

# MIDWEST STATES PONDER VOLUNTARY GREENHOUSE GAS REGISTRY

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In the last year, Midwest states began exploring the creation of a voluntary greenhouse gas registry. The primary goal of the registry is to give Midwest companies the option to benchmark and track greenhouse gas emissions, and bank emission reductions within a credible GHG emissions reporting platform. Design objectives include the use of best practice accounting standards, coherence with other GHG registries, and facilitation of corporate greenhouse gas management strategies.

The Midwest work group, which includes Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota, is proceeding under the auspices of the Lake Michigan Air Directors' Consortium (LADCO), with support from the Joyce Foundation. The group is collaborating on a multi-state registry with the voluntary California Climate Action Registry, the Eastern Climate Registry, which recently released a draft voluntary reporting program for public review and comment, and interested western states.

Voluntary registries give companies the ability to establish baseline information on their greenhouse gas emissions. Benefits to companies participating in greenhouse gas-reducing initiatives can include decreased energy usage, improved operational efficiencies,

managing carbon-related risks and getting ahead of the curve (if there are future mandatory controls) and demonstrating environmental leadership. Energy efficiency is often the route to reduced emissions.

LADCO has held two workshops with stakeholders to discuss what form the registry should take, how collaboration with existing registries in California and the Northeast might occur, how to recruit participants and possible incentives to attract participation. The group has just begun consideration of design issues such as accounting, geographic boundaries, reporting, reporting software and verification. The stakeholder group also has discussed future funding of the registry effort and how the emissions registry differs from and relates to existing programs such as U.S. Department of Energy's 1605(b), Chicago Climate Exchange and EPA's Climate Leaders.

The World Resources Institute (WRI) is assisting LADCO and the states in this effort. WRI helped develop the global greenhouse gas protocols used in other climate change-related initiatives, such as those in California and the Northeast.

Stakeholder input makes it clear that companies want simplicity and the ability to easily report

greenhouse gas information to various climate initiatives and registries. The greater the consistency between registries and initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emission reductions, the more likely companies are to participate.

LADCO and WRI seek comment on the draft June Registry Issue Brief and registry design elements. The original work plan called for a program specifications document by August; given the multi-regional collaboration, this timeframe may slip. For more information, see materials posted on LADCO's website, [www.ladco.org](http://www.ladco.org), particularly the June Midwest Registry Issue Brief: Purpose of a Multi-State GHG Registry.

## SPCC Deadline

On February 17, 2006, the US EPA extended the dates by which facilities must prepare or amend SPCC plans for implementation. The date has been extended to **October 31, 2007.**