



CENTER FOR CLIMATE ACTION

Center for Climate Action Newsletter

October 2009

Dear Center Partners,

October brings us cooler weather and a focus on forests. The leaves are changing brilliant shades of orange and red, while the climate change policy debate turns to forests as a cornerstone of achieving greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions. The Commission on Climate Change and Tropical Forests released a [report](#) on the role forest conservation in developing countries might play in U.S. policy domestically and at COP 15 internationally. This timely report comes as Congress debates cap-and-trade and just before negotiators are expected to hammer out an international treaty in Copenhagen.

Here in the U.S., the recently released [Kerry-Boxer bill](#) (more on that below) expanded the proposed offsets program to include forestry projects.

The report's researchers estimate that if U.S. companies and government invest about \$60 billion in this effort between 2012 and 2020, they would achieve the same GHG reductions as \$110 billion invested in U.S.-based solutions.

The \$50 billion net savings might just be enough to make climate legislation palatable to companies that have historically opposed tough rules on global climate change.

Best,

Margaret Bruce
Director
Center for Climate Action

Upcoming Center for Climate Action Webinars

Center for Climate Action webinars are organized into tracks and highlight thought-leaders, current developments in climate policy, and model programs that are effectively reducing GHG emissions. Webinars are free and open to the general public until January 2010. In the new year, the webinars will be free to Partners and members of the public may attend for a fee. [Join the Center for Climate Action](#) for full access to our many webinars, events and publications. For a complete list of our events, please visit <http://www.centerforclimateaction.org/news-and-events/events/>

Adaptation Series: Insuring our Future - Insurance in an Era of Climate Change

Wednesday, October 21, 2009
10:00AM - 11:00AM PDT

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The Center is excited to provide climate news, event notifications and Center updates through Twitter and Facebook!



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Climate change will likely affect the insurance industry in significant ways. From increased property damage due to severe weather to the spread of disease and loss of life from storms, insurers will need to take action to minimize exposure to a changing climate. How can the insurance industry promote loss prevention as the climate changes? What are some of the innovative insurance products and services being developed in the U.S.? What are some of the key emerging risks and opportunities for the industry?

[A Look Inside EPA's Mandatory Reporting Rule](#)

Wednesday, October 28, 2009

10:00AM - 12:00PM PDT

[Register here](#)

The Center for Climate Action and The Climate Registry will jointly host a webinar with U.S. EPA as the guest speaker to discuss the recently issued [final mandatory reporting rule](#) for GHG emissions. The rule is expected to cover approximately 85 percent of all U.S. GHG emissions from nearly 10,000 facilities. The final rule includes many changes from the draft rule.

[UNFCCC Series: The Negotiating Table](#)

Thursday, November 19, 2009

10:00AM - 11:00AM PST

[Register here](#)

Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer stated that Copenhagen could be the opportunity for the community of nations to decisively deal with climate change. What key issues need to be clarified to reach a global climate agreement? Join us to discuss reduction targets, developing world actions, finance and more ahead of Copenhagen.

[Climate Policy Updates: The Month in Review](#)

STATES

[Midwestern Governors Agree to Regional Blueprint to Develop Technology](#)

The Midwestern Governors' Association signed an accord to incentivize technologies that will reduce GHG emissions. The governors committed to specific steps to expand electrical transmission capacity, develop smart grid technology, commercialize carbon capture and storage, and improve infrastructure for bio-fuels. [Read more here.](#)

INTERNATIONAL

[President Obama Issues Executive Order to Promote Environmental and Economic Leadership](#)

President Obama signed an [Executive Order](#) focused on leadership in environmental, energy and economic performance. The Executive Order calls for federal agencies to set sustainability goals, including a 2020 goal for GHG emissions reductions. It also requires federal agencies to increase energy efficiency, reduce fleet petroleum consumption, conserve water, reduce waste, support sustainable communities, and leverage

[October 24 is the International Day of Climate Action](#)

Over 2000+ events are happening across the world to highlight the need for fast and effective action on global warming. [Find an action](#) near you, or organize your own. Center for Climate Action staff will join Climate Action Reserve and The Climate Registry staff to kick-off the Los Angeles [Climatini](#) series, a quarterly gathering of professionals interested in conversation and networking around climate change. If you are in the Southern California area, please join us.

[From Our Partners: ACCO Webinar for Business Leaders on EPA's Final Rule for Mandatory Reporting of Greenhouse Gas Emissions](#)

Tuesday, October 21, 2009
9:00AM - 11:00AM PDT

Center for Climate Action Partners participate for free and friends of the Center receive a discount code. Contact [Laura Zahn](#) for more information. [Register here.](#)

The Association of Climate Change Officers (ACCO) and BNA invite you to a presentation on EPA's final rule for a national mandatory GHG reporting requirement.

Speakers include:

- Phil Chandler, Applied Materials
- Robert Reich,

purchasing power to promote environmentally responsible products.

Much Anticipated Kerry-Boxer Bill Released

Sens. John Kerry and Barbara Boxer unveiled the Senate's version of the climate bill this week ([S.1733](#)). Overall the bill seeks to reduce U.S. CO2 emissions 20 percent below 2005 levels by 2020 and 83 percent by 2050. H.R. 2454, the House-passed energy and climate bill, established 17 percent reductions by 2020 but has the same 2050 target as the Senate bill. Other noteworthy differences include the ability for EPA to continue regulating GHG emissions under the Clean Air Act. It shrinks the portion of the economy covered by the cap, moving methane emissions from coal mines, landfills and some other facilities from under the cap to the newly expanded list of eligible offset projects. On offsets, the bill expanded the portfolio of allowable domestic projects but lowered the ceiling on international offsets by 50 percent. The allocation scheme includes the auction of 25 percent of the allowances with revenues dedicated to deficit reduction. The next step for the bill is the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, led by Chairwoman Barbara Boxer.

Studies and Reports

Forest Protection Offers the Most Cost-Effective Way to Achieve Fast, Large-Scale CO2 Reductions, Report Says

The Commission on Climate and Tropical Forests released a report that calls on policymakers to make halving emissions from tropical deforestation by 2020 a major cornerstone of U.S. climate change policy. The report claims that an annual \$9 billion private investment and \$5 billion public investment by 2020 would help cut climate costs faced by U.S. companies in half, saving up to \$50 billion in the same timeframe. Financing emissions reductions through forest conservation in developing countries would be far more cost effective than reducing emissions through domestic policies. [Read the report.](#)

Advancing US Statewide Climate Change Adaptation Strategies

During the next several months, the Center for Climate Action will conduct research on U.S. statewide climate change adaptation strategies. The research will compile state plans into a single accessible resource, ascertain important differences in how states implement key sector strategies, highlight common barriers and challenges to implementation, and identify areas for future research.

This analysis will be conducted in two tracks. The first track will compare existing state climate adaptation strategies, examining comprehensiveness, the role of the state, internal and external coordination, funding, policy alignment, and metrics for success. The second track will consider the influence of several key state policies. This review will identify some of the critical differences between how states will implement specific adaptation strategies, and the influence of those policies on regional and local government.

To aid in the research, the Center is looking for individuals to participate in a survey about their state plans. If you have participated in the creation of a U.S. state adaptation plan and are interested in contributing to this study, please contact Eric Yurkovich at eric@centerforclimateaction.org.

DuPont (invited)

- Denise Sheehan, The Climate Registry
- Geraldine E. Edens, McKenna Long Aldridge LLP

From Our Partners:
[Two-Day Sustainability Change Agent Training with Alan AtKisson](#)
[Accelerating Sustainability: Sustainability Change Agent Training with Alan AtKisson](#)
November 16-17, 2009

Sustainable Silicon Valley presents an in-depth, hands-on training for sustainability change agents. The workshop covers sustainability indicators and assessment; systems thinking; change agent skills; and sustainability process design, planning, evaluation and communication.

Special 2010 Partnership Rates Offered for Members of The Climate Registry and the Climate Action Reserve Community

The Center for Climate Action is pleased to offer special Partnership rates to organizations within The Climate Registry and Climate Action Reserve community, including Members, Account Holders, Verification Bodies and ANSI program participants. For information, please contact [Laura Zahn](#).

The Center for Climate Action is a new, solutions-oriented program of the Climate Action Reserve. To meet the climate challenge, the Center for Climate Action convenes business, government, academic

and non-profit organizations to explore emerging issues in climate change impacts, policy, and adaptation and to work collaboratively toward solutions. The Center provides Partners with the information they need to act on climate change, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, preparing for the impacts of climate change, and engaging in the policy-making process. Benefits of becoming a Partner include workshops, trainings, access to issue briefs and analysis, awards, study trips and webinars. In 2009, the Center for Climate Action will focus on four areas of study:

- Western regional issues, including AB 32, SB 375 and the Western Climate Initiative
- Federal action
- Road to Copenhagen (COP 15)
- Mitigation and adaptation

For more information, please visit www.centerforclimateaction.org.