
Carbon Monitor

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New UNFCCC directive to prevent double counting

In some cases, A/R (afforestation/reforestation) CDM project activities produce biomass that may be used for energy or feedstock purposes by one or more non A/R project activities.

In order to avoid double counting of emission sources which are considered within both the underlying A/R and non A/R methodologies, the following shall apply to the calculation of emission reductions:

1. GHG emissions from sectors/source categories included in Annex A of the Kyoto Protocol which are calculated within both the underlying A/R and non A/R methodologies, either as project emissions or as leakage effects, do not need to be considered in the A/R project activity;

2. Any leakage effects from decreases of carbon stocks in carbon pools outside the project boundary which are calculated in both the underlying A/R and non A/R methodologies, do not need to be considered in the non A/R project activity.

<http://cdm.unfccc.int/Panels/ar>

Commentary

The decision requires that if we count the carbon stored in the *Jatropha* seeds as part of the forest carbon sink we then need to account for it when it is converted into fuel and sent to an annex B country.

Our methodology measures the carbon in three carbon pools, stem, crown and litter along with soil carbon estimates. At present the seed growth is not incorporated in the models and therefore the carbon is not counted toward the sink.

Notably from reading literature from other Biofuel companies they may not comply.

Submissions closed 20th October 2006.

EPA Updates Web Site for US Initiatives in Climate Change

To provide the public with the most up-to-date information on climate change, EPA is updating its climate change Web site. The site provides the latest scientific information and highlights a wide range of

U.S. government programs that are actively addressing climate change at the local, state, national and international levels. The updated Web site still contains all information that was on EPA's global warming Web site but organizes it for easier access and adds new information.

"The Bush Administration is meeting unparalleled financial, international and domestic commitments to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions," said EPA Deputy Administrator Marcus Peacock. "EPA's updated climate change Web site outlines the agency's important role in implementing President Bush's aggressive yet practical strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, while growing the American economy."

The climate change site was developed by EPA in collaboration with other federal agencies. The scientific information it contains reflects consensus findings from U.S. and international organizations. The web site has five primary sections: Science, U.S. Climate Policy, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Environmental Effects, and What You Can Do.

Visitors to the site will find educational tools and information to help the public understand their personal impact on climate change, including a list of 30 practical steps people can take to reduce their emissions.

Visitors will also find a calculator to help them estimate their "carbon footprint" – the greenhouse gas emissions produced in the course of everyday activities.

The United States is working aggressively to address climate change through voluntary programs, but there are many cost-effective ways for individuals and organizations to take action. For example, you can reduce your greenhouse gas emissions through simple measures, such as:

Using Energy Star labeled products such as light bulbs, appliances, and heating-cooling systems: <http://www.energystar.gov> Sealing and insulating your home: <http://www.energystar.gov/home> Driving a fuel-efficient car or truck: <http://www.fueleconomy.gov> Purchasing green power: <http://www.epa.gov/greenpower>

Information on EPA's new climate change site:

Joint Implementation Launched

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) today launched a new mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol expected to generate significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions which cause global warming.

With the launch of the Kyoto Protocol's joint implementation (JI) mechanism, developed countries will be able to acquire carbon credits from greenhouse gas emission reducing projects undertaken in other industrialized countries, in particular central and eastern European transition economies.

These tradable carbon credits can then be used to meet emission reduction or limitation commitments under the Kyoto Protocol.

"JI will generate real projects which will help green the economies of central and eastern Europe. With its launch, we can expect emission reductions in the order of several hundred million tonnes of CO₂ by the end of the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol," said UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer.

The Kyoto Protocol presently requires 35 industrialized countries and the European Community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an average of 5% below 1990 levels in its first commitment period between 2008 and 2012.

Yvo de Boer drew a parallel to the Kyoto Protocol's clean development mechanism (CDM), which permits industrialized countries to invest in sustainable development projects in developing countries, and thereby generate tradable emission credits.

"The CDM got off to a great start last year. We expect JI to be similarly successful. While smaller in terms of its emissions reduction potential, it is an equivalent to the CDM with regard to cooperation among countries that have targets under the Kyoto Protocol and a credible alternative to the much-feared 'hot air'."

'Hot air' refers to the concern that some countries will have excess emission allowances under the Kyoto Protocol without undertaking specific efforts to reduce emissions and that they could then flood the carbon market by selling them at lower price, reducing the incentive for other countries to cut emissions.

The chair of the UNFCCC's JI Supervisory Committee (JISC), Daniela Stoycheva, said that her Committee would ensure the environmental integrity of the projects.

"We will ensure that only those projects are verified that would not have come about without the Kyoto mechanism being in place," she said.

The first JI projects, ranging from wind farms to forestry projects, are expected to begin undergoing the UNFCCC approval process in the run-up to and during the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference in Nairobi (6 to 17 November 2006).

EU Prices Fall as Summer Ends

Recent trading has seen significant softening of the price yielding a five month low in prices.



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