



## **The Climate Registry**

Action Item #4

### **Resolution 01.14.09 – 4**

#### **THE CLIMATE REGISTRY BOARD OF DIRECTORS ADOPTS THE FOLLOWING POSITION REGARDING FEDERAL GHG PROGRAMS AND THE ROLE OF THE CLIMATE REGISTRY**

##### BACKGROUND

The Climate Registry is a not-for-profit organization governed by 40 U.S. states, 12 Canadian provinces and territories, 6 Mexican states and 4 Native Sovereign Nations. The goal of the states, provinces and nations in creating The Climate Registry is to set consistent and transparent standards for the accounting, verification and public reporting of greenhouse gas emissions throughout North America in a single unified registry. Today, The Climate Registry supports both voluntary and mandatory GHG reporting programs, provides high quality meaningful information to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, ensures consistency with international standards and embodies the highest levels of environmental integrity.

Through many actions, from the creation of The Climate Registry to RPS standards to California auto emissions policies to regional GHG cap-and-trade programs, states and provinces have been the leaders in addressing climate change.

##### THE ROLE OF THE CLIMATE REGISTRY IN FEDERAL CLIMATE PROGRAMS

While The Climate Registry has taken no official position on the need for federal reporting programs, both the U.S. and Canada have embarked on federal rulemaking to require GHG reporting. Given that reality, The Registry believes all federal climate programs should recognize states, provinces and Native Sovereign Nations for early policy action, and should seek to create an international system. The Climate Registry should be viewed as a model and a resource to support national greenhouse gas registries. Federal mandatory GHG reporting rules should utilize the systems and infrastructure already in place and continue to provide a role for the states and The Registry in the collection and management of GHG data. This will ensure consistency across North America, reduce the reporting burden on the regulated community, reduce administrative costs, and recognize the efforts of companies that have chosen to rigorously report and reduce their emissions early. A North American approach should recognize the importance of reporter convenience and aim to avoid duplication.

Specifically, The Climate Registry Board of Directors strongly endorses that any federal GHG reporting and regulatory program in North America should partner with The

Climate Registry as a cost effective central repository or clearinghouse for reporting and/or tracking GHG data.

At a minimum, every federal GHG reporting program must:

- 1) utilize GHG calculation and accounting methodologies that are consistent with The Climate Registry's standards
- 2) allow states, provinces and Native Sovereign Nations to collect data for federal program requirements
- 3) maintain state, provincial, and sovereign nations' ability to require reporting to their respective jurisdictions or directly to The Registry, for emissions reporting that is above or beyond, but not inconsistent with, federal requirements

The Climate Registry encourages EPA, Environment Canada, and Semarnat to work in partnership with each other, states, provinces and Native Sovereign Nations on GHG reporting as well as on broader climate policies and programs.

These measures would support strong federal actions while preserving the ability of states and provinces to maintain their role as innovators and leaders on climate change policy and directly monitor progress in achieving GHG reductions.