

## THE CLIMATE REGISTRY

This year is expected to be an active time for climate change activity on national, regional and local levels. The Obama administration is set to chart a course for a federal cap-and-trade system while state and regional mandatory reporting programs continue development. To educate its members and others on current climate change initiatives, The Climate Registry hosted regional Climate Policy Forums in several cities across the nation, including Boston, Tampa and Denver. Each Climate Policy Forum presented an exceptional gathering of panelists and speakers to discuss the harmonization of state and regional climate regulation with national and international policy proposals. To provide an interactive element, the forums also provided an opportunity for all attendees to discuss climate policy from regional perspectives.

The Northeast Climate Policy Forum held in Boston, MA, featured an unprecedented gathering of commissioners from Northeastern states, including Massachusetts, Vermont, Maine, Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. Responding to the state perspectives were business and environment stakeholders from Covanta Energy, Conservation Law Foundation, NESCAUM, Ecology & Environment and Environment Northeast.

The Southeast Climate Policy Forum held in Tampa, FL, featured an exciting discussion among top executives of WRI, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, Shell, Point Carbon, The Climate Group, the Center for Climate Strategies, among many business leaders. Directors from Georgia, Alabama, Kentucky, Virginia, South Carolina and Oklahoma spoke about their climate plans and emissions forecasts over time.

The Western Climate Policy Forum in Denver, CO, attracted the largest crowd in the series to date, with close to 200 individuals in attendance. Government leaders from California, Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, Wyoming and British Columbia spoke of their action plans for addressing climate change, what sectors their regulations are targeting, and the role of the Western Climate Initiative (WCI) in federal climate policy actions. Governor Bill Ritter of Colorado provided keynote remarks about Colorado's New Energy Economy with its significant focus on clean, renewable and sustainable sources of energy, with investment into both the infrastructure and the education needed to green the Colorado workforce. William Becker, Executive Director of the Presidential Climate Action Project, provided an engaging luncheon keynote address about the necessary actions that our president must embrace in order to create a new era of environmental responsibility and stewardship powered by carbon-free and renewable resources.

While the Climate Policy Forums provided a focused regional approach to climate policy within the framework of national and international policy developments, The Climate Registry staff has also been actively participating in discussions to address climate change on the federal level.

The Climate Registry was invited to testify before the U.S. House of Representative's Committee on Science and Technology's Subcommittee on Energy and Environment in Washington, DC. On Tuesday, February 24, Jill Gravender, The Climate Registry's Vice President of Policy, testified for The Registry. In her testimony, Jill explained The Registry's programs and discussed challenges and opportunities to improve the accuracy of greenhouse gas reporting. To read The Registry's testimony, please visit

our website at [www.theclimateregistry.org](http://www.theclimateregistry.org). The Registry will continue to remain active in informing relevant state, regional and federal climate change policy issues, including the forthcoming release of U.S. EPA's mandatory rule for greenhouse gas reporting.

The Climate Registry is also pleased to welcome many new and diverse Members, who have all pledged to report their emissions to The Registry using the most rigorous, comprehensive standards available. New Members include the City of San Jose, the City of Seattle, Veterans Affairs Medical Center West LA, US Power Generating Company, Kaiser Permanente, San Diego Gas and Electric, Wal-Mart, Union of Concerned Scientists, Renewable Choice Energy, Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems and California Department of Finance. As of February 2009, The Climate Registry had 325 total Members in North America.

Contributing to the organization's growth, two new states – Kentucky and West Virginia – joined The Climate Registry Board of Directors. The Board is now composed of 41 US states, Washington DC, 12 of the 13 Canadian provinces and territories, six Mexican states and four Native Sovereign Nations. At its meeting in January, the Board unanimously voted to adopt an official position on federal reporting programs. The position makes a strong statement about how North American jurisdictions want federal reporting programs to be developed. The position states the following:

Specifically, The Climate Registry Board of Directors strongly endorses that any federal GHG reporting and regulatory program in North America should partner with The Climate Registry as a cost effective central repository or clearinghouse for reporting and/or tracking GHG data.

At a minimum, every federal GHG reporting program must:

- 1) utilize GHG calculation and accounting methodologies that are consistent with The Climate Registry's standards
- 2) allow states, provinces and Native Sovereign Nations to collect data for federal program requirements
- 3) maintain state, provincial, and sovereign nations' ability to require reporting to their respective jurisdictions or directly to The Registry, for emissions reporting that is above or beyond, but not inconsistent with, federal requirements

To learn more about The Climate Registry, please visit <http://www.theclimateregistry.org>.