



## The Climate Registry

The Climate Registry (the Registry) sets best practice standards for voluntary North American greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions calculation, reporting and verification. It is a non-profit organization governed by its member U.S. States, Canadian Provinces, Mexican States and Native Sovereign Nations. As of March, 2008, the Registry's membership includes: thirty-nine U.S. states and the District of Columbia, 11 Canadian provinces and territories, six Mexican states, and three Native Sovereign Nations. Emissions Reporters are environmental leaders in the private and public sectors. The Registry also supports the collection of high-quality GHG emissions data for mandatory emissions reporting programs.

The Registry's General Reporting Protocol (GRP) for its voluntary reporting program was developed through a public consensus-based process and is consistent with the WRI/WBCSD GHG Protocol, California Climate Action Registry's General Reporting Protocol and ISO and IPCC standards. Public participation in the drafting of the GRP consisted of a formal written comment period, the input of the Registry's Advisory Committee and four targeted technical workshops across North America. The Registry has worked to incorporate all public comments that were found to be consistent with the key principles of the voluntary program as well as the direction of the Board of Directors.

The resulting voluntary reporting program, as outlined in the GRP, collects GHG data consistently across jurisdictions. This consistency streamlines reporting for organizations that have operations across many jurisdictions and allows for the exchange of data among various GHG emissions reporting programs.

### **Voluntary Reporting Program**

Participation in the Registry's voluntary reporting program is not required. However, once a Reporter chooses to join the Registry, it must comply with the Registry's reporting requirements.

To join the Registry, Reporters must submit a Statement of Intent indicating the year in which they will begin reporting. The Registry then invoices each Reporter annually according to a graduated fee schedule based on a Reporter's revenue/budget.

In order to report GHG emissions to the Registry, Reporters must track their emissions from the sources outlined in the GRP, for each calendar year. After the end of each reporting year, Reporters report their emissions to the Registry through the web-based Climate Registry Information System (CRIS).

All Reporters who choose to join the Registry must report:

- their GHG emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O, PFC, HFC, SF<sub>6</sub>) from:
  - Direct (stationary combustion, mobile, process, fugitive),
  - Indirect (from purchased electricity, imported steam, cooling, and heating),
  - Process (industry specific),
  - Fugitive (from refrigeration and AC), and
  - Biogenic (from stationary combustion only) sources
- from their operations in Canada, the U.S., and Mexico
- at the facility level

Reporters must choose to define their operational boundaries in their first year of reporting by either:

- Equity-share and Control (financial or operational), OR
- Control (financial or operational) and equity share investments

Reporters also have the ability to report their unit-level, Worldwide and Scope 3 emissions, and any additional relevant information, if they wish.

To ensure the accuracy and credibility of the reported emissions data, the Registry requires Reporters to use a third-party Verifier to assess their Emission Reports annually. Once verified, Emission Reports are shared with the public through the Registry's online calculation, reporting, and verification tool (CRIS).

Understanding that Reporters may need time to assemble their North American emissions inventory, the Registry allows reporting of only CO<sub>2</sub> in at least one state or province for the first two years a Reporter participates in the Registry.

The Registry's voluntary reporting program includes three tools that help Reporters calculate, report, and verify their emissions annually:

- General Reporting Protocol (GRP): Guidance to Reporters on how to calculate and report GHG emissions. Contains reporting requirements, calculation methodologies, administrative instruction, and reference material for Reporters
- General Verification Protocol (GVP): Guidance to Verifiers on how to verify reported emissions
- Climate Registry Information System (CRIS): Online GHG tool through which Reporters calculate, report, and verify their annual GHG emissions.

## Benefits of Reporting

Reporting is open to all legally constituted bodies (e.g., corporations, institutions, and other organizations) recognized under Canadian, U.S., or Mexican laws. In addition, local government (city, county, state, and provincial) government agencies may also participate in the Registry. The benefits of participating in the Registry are numerous and varied, and include:

- Risk Management: Voluntarily reporting GHG emissions may help organizations manage climate risk by documenting early actions to reduce GHG emissions. Such information has previously received recognition from mandatory GHG programs, and may be accepted by future state, provincial, federal or international regulatory GHG programs.
- Competitive Advantage: Accounting for emissions has helped many organizations gain better insights into the relationship between improving efficiency (reducing factor inputs and waste) and reducing emissions. As a result, organizations have redesigned business operations and processes, implemented technological innovations, improved products and services, and ultimately built competitive advantage.
- Readiness for Emissions Trading: Utilizing credible, transparent calculation methodologies and reporting processes via the Registry will help to prepare organizations for participation in carbon trading markets. Many states are now developing emissions trading programs that may be based on the Registry's standards.
- Readiness for a Carbon Constrained Future: Identifying emissions sources to develop a GHG profile and management strategies may help organizations prepare for and respond to the potential impact of new regulations.
- Recognition as an Environmental Leader: Reporting GHG emissions to a voluntary registry provides organizations with a pathway to recognize, publicize, and promote their environmental stewardship.
- Participation in Key Policy Discussions: Reporters will be afforded the opportunity to participate in GHG policy discussions relevant to their industry. Furthermore, such discussions may help inform future decisions of policy makers throughout North America.
- Access to Technical Resources: Reporters will gain exclusive access to CRIS, the Registry's online calculation, reporting, and verification tool.
- Comprehensive Reporting: For those organizations that are required to report emissions to mandatory GHG reporting programs, but desire to assemble a more complete corporate GHG emissions footprint, the Registry provides a vehicle for comprehensive reporting.
- Stakeholder Education: Assembling an annual GHG emissions inventory for the Registry can help inform management, customers, employees, and the public of a Reporter's carbon footprint.

## Climate Registry Information System (CRIS)

CRIS is the Registry's online calculation, reporting and verification tool. CRIS will be used by:

- Reporters: To calculate and/or report annual GHG emissions
- Verifiers: To assess the accuracy of the reported data
- The Public: To access verified Annual Emission Reports
- The Registry: To manage and administer its voluntary reporting program

CRIS is a user-friendly internet-based application that simplifies GHG emission calculations by automating many of the reporting requirements. CRIS tracks GHG data over time and produces useful emission reports for both Reporters and interested stakeholders.

Organizations that do not currently utilize Environmental Management Systems may use CRIS to track and manage their emissions. In early 2009, Organizations that have sophisticated emissions tracking systems will be able to automatically transfer GHG data directly to CRIS, further streamlining the reporting process.

## Reporter Services

The Registry is pleased to offer Reporters a variety of tools and services to help organizations complete the Registry's annual emissions reporting process. These services include:

- Reporting Helpline: A toll-free hotline number to call to answer Reporter's technical reporting questions, including questions relating to the Protocol, CRIS, and verification.

### **TECHNICAL SUPPORT HELPLINE: 866-523-0764**

- Reporting 101: These 90-minute web-based trainings, held on a regular basis, walk reporters through the basics of setting up a GHG inventory and calculating emissions from stationary combustion, mobile combustion and indirect emissions. Check the calendar for upcoming sessions. (Available starting May 2008)
- CRIS Training: Web-based training sessions guide new users through defining an entity, setting up new users, using the calculation tools, and generating reports. Check the calendar for upcoming sessions. (Available July 2008)
- Registry Updates: An electronic newsletter with helpful tips, reporting reminders, and useful updates about climate change policy in North America.
- Registry Events: Conferences, meetings, and timely calls relating to GHG reporting and policy developments in North America.

To provide the Registry with suggestions for other desired technical services, please call 866-523-0764.