

Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Opportunities for the 21st Century



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OVERVIEW

Due to the widespread burning of fossil fuels, an accumulation of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the Earth's atmosphere has resulted in global climate change or what is more commonly known as global warming.

In recent years, new information about the effects of global warming has compelled world leaders to enact legislation aimed at limiting the amount of GHGs emitted each year. Prominent among these initiatives are the Kyoto Protocol and emerging state-level legislation in the United States (e.g., California's Global Warming Solutions Act and the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative for the Northeast states). In addition to outlining the provisions for GHG emissions reduction, these initiatives provide organizations with greater incentive to develop GHG emissions inventories and explore opportunities to sell emissions credits.

THE BOTTOM LINE

The benefits of taking a proactive approach to reducing your company's GHG emissions are far reaching and can have beneficial economic, environmental, and social impacts on your company's performance, while helping to mitigate the problem of global warming.

O'Brien & Gere has the knowledge and technical expertise needed to provide your company with prudent management of its greenhouse gases, and to lead you in developing risk management strategies, while saving you valuable time and money.

O'BRIEN & GERE CAPABILITIES

O'Brien & Gere can facilitate management of your GHG emissions by:

- Educating your decision-makers on the opportunities and risks of GHG emissions
- Developing a GHG emissions inventory
- Qualifying and quantifying baseline GHG emissions
- Assisting in baseline emissions registration with state and national registries
- Monitoring and verifying GHG reductions
- Identifying, evaluating, and implementing reduction projects
- Providing total project support from design to implementation
- Maximizing your investment and return with reduction credits

THE PROCESS

Initiate Program

Obtain senior management commitment to GHG program based on business goals provided by the GHG inventory:

- Managing GHG risks
- Public reporting and participation in voluntary GHG programs
- Participating in mandatory programs
- Participating in GHG markets
- Obtaining recognition for early voluntary action

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Establish Inventory

- Define organizational and operational boundaries
- Collect data and emission factors
- Develop baseline

Design

- Set absolute or intensity-based emission reduction goals
- Design and implement emission reduction projects
- Track emissions over time

Third Party Verification

- Define scope of verification
- Assess risk of material discrepancies

Report/Communicate

- Describe inventory boundary, methodologies, and results
- Ensure completeness, consistency, accuracy, and transparency of reporting
- Develop business metric ratio indicators

ENERGY AUDITS

The price volatility and long-term sustainability of foreign oil imports is at an historic high. These uncertainties have resulted in gradual increases in energy costs. Thus, it is now more important than ever for companies to be efficient with their energy usage.

Energy audits are easily incorporated into your GHG emissions management plan. O'Brien & Gere audit professionals have the capability to identify potential cost savings in a variety of systems, including electrical, mechanical, lighting, and maintenance.

Project-based, a typical O'Brien & Gere audit includes the following:

- Preliminary data collection of applicable systems
- Evaluation of each system's operational condition
- Analysis of economic alternatives
- Preparation of an energy audit report

With an established history of solving the most intricate air quality problems, O'Brien & Gere is well qualified to assist clients who desire a proactive approach in meeting the engineering, environmental, and regulatory considerations involved with minimizing GHG emissions.

