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Contact: Jennifer Weiss

The Climate Registry

jennifer@theclimateregistry.org

213.891.6934

North American government and industry leaders unite to launch Climate Registered™ program

New recognition program helps governments and industry combat climate change

(14 December 2009 – Copenhagen, Denmark) Today at the United Nations climate change conference, several Governors, Premiers, environmental groups and leading corporations unveiled Climate Registered™, a program that recognizes organizations for voluntarily reducing their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Administered by The Climate Registry, a non-profit organization governed by states, provinces and tribes in North America, Climate Registered™ provides a credible and transparent standard for measuring GHG reductions.

“California has led the way in enacting ambitious policies and programs to combat climate change, moving our state further down the path of reducing our greenhouse gas emissions,” said California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. “But it is programs like this one, along with the power behind more companies, businesses and organizations joining in the fight and making a commitment to reduce their emissions, that will create a greener, brighter and more sustainable future for the world. I applaud the members of this program that have already made that commitment, and I encourage more leaders in both the private and public sectors to make the commitment to reduce their emissions and protect our planet and our economy for generations to come.”

The program includes four levels of recognition, ranging from Climate Registered™ - if an organization has reported and verified its complete GHG inventory to The Registry - to Climate Registered™ Silver, Gold and Platinum, which are achieved through absolute GHG reductions and other measures.

Several other US and Canadian political leaders joined California’s Governor in supporting the program, and encouraged companies to voluntarily report and reduce their GHG emissions.

“The Climate Registry has already created a common platform for government and industry to measure and report emissions in an accurate, transparent, and consistent way,” said Premier Gordon Campbell of British Columbia. “We commend The Registry for helping companies go beyond reporting by creating a high quality, North American standard for voluntarily reducing their emissions.”

“The Climate Registry brings together a community of leaders from the public and private sectors who want to do their part in the fight against climate change,” said Doug Scott, Chairman of The Climate Registry and Commissioner of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. “The Climate Registered™ program not only showcases their leadership, but it will help the public understand who is taking real, credible action to manage their emissions.”

Environmental groups also voiced their support of the Climate Registered™ program.

“This new Climate Registered program provides both a roadmap and recognition for companies and organizations that are reducing their carbon pollution,” said Frances Beinecke, President of the Natural Resources Defense Council. “NRDC has been reporting its own emissions with the Registry for many years, and we look forward to the ‘Silver, Gold or Platinum-worthy’ results that will be achieved as more institutions and corporations engage in this new element of their pollution-reduction program.”

“There is much to be done to protect communities and the economy from the impacts of global warming,” said Carl Pope, Executive Director of the Sierra Club. “The Climate Registered™ program provides a vehicle for companies to do their part and to achieve real emission reductions.”

Leading organizations Eastman Kodak, Flight Centre Canada, Allergan, Pacific Gas & Electric Company, Ecology & Environment, and Sierra Nevada Brewing Co. have signed on as Charter Members of the Climate Registered™ reduction program. They have committed to achieving Climate Registered™ Silver, Gold or Platinum status by December 2010, in addition to voluntarily reporting their emissions to The Registry.

“The Climate Registered™ program demonstrates to our stakeholders that we’re taking real and meaningful action,” said David Kiser, Vice President of Health, Safety, Environment and Sustainability of Eastman Kodak Company. “Because we believe voluntary action is an important part of the solution, we encourage our peers, our suppliers and our business partners to join us in becoming Climate Registered.”

A 12-month road test phase of the Climate Registered™ reduction program commences today. Organizations can apply to be part of the road test phase and to obtain Charter Membership through April 1, 2010.

The Climate Registry was established to help organizations build high quality GHG inventories. The following organizations have reported and verified their complete North American GHG emissions inventories to The Registry: Grand Targhee Resort, Carbon Credit Corp, Alliant Environmental, Ecotek, Environmental Science Associates, Bell Independent Power, Mazzetti Nash Lipsey Burch, MGM International, Trihydro Corporation, Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management, Earth Advantage Inc., Climate Action Reserve, Carbon Solutions America LLC, The Cadmus Group Inc, Sustainable Business Consulting, World Resources Institute, Willis Energy Services Ltd, All4 Inc, The Energy Foundation, Summit Energy, Union of Concerned Scientists, Symbiotic Engineering, Levi Strauss & Co, Novogradac & Company LLP, M.E. Group, E.H. Pechan, Nexant Good Company, Horizon Environmental Corporation, ÉcoRessources Consultants, and Nuclear Energy Institute. These organizations are Climate Registered™.

The Climate Registry also announced today that it is opening the door for broader participation in its program. Organizations will be able to learn how to quantify their GHG emissions by accessing The Registry’s expertise, training and software. This new membership category will include fewer verification and reporting requirements, allowing these organizations to focus on building their capability.

“We are enhancing our program at both ends of the spectrum,” said Diane Wittenberg, Executive Director of The Climate Registry. “Our goals are to highlight true environmental leadership and to get more companies involved in voluntarily measuring their emissions so they can work towards managing and reducing them.”

About The Climate Registry

The Climate Registry is a nonprofit collaboration among North American states, provinces, territories and tribes. The Registry helps organizations measure, report and reduce their GHG emissions. For more information, please visit www.theclimateregistry.org.