



Issue Brief: Green Jobs Training Promoting Accountability in Carbon Markets

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The Greenhouse Gas Management Institute was founded to develop the essential human capital that will ensure that data underpinning GHG mitigation projects, carbon markets and domestic or international policies are both effective and credible.

Introduction

Greenhouse gas (GHG) accounting, auditing and management experts will be crucial to support existing and future cap-and-trade policies and GHG markets. Although an increasing number of municipalities, corporations, governments and institutions are pursuing policies to address climate change, there are simply not enough trained or certified professionals with the required skills and experience in GHG measurement methodologies, GHG auditing, and other GHG management responsibilities. As Congress considers future opportunities to stimulate the economy and promote green jobs, providing support for training a new class of GHG professionals should be a top priority. This will not only create green jobs, it will also prepare the U.S. for pending cap-and-trade legislation, drive innovation and entrepreneurship, safeguard GHG markets from incompetency and fraud, and ensure that we as a country have reliable metrics to make sure we are on track to stabilize and reverse the impacts of climate change.

This issue brief outlines the rationale for supporting training in GHG measurement methods as a key element of a comprehensive Green Jobs program.

Promote Accountability in Cap and Trade & GHG Markets

Between 2007 and 2008 the global carbon markets doubled to \$120 billion¹ the United States alone is expected to have a compliance carbon market worth \$2 or 3 trillion by 2015.² While creating and managing a market of such enormous value has clear benefits to the US economy, it also creates the potential for market manipulation and fraud if transparency is lacking. According to a study undertaken by the GHGMI and Sequence Staffing, over 80% of respondents³ believe that the GHG markets could suffer serious scandals without proper accounting in place. Furthermore, because the success or failure of this market is directly related to climate change, the need for market accountability based on reliable data is all the more urgent. It is therefore essential to provide training for a new class of carbon accountants and managers as markets for GHGs are created, to promote their utmost credibility and efficacy.

¹ Ecosystem Market and New Carbon Finance. "Fortifying the Foundation: State of the Voluntary Carbon Markets 2009." May 2009.

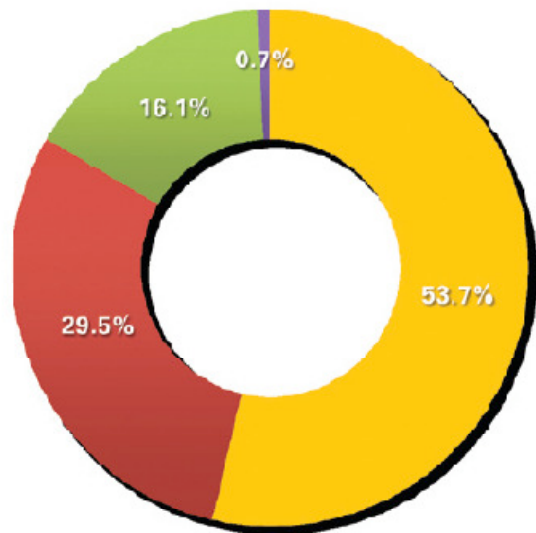
² Point Carbon. "2007 Carbon Market in Review." January 2008.

³ 2009 Greenhouse Gas and Climate Change Workforce Needs Assessment Survey. Survey of 719 respondents from private, public and non-profit sectors.

<http://www.ghginstitute.org/downloadables/Reports/2009survey.pdf>



What do you think is the risk that carbon markets will suffer from problems similar to those symbolized by the Enron, WorldCom and Tyco accounting scandals?



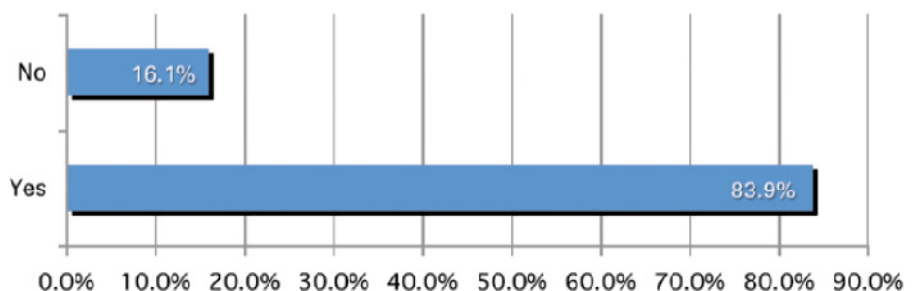
- High Risk
- Moderate Risk
- Low Risk
- No Risk

Over 80% of people surveyed by the Institute believe that there is currently a shortage of qualified GHG staff and experts, while the same number expected carbon markets to at least double.

Create Green Jobs in Greenhouse Gas Accounting, Auditing and Management

As opportunities for green jobs grow, education and training opportunities must keep pace. Furthermore, these training opportunities must be made available to all, particularly those most in need, such as workers who may be impacted by the current economic downturn, workers transitioning out of industries impacted by climate and energy policies, veterans and service-people, and unemployed or low income persons. Greenhouse gas accounting, auditing and management positions are currently highly sought, well paying “green jobs,” and there is high demand from employers for people with these skills. However, over 80% of people surveyed by GHGMI believe that there is currently a shortage of qualified GHG staff and experts, while the same number expected carbon markets to at least double.

Would you say there is currently a shortage of qualified GHG staff and experts to undertake your current needs and planned initiatives?



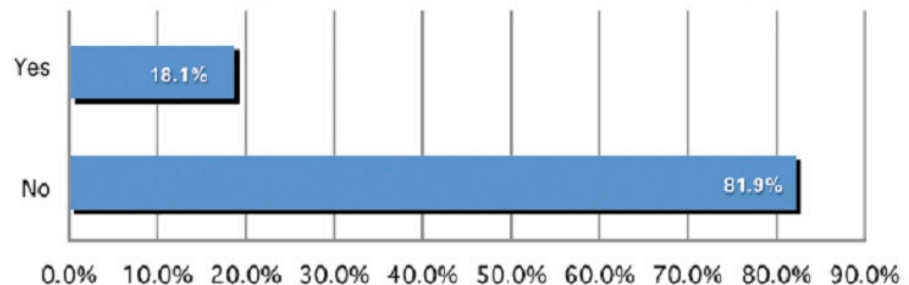


Support Reliable Ways to Track Our Progress on Tackling Climate Change

What gets measured gets done, and nowhere is this truer than in the arena of tackling climate change effectively. In the European Union's Emission Trading Scheme (EU ETS) Phase I (2005-2007), too many permits to pollute (i.e., emission allowances) were issued, and while a number of explanations have been offered, it is increasingly clear that the predominant cause was the quality of the data used to decide how many tradable permits should be issued. The United States and the world cannot afford to have such accounting mistakes undermine future cap-and-trade programs, therefore, it is crucial that training programs help create a new class of carbon accountants to ensure the generation of reliable and credible GHG data.

One of the best ways to further promote this stimulus from the bottom up is to provide funding for educational opportunities and training that will not only prepare Americans for new skilled domestic jobs, but also promote a new "green" sector in the U.S. economy that currently exists almost exclusively in Europe.

Do you think our educational universities and institutions are adequately training new graduates with greenhouse gas, accounting and management skills?



Stimulate our Struggling Economy

Congress has been hard at work to pass legislation that will help stimulate our struggling economy. One of the best ways to further promote this stimulus from the bottom up is to provide funding for educational opportunities and training that will not only prepare Americans for new skilled domestic jobs, but also promote a new "green" sector in the U.S. economy that currently exists almost exclusively in Europe. Not only will this promote economic growth, but it will also help the U.S. prepare for the inevitable development of compliance carbon markets, and these markets in turn will promote further economic benefit, creating a positive feedback loop of economic stimulus.



About the Greenhouse Gas Management Institute

The success of any effort to address climate change relies on the availability of highly skilled and qualified professionals tasked with ensuring the reliability of emissions data for markets as well as other GHG mitigation policies. Just as engineering and financial accounting rely on certified professionals, there is a need for professionals charged with measuring, accounting, auditing, and managing GHG emissions with high levels of competency and ethical standards.

Recognizing the importance of competency and ethics, the Greenhouse Gas Management Institute was established to train and support a global community of qualified professionals to work on GHG measurement, accounting, auditing and management.

The Institute was founded on the belief that the green jobs of the future require an army of skilled professionals tasked with ensuring the data supporting emissions trading markets and other GHG policies are reliable and transparent.

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Curriculum

The Greenhouse Gas Management Institute, a registered nonprofit organization, was founded in 2007 by ClimateCHECK and the Greenhouse Gas Experts Network with the support of Govida e-Learning. The Institute hosts a robust climate change course catalogue with a specific focus on the technical and practical aspects of GHG accounting, verification and management.

The Institute maintains a core faculty of world-class GHG experts, and has been the benefactor of industry-leading course development partnerships with top climate organizations including the World Resources Institute, the Carbon Disclosure Project, Point Carbon, the World Bank and ICF International.

In the interest of reaching a diverse global audience, Institute curriculum is primarily delivered online by means of instructed e-learning courses. The Institute also offers blended learning options to complement online instruction, featuring an increasing number of specialized onsite simulation workshops around the world.

Further expanding the diversity of its content delivery options, in September 2009 the Institute commenced a course partnership with the Harvard University Extension School. The Institute continues to grow its curriculum and delivery options through course development collaborations, delivery partnerships and translation of course content into different languages.

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In keeping with its mission, the Institute devotes significant institutional resources to its financial aid program, which offers partial and full scholarships to qualified applicants from developing countries and those working for non-profit organizations.

Program Support

In addition to its publicly available curriculum, the Institute works directly with leading climate change institutions in support of back-end training, accreditation and capacity building programs. Specifically, the Institute is host to:

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- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Experts Review Training Programme – this program trains the international experts working under the auspices of the UNFCCC to review the national GHG inventories of Parties to the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol.
- Verification training for the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) – this program trains independent verifiers under RGGI, a regional initiative of ten eastern US states.
- UNFCCC Joint Implementation Accreditation Panel (JI-AP) – this program trains the technical panel responsible for reviewing the accreditation of applicant independent entities to Joint Implementation among Annex I Parties of the Kyoto Protocol.
- World Bank Clean Development Mechanism/Joint Implementation training – this program is designed to build the technical capacity of project developers and associated stakeholders who work with the World Bank Carbon Finance Group.

Membership

The Institute, now host to the GHG Experts Network, connects the largest global community of greenhouse gas and climate change experts in the world. In November 2009, the Institute launched a new professional membership program, for the first time allowing technical GHG practitioners to utilize cutting edge collaborative web tools to interact and enhance their professional development.