

# One Minute Memo™



## New Climate Registry Founded by 31 States

On May 8th, 31 states, a Native American tribe, and two Canadian provinces announced that they have agreed to participate in the first multi-state greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions tracking system to be known as the "Climate Registry." The purpose of the Climate Registry, according to its website, is to develop and manage "a common greenhouse gas emissions reporting system with high integrity that is capable of supporting various greenhouse gas emission reporting and reduction policies for its member states and tribes and reporting entities."<sup>1</sup>

Although no federal GHG reduction requirements currently exist, the Climate Registry will support existing state voluntary, market-based and regulatory GHG emissions reporting programs. The participants range from states that have moved forward with mandatory greenhouse gas reduction programs (such as California, whose Climate Action Registry was the model for the Climate Registry) to those that are in the initial steps of addressing climate change issues (such as Illinois). While states in the east, the midwest and the west have worked together in the past on regional greenhouse gas initiatives, the Climate Registry is the first national effort to measure, track, verify, and publicly report information on greenhouse gas emissions. The founders hope that the Climate Registry

will support a federal GHG initiative when climate change/GHG legislation is eventually enacted.

Even considering the recent rapid pace of GHG initiatives, the Climate Registry had a short gestation period. The Climate Registry was incorporated as a non-profit organization on March 14th, and invitation packages were circulated to all states and tribes on March 16th. States and other entities wishing to be part of the national press announcement on May 8th were required to return a signed Statement of Principles and Goals. Other states and entities wishing to become founding members must return the signed statement of principles and goals by May 18th. The first Board of Directors meeting of the Climate Registry is scheduled for May 23rd in Chicago.

The Climate Registry will begin accepting GHG data by reporting entities in January 2008. Companies, state and local governments, educational institutions, and non-profit groups will be invited to report under the voluntary program. The Climate Registry hopes to encourage reporting of GHG emissions information by facilitating national consistency in reporting of GHG emissions information.

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<sup>1</sup>See [www.theclimateregistry.org](http://www.theclimateregistry.org)

Of the 31 states participating in the Climate Registry, four of the states (California, Illinois, Massachusetts and New York) are states in which Seyfarth Shaw has offices. Attorneys from various Seyfarth Shaw offices and practice areas have come together to form an Alternative Energy and Climate Change Practice Group, the purpose of which is to provide firm clients with multidisciplinary, comprehensive approaches to alternative energy and climate change issues. The Alternative Energy and Climate Change group has been tracking state, regional and federal greenhouse gas initiatives. For more information, please contact a member of the new Alternative Energy and Climate Change Group.

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