

California Climate Action Registry Design Charette Summary October 18 & 19, 2001

We recently took an important first step in the Registry's development by convening in a design charette sponsored by the Energy Foundation. The purpose of the charette was to ensure a thoughtful and successful launch of the Registry by synthesizing the existing knowledge surrounding greenhouse gas (GHG) reporting issues. We received guidance from a number of experts from industry, consulting firms, government, and NGOs. A list of participant affiliations can be found below.

Attendee Affiliations:

BP
California Air Resources Board
California Energy Commission (CEC)
Chevron Texaco
CH2M Hill
City of Los Angeles
Edison Mission Energy
Interface Inc.
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
National Resource Defense Council (NRDC)
PG&E
PG&E National Energy Group
Sacramento Municipal Utility District
Scripps Institution of Oceanography
US DOE
US EPA
World Resources Institute (WRI)

Participants were invited based on their GHG inventory experience. They gave thoughtful presentations on a variety of topics (outlined below).

Presentation Topics:

- Overview of GHG Protocol Corporate Accounting Reporting Standard & Calculation Tools: Relevance to the Registry (WRI)
- Defining Organizational and Operational Boundaries: Options for the Registry (WRI & EPA)
- Certification/Verification Options (Chevron Texaco & CH2M Hill)
- Developing GHG Inventories in Practice: Experiences from Practitioners (Edison Mission Energy, City of Los Angeles, & BP)
- Setting Historic Performance Datums: Approaches for Measuring Emissions Reductions (Interface Inc. & BP-API)
- 1605B Evolution and Climate Wise to Climate Leaders: Relevance to Registry Design (DOE & EPA)

Main Charette Conclusions:

A number of themes were reiterated throughout the day and a half meeting, a sampling of which is listed here.

- The Registry needs to start with simple, clear protocols and add refinements incrementally.

- Credibility needs to be the top value of the Registry. Thus, consistency and transparency are key.
- The Registry needs to understand all of the different actors involved with the Registry, along with their unique concerns and needs. In addition, we need to be aware of critical stakeholder perspectives to assure our credibility as a verifier of GHG emissions.
- Boundaries are critical; they must be clear and will define the quality of our inventory. The baselines/boundaries issue is a large, complex one.
- The issue of providing technical assistance is an important one. The Registry will refer to both their technical guidance document (to be developed) and to technical advisors set by the CEC.
- In terms of marketing, the Registry needs to highlight the economic benefits of Registry participation. This includes benefits of increased energy efficiency.