

GREENHOUSE GAS ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING NEWS

Helping Federal leaders track the world of GHG accounting.

National Developments

White House Launches Federal Electric Vehicles

The White House, together with DOE and GSA, announced that the Federal fleet will adopt advanced electric vehicles and continue with efforts to decrease petroleum consumption. On May 24th, President Obama issued a Presidential Memorandum directing agencies to implement government-wide fleet management practices, which requires the government to be purchasing 100 percent alternative fuel vehicles by 2015. The announcement coincided with the first Federal fleet acquisition of electric vehicles. Over 100 electric vehicles and charging stations will be deployed in Federal centers across the US. The Presidential Memo can be found [here](#).

Smart Grid Development

In June, the White House announced a group of initiatives for modernizing the electric grid in the US with so called "smart grid" technologies. The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy released a report laying out the framework for this modernization effort

to support President Obama's goals to double the use of clean energy by 2035 and put 1 million electric vehicles on the road by 2015. The report includes several case studies of smart grid programs. Read the report [here](#) and visit DOE's federal smart grid gateway [here](#).

Carbon Capture and Hydrokinetic Energy Proposals Pass Senate Committee

The Senate Energy and Natural Resource Committee approved five bills that would establish a national program to support large carbon dioxide storage projects. The legislation would help to establish 10 commercial-scale carbon capture and sequestration projects, and set long-term standards for maintaining and monitoring the sites. The committee also approved a bill that would direct DOE to establish financial awards to encourage the development and implementation of technology to capture carbon from dilute sources. Another bill that would fund research and development in marine hydrokinetic energy was also approved.

DoD to Prioritize Energy Savings in Acquisition

The DoD recently released its Operational Energy Strategy, with three main focuses:

- More fight, less fuel: Reduce the demand for energy in military operations.
- More options, less risk: Expand and secure the supply of energy to military operations.
- More capability, less cost: Build energy security into the future force.

According to the press release, "[the strategy will help the DoD by] lowering risks to our warfighters, saving money for American taxpayers, and allowing the department to shift more resources to other

warfighting priorities." The Services and Combatant Commands will lead the data collection effort to document projected energy consumptions in current and planned operations. Read the strategy [here](#).

Local, State, and Regional Developments

New Jersey Leads RGGI Members in Auction Spending

New Jersey, which recently pulled out of Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), used the greatest percentage of proceeds generated from the sale of emissions permits on supplementing the state budget and the least of all RGGI members on investing the proceeds to energy efficiency programs, according a Congressional Research Service (CRS) report. The report highlights an important consideration in developing a federal cap-and-trade system: How much, if any, of auction proceeds should be devoted to energy efficiency or other mitigation efforts? The CRS report credited RGGI's contribution, stating that "RGGI's activities may stimulate action in other states or at the federal level: when confronted with a growing patchwork of state/regional requirements, industry stakeholders may support a singular national policy." The full report can be found [here](#).

International Developments

City Climate Summit

During 2010, the global population living in cities surpassed that living in rural areas for the first time. According to some measures, cities now account for more than 80% of the world's GHG emissions. During the first week of June 2011, representatives from 40 of the largest cities in the world (the "C40" group) met in Sao



SmartGrid.gov is the gateway to information on federal initiatives that are transforming the electric power industry.

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Paolo, Brazil, to discuss local policies against climate change. The C40 group was formed five years ago and includes Los Angeles, New York City, Hong Kong, and London, among others. The C40 initiative aims to "create cooperation on reducing GHG emissions" and promote group action against climate change. Visit the summit web site [here](#).

Offsets and Renewable Energy Credits

Draft Recommendations for Regional Offset System

The Western Climate Initiative (WCI) offsets committee released draft recommendations for review and approval of offset projects and credit creation for the regional emissions trading program. In 2008, a study recommended a rigorous offset system be created. "Consistent, transparent processes are expected to lower project development costs and support learning and sharing of experience among Partner jurisdictions and offset project developers. Stakeholder engagement, third party involvement, and regulatory oversight combine to ensure

the environmental integrity of the program." Read more [here](#).

Technical Developments

New Climate Levels

The Climate Registry is currently piloting a new leadership program that recognizes "organizations that are voluntarily reducing their GHG emissions in a credible way." Organizations can be awarded Climate Registered Silver, Gold or Platinum status. Review draft program documents [here](#). Finalization is expected fall 2011.



GHGMI Announces the Environmental Professional (GHG) Certification

The Greenhouse Gas Management Institute (GHGMI), in partnership with the Environmental Careers Organization of Canada (ECO Canada), announced the creation of a new professional certification for

GHG practitioners called EP(GHG). The certification will ensure minimum knowledge, competency, and experience regarding GHG accounting and management. More information about the certification can be found at [www.ghginstitute.org](#). Also, please see the "GHG Insider Insights" column below for an interview with GHGMI's Executive Director.

C40 Report

On June 1, 2011, the first global cities report was released. It describes how the world's largest city governments (representing 8% of the world's population) are dealing with climate change. The C40 report includes information from 58 cities.

The report was released in conjunction with the C40 Cities Mayors Summit in São Paulo, Brazil, where over 70 of the world's largest cities are convening. Read the report [here](#).



Michael Gillenwater, Dean and Executive Director of the GHG Management Institute, talks about the new EP(GHG) Professional Certification



Q: Why is the EP(GHG) needed?

A: As the public sector, private sector, and non-profit organizations around the world increasingly account for their GHGs, we saw the need for the professionalization of the metrics used for carbon management and for this to be done in a harmonized way so that a "ton" of GHGs reduced in one part of the world is also "ton" of GHG in another part of the world.

Q: How will the EP(GHG) achieve that harmonization?

A: Well, we started with the obvious route to standardization--- the International Standards Organization, or ISO. The result is the only professional certification regarding GHG management accredited to ISO standards. We are partnered with the Environmental Careers Organization in Canada, since the Canadian national standards council serves as the secretariat for ISO 14000 standards. The EP (GHG) provides a rigorous professional designation for experts in GHG quantification and verification with additional designations already in development.

Q: Does the EP(GHG) make sense for Federal managers?

A: Absolutely! Given the important leadership role that the U.S. Federal government is taking toward GHG accounting and reductions, it is a natural fit that government managers would help to lead the way in GHG professional certification. Federal managers will benefit from being a part of the world's largest network of GHG experts, and have a tremendous wealth of information and expertise to share with fellow GHG professionals.