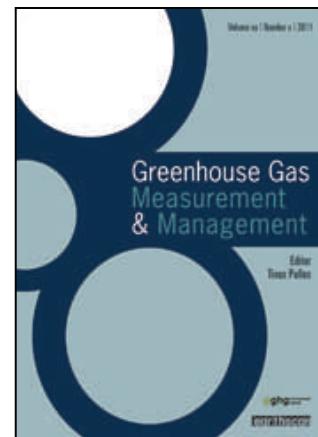
It is a useful primer for gaining a broader understanding of the methods available for GHG emissions measurement and reporting. "Standards can provide clear guidelines, help structure processes and set quality norms for the rapidly developing field of GHG management. In doing so they help facilitate new green technology markets and more energy-efficient and profitable business practices."



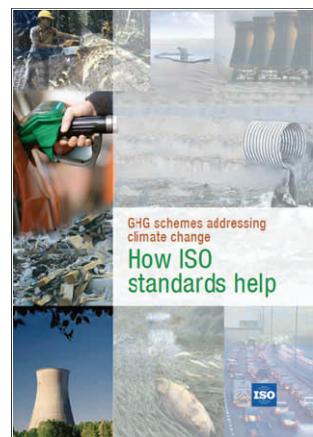
Pew Center Report: Climate Change 101



EPA: Combined Heat and Power Technologies



GHG Measurement and Management: N₂O Budget



ISO: GHG Schemes addressing Climate Change