

E Environment Committee

Business Item
SW Item: 2007 – 411

Meeting date: December 11, 2007

For the Metropolitan Council Meeting of December 12, 2007

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	November 30, 2007
Subject:	Authorization for the Metropolitan Council to Participate in The Climate Registry
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Council Policy 1-2
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Jason Willett 651-602-1196, Rebecca Flood 651-602-1073
Division/Department:	MCES c/o William G. Moore, 651-602-1162

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to execute the attached Statement of Intent to participate in the “The Climate Registry.”

Background

The Climate Registry is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization organized by states, provinces and tribes to encourage businesses and organizations to identify and report greenhouse gas emissions using common protocols. Governor Pawlenty enrolled the state as a “member” early in 2007 and on November 15th signed the Midwest Greenhouse Gas Reduction Accord which among other statements also encourages organizations to join this registry (as “reporters”). Joining prior to 1/1/08 will gain characterization of the Council as a founding affiliate which will be recognized in a national publicity campaign.

Reporters to the Registry agree to calculate, certify and publicly report their greenhouse gas emissions annually. This will require all parts of the Council to 1) identify all sources of such emissions, 2) calculate these emissions according to the standards and protocols being developed by this Registry, 3) verify the emissions with an approved third-party contractor, and 4) report the emissions data to the public at the Registry’s web site. Additional info on the Registry is at www.theclimateregistry.org.

Rationale

There are many complexities in emissions accounting. As national and international protocols are still developing, this effort will likely influence and may become the national model. More than half of the states have joined as members. By becoming a founding affiliate the Council may be able to participate in developing some of the detailed protocols (e.g. how to account for biogenic emissions, and increasing ridership in mass transit). Emissions accounting will contribute to the Council’s leadership in energy and climate issues and prepare the operating divisions for future trading schemes being proposed at the state level, in the Midwest Governor’s Accord, and in federal bills. Also, establishing credible baseline information might make it more likely that the Council will be recognized and get credit for early emissions reductions work.

Funding

The 2008 cost for reporting to the Registry is \$3500 (adding prior years, will increase this). However, staff time to derive the numbers may be significant and the independent verification may cost \$10-\$20,000 per year.

These costs would be borne by the Divisions in their operating budgets.

Known Support / Opposition

None.



The Climate Registry Statement of Intent Form

will participate in The Climate Registry.

We will:

- Inventory and report entity-wide direct and indirect greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, according to the guidance provided by The Climate Registry (the Registry).
- Verify our emissions through a Registry approved verifier.
- Report our total emissions through the Registry's online reporting software.

Signed: _____

Name:

Title:

Address:

Phone: () -

Email:

Date: / /20

Organization's Annual Revenue/Budget:
(check one per column)

1st year of data to be reported for verification:

Annual Revenue/Budget

- Over \$2 billion
 \$500 million - \$2 billion
 \$100 million - \$500 million
 \$20 million - \$100 million
 Under \$20 million

Organization Type

- Academic
 Commercial/Industrial
 Government
 Non-profit

- 2009
 2008
 Prior year _____

Official Contact for the Registry

Technical Contact (if different from Official)

Name:

Name:

Title:

Title:

Address:

Address:

Phone: () -

Phone: () -

Email:

Email:

Fax to the Climate Registry at (213) 623-6716



The Climate Registry

Annual Fee Structure

Commercial and Industrial Organizations with Revenues:

Over \$2 billion	\$10,000
From \$500 million - \$2 billion	\$6,000
From \$100 million - \$500 million	\$3,500
From \$20 million - \$100 million	\$1,700
Under \$20 million	\$600

Non-profit, Government and Academic Organizations with Budgets:

Over \$2 billion	\$5,000
From \$500 million - \$2 billion	\$3,500
From \$100 million - \$500 million	\$2,500
From \$20 million - \$100 million	\$850
Under \$20 million	\$450

To qualify for fees based on the sliding scale above, **financial documentation is required**. Non-profit, government and academic organizations should provide a copy of their most recently audited financial statements and proof of exempt status (IRS tax exemption letter or State tax exemption letter). Commercial and industrial organizations should provide a copy of their most recently audited financial statements. If this is not available, a statement from an owner or officer stating annual revenues is acceptable.

Fax to the Climate Registry at (213) 623-6716