

## Domestic policy

### Virgin America joins Climate Registry

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#### **Virgin America will be the first US airline to report its emissions to the Climate Registry.**

The move is a natural one for the California-based airline, which said Monday that environmental awareness was “in its DNA.”

“We hope to do our part to promote awareness and transparency about the impact our industry has on the environment,” said Dave Pflieger, a senior vice president at Virgin America.

The California-based Climate Registry sets standards to calculate, verify and report GHG emissions. Membership in the registry is voluntary.

But Virgin America's decision to report to the registry, as well as its support of Congressman Henry Waxman's cap-and-trade bill, could drive a wedge between the carrier and its fellow airlines, a source close to the negotiations told Point Carbon.

The US airline industry's trade association opposed the leading cap-and-trade bill last Congress, the Lieberman-Warner bill, because it believed the legislation would drive up costs.

#### **Rift**

Douglas Lavin, regional vice president for the North American chapter of the International Air Transportation Association, told trade publication Aviation Daily that he does not see significant differences between the Lieberman-Warner bill and the Waxman draft in terms of how airlines are regulated.

The Waxman bill calls for the EPA to create a greenhouse gas emissions standard for aircrafts and aircraft engines by the end of 2012.

It would also force oil producers to purchase allowance credits for the fuel they produce – additional cost that are likely be passed on to the carriers.

Meanwhile, the US airlines are reluctantly preparing to report their emissions for the EU ETS.

Virgin America, which launched in August 2007, said that although it already outperformed its competition in terms of environmental impact, it was focused on trying to further decrease and offset its carbon footprint in the years ahead.

The move comes as the US Environmental Protection Agency has requested public input on how to design a mandatory GHG emissions reporting system.

Most expect the Climate Registry to play a part in that system, although it's not clear exactly what that role will be.

By Rory Carroll – [rc@pointcarbon.com](mailto:rc@pointcarbon.com)

*Washington DC*