



PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Joel Levin
California Climate Action Registry
213.891.6927
jlevin@climateregistry.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 21, 2004

California's New GHG Metrics Let the Public Compare the Climate Impact of Electric Power Companies

SACRAMENTO, CA – The California Climate Action Registry today adopted new rules for electric power companies and electric utilities that compile and report their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for participation in the Registry's program.

In addition to providing detailed new guidance on calculating GHG emissions from electricity, the Electric Power Generation and Electric Utilities Protocol (PUP) requires the reporting of three efficiency metrics which greatly enhance the public's ability to compare the climate impact of companies operating in the power generation and delivery markets.

These efficiency metrics not only provide a basis for consistent comparison across the industry regardless of entity size, but they also allow for the tracking of carbon intensity performance over time and complement existing entity-wide absolute emissions reporting to paint a fuller picture of a company's environmental performance.

"This is a landmark for anyone who wants hard data on the climate impact of companies producing or selling electric power," said Diane Wittenberg, President of the California Registry. "For the first time, investors, environmentalists, and the general public will be able to compare the greenhouse gas emissions of power companies on an apples-to-apples basis. More and more states and shareholders are asking their electric utilities to report their greenhouse gas emissions. We hope this measurement protocol will eventually be the basis for a national standard."

The California Climate Action Registry, a public-private partnership created by the California Legislature in 2000, is the nation's first registry with standardized accounting systems for tracking changes in emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. 10 of the Registry's 42 members are in the power industry. With 30% of the state's GHG emissions coming from power generation, transmission and distribution, the new protocol provides standardized accounting guidance for a key source of California's GHG emissions.

“We recognize the importance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and are working collaboratively on climate change issues,” said Robert Harris, vice president of environmental affairs for Pacific Gas and Electric Company, a charter member of the California Registry. “We supply some of the most climate-friendly electricity in America and now the public will be able to use this information to become more informed about sources of greenhouse gas emissions.”

On a national level, the new protocols may also provide a foundation for other states and regions considering adopting GHG reporting requirements for the electric power industry.

The protocols, in development since January 2004, were created through a stakeholder process with participation from power generators, utilities, environmental organizations, and state and federal agencies, including the California Energy Commission. Protocol drafts were also reviewed and commented upon by over 100 industry, policy and academic experts.

###

The California Registry, created by California statute in 2001, helps companies and organizations voluntarily measure their GHG emissions. The results are certified by independent organizations to ensure accuracy, and the State of California will work to ensure that participants receive appropriate consideration in any future state, federal, or international regulatory scheme governing greenhouse gas emissions. Over 40 major companies, cities, government agencies and NGOs measure and publicly report their GHG emissions through the Registry. California is the first state in the nation to develop and implement such a program.
www.climateregistry.org