

What does a GHG inventory require of my organization?

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The cost of an inventory in your organization depends upon:

- The complexity of your organization's emissions sources
- The current state of your information database regarding your use of electricity and fossil fuels
- The degree of difficulty of the inventory method you choose.

Important additional trends to consider

- In the medium term (3-5 years) and the long term (10 - 30 years), the cost of using fossil fuels and electricity both will rise considerably
- There will be policies to encourage the reduction of GHG emissions in the U.S..

For organizations which are responsible for large annual emissions, it will be crucial to understand the larger sources of GHG's **NOW** and to work with industry trade groups to influence the path of federal and state regulations and programs (as is happening in Canada right now).

### ***A few descriptive definitions of inventory types***

The more demanding type of inventory is exemplified by the California

Climate Action Registry (CCAR). This requires:

- A complete inventory (all sources covered)

- An accurate inventory (sources' energy consumption counted accurately, and the GHG emissions from these sources computed accurately)
- A transparent inventory (An outside certifier can open up the notebook and find out where any given emissions number in the inventory came from and how it was computed).

Something less than the CCAR model, which identifies your major emissions sources and estimates the annual emissions for each major source but does not require certification.

A Project inventory which documents GHG emissions for all aspects of a particular operation or end-use in your facilities both before and after a change in operations which reduces emissions.

### ***Some critical unknowns at this time***

What programs and regulations and inventory requirements will the federal government impose, and when? Talk about very large risk factors, this is one!

What effect will future government regulations, etc. have on the competitiveness of your organization?

Just how rapidly will fossil fuel prices and electricity prices rise?

What effect will rising fuel and electricity prices have on competitiveness of your organization?

## ***Some principles for saving on inventory costs***

(1) Whatever your goal for an inventory turns out to be, you will need to define precisely the sources of emissions you want to include.

(2) *Your system for collecting information on fossil fuel purchases by year and electricity purchases by year for the selected facilities is the bedrock of your inventory.*

(3) Store all the records that you use. Certifiers, if you use them, will need to see these records.