



Summary of Voluntary GHG Programs

A number of voluntary and mandatory GHG programs already exist or are being developed at the State, Regional, and Federal levels. These programs have different scopes and purposes. Many focus on GHG emission reduction, whereas others are purely reporting programs. In addition to the GHG programs, other Federal emission reporting programs and emission inventories are relevant to the proposed GHG reporting rule. Several of these programs are summarized herein.

EPA and other Federal agencies operate a number of voluntary GHG reporting and reduction programs including: Climate Leaders, several Non-CO2 voluntary programs, the CHP partnership, the SmartWay Transport Partnership program, the National Environmental Performance Track Partnership, and the DOE 1605(b) voluntary GHG registry. There are several other Federal voluntary programs to encourage emissions reductions, clean energy, or energy efficiency, and this summary does not cover them all.

Climate Leaders Climate Leaders is an EPA partnership program that works with companies to develop GHG reduction strategies. Over 250 industry partners in a wide range of sectors have joined. Partner companies complete a corporate-wide inventory of GHG emissions and develop an inventory management plan using Climate Leaders protocols. Each company sets GHG reductions goals and submits to EPA an annual GHG emissions inventory documenting their progress. The annual reporting form provides corporate-wide emissions by type of emissions source. For more information about the Climate Leaders program please see: <http://www.epa.gov/climateleaders/>

Non-CO2 Voluntary Partnership Programs Since the 1990s, EPA has operated a number of non-CO2 voluntary partnership programs aimed at reducing emissions from GHGs such as CH₄, SF₆, and PFCs. There are four sector-specific voluntary CH₄ reduction programs: Natural Gas STAR, Landfill Methane Outreach Program, Coalbed Methane Outreach Program and AgSTAR. The Natural Gas STAR partnership encourages companies across the natural gas and oil industries to adopt practices that reduce CH₄ emissions. The Landfill Methane Outreach Program and Coalbed Methane Outreach Program encourage voluntary capture and use of landfill and coal mine CH₄, respectively, to generate electricity or other useful energy. These partnerships focus on achieving CH₄ reductions. Industry partners voluntarily provide technical information on projects they undertake to reduce CH₄ emissions on an annual basis, but they do not submit CH₄ emissions inventories. AgSTAR encourages beneficial use of agricultural CH₄ but does not have partner reporting requirements. For more information about the Non-CO2 Voluntary Partnership Programs please see: <http://www.epa.gov/nonco2/voluntaryprograms.html>

There are two sector specific partnerships to reduce SF6 emissions: the SF6 Emission Reduction Partnership for Electric Power Systems, with over 80 participating utilities, and an SF6 Emission Reduction Partnership for the Magnesium Industry. Partners in these programs implement practices to reduce SF6 emissions and prepare corporate-wide annual inventories of SF6 emissions using protocols and reporting tools developed by EPA.

There are also two partnerships focused on PFCs. The Voluntary Aluminum Industrial Partnership promotes technically feasible and cost effective actions to reduce PFC emissions. Industry partners track and report PFC emissions reductions. Similarly, the Semiconductor Industry Association and EPA formed a partnership to reduce PFC emissions. A third party compiles data from participating semiconductor companies and submits an aggregate (not company-specific) annual PFC emissions report.

CHP Partnership The combined heat and power (CHP) Partnership is an EPA partnership that cuts across sectors. It encourages use of CHP technologies to generate electricity and heat from the same fuel source, thereby increasing energy efficiency and reducing GHG emissions from fuel combustion. Corporate and institutional partners provide data on existing and new CHP projects, but do not submit emissions inventories.

SmartWay Transport Partnership The SmartWay Transport Partnership program is a voluntary partnership between freight industry stakeholders and EPA to promote fuel efficiency improvements and GHG emissions reductions. Over 900 companies have joined including freight carriers (railroads and trucking fleets) and shipping companies. Carrier and shipping companies commit to measuring and improving the efficiency of their freight operations using EPA-developed tools that quantify the benefits of a number of fuel-saving strategies. Companies report progress annually.

National Environmental Performance Track Partnership The Performance Track Partnership is a voluntary partnership that recognizes and rewards private and public facilities that demonstrate strong environmental performance beyond current requirements. Performance Track is designed to augment the existing regulatory system by creating incentives for facilities to achieve environmental results beyond those required by law. To qualify, applicants must have implemented an independently-assessed environmental management system, have a record of sustained compliance with environmental laws and regulations, commit to achieving measurable environmental results that go beyond compliance, and provide information to the local community on their environmental activities. Members are subject to the same legal requirements as other regulated facilities. In some cases, EPA and states have reduced routine reporting or given some flexibility to program members in how they meet regulatory requirements. This approach is recognized by more than 20 states that have adopted similar performance-based leadership programs.

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