

**Green-e Governance Board Meeting  
Thursday June 14, 2007; 9:30 AM Pacific  
&  
Tuesday June 19, 2007; 11:30 AM Pacific**

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Attendees

June 14<sup>th</sup>:

Doug DeNio, Board Chair  
Lori Bird, National Renewable Energy Laboratory  
Audrey Chang, Natural Resources Defense Council  
Matt Freedman, The Utility Regulatory Network  
Jan Hamrin, Center for Resource Solutions  
Jan Smutny Jones, Independent Energy Producers Association  
Rita Kilpatrick, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy  
Natalie McIntire, Renewable Northwest Project  
Erin Meezan, Interface, Inc.  
Michael Vickerman, RENEW Wisconsin  
Virgil Welch, Environmental Defense  
Rick Weston, Regulatory Assistance Project  
Michael Brown, Santee Cooper – UGPAC Chair  
Rob Harmon, Bonneville Environmental Foundation – PMAC Chair

June 19<sup>th</sup>:

Doug DeNio, Board Chair  
Lori Bird, Renewable Energy Laboratory  
Audrey Chang, NRDC  
Matt Freedman, The Utility Regulatory Network  
Jan Hamrin, Center for Resource Solutions  
Rita Kilpatrick, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy  
Jan Smutney-Jones, Independent Energy Producers Association  
Natalie McIntire and Jessie Jenkins, Renewable Northwest Project – also served as the proxy vote for Susan Innis, Western Resource Advocates  
Mike Vickerman, RENEW Wisconsin  
Michael Brown, Santee Cooper – UGPAC Chair  
Angus Duncan, Bonneville Environmental Foundation; for Rob Harmon, Bonneville Environmental Foundation – PMAC Chair

CRS Staff: Jennifer Martin, Lars Kvale, Cathy Fogel, Alex Pennock, Rachael Canapa, Dan Lieberman

**1-4. Introduction of New Chair Doug DeNio, CRS Board Member,  
Roll Call and Determination of Quorum**

Doug DeNio is introduced as new Green-e Governance Board Chair by CRS staff; The Chair of the Green-e Board is a representative of the CRS Board.

a. Mr. DeNio's bio was distributed before the call.

Liam Salter of World Wildlife Fund is announced as new Green-e Board member by CRS staff. Mr. Salter was unable to attend the call.

Meeting agenda reviewed and adopted.

Previous Green-e Board meeting's minutes were approved.

## **5. Briefing on GHG Standard**

CRS staff members briefed the Green-e Board on the development of the Green-e Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Product Certification Program.

### a. Context for Standard and Program

Green-e was approached by several parties to provide a consumer protection program for offset sellers.

Because Green-e RECs were already being used by some marketers as the basis of claims related to GHG reductions, Green-e has an interest in clarifying offset claims and addressing consumer protection issues in this market.

Green-e was already well-positioned in the marketplace to develop such a standard.

There was a need in the marketplace to come to consensus on requirements for voluntary offsets and codify them.

### b. GHG Advisory Group and Stakeholder Comment Period

Green-e Advisory Group (Advisory Group) was established a year ago with the goal of providing guidance to Green-e staff in developing a consumer protection program for the voluntary GHG market.

The group held 10 meetings prior to issuing a first draft standard.

The standard was developed by CRS staff and vetted through the Advisory Group prior to its first release for stakeholder review in December 2006.

The advisory group was consulted as staff developed responses to stakeholder comments prior to second public stakeholder comment period, and also in preparation of the final standard before the Board at this meeting.

### c. Program Launch and Green-e GHG Subcommittee

Once the Board comes to agreement, CRS will ask potential partner organizations to demonstrate their compliance with the Standard.

CRS will develop supporting documents, such as partner program application materials, the program Code of Conduct and Disclosure Requirements, contracts, and verification materials.

A subcommittee of the Board will need to be constituted to review and approve each partner program.

CRS staff will ultimately establish a Marketers Advisory Committee of marketers who have certified products under the standard.

CRS staff also plans to develop a protocol that describes when and if Green-e will certify GHG reductions from US renewable electricity facilities.

## **6. Review of the Standard**

CRS presented the GHG Standard to the board. The focus of this presentation was the following principles that apply to potential partner programs (programs that will certify eligible GHG reductions).

### a. Principles of the GHG Standard that apply to partner programs:

Transparency & Governance – Procedures for the development of the GHG Program requirements invite broad participation by interested parties, are transparent and require public availability of information.

Balance & Impartiality – GHG Program must have rules and procedures to avoid conflict of interest, and must have dispute resolution procedures.

Environmental Integrity – GHG Program requirements ensure real, verifiable, permanent and enforceable GHG emission reductions.

Validity of Emission Reductions – GHG Programs ensure the validity of GHG emission reductions with respect to the program requirements.

Disclosure and No Double Counting – The GHG Program includes measures to require disclosure and prevent double counting.

*Meeting was adjourned, and continued on June 19 at 11:30 am PDT.*

## **6. Review of the Standard (cont.) Tuesday, June 19, 2007**

CRS staff continued to review the GHG Standard for the Green-e Board, picking up at Section G on page 6.

## **7. Board Discussion and Consideration of Standard for Approval**

The Board raised questions relating to specific resource criteria within the GHG Standard, the choice of the 2000 “new” date for facilities, additionality tests, marketing and disclosure of renewables as GHG reductions, REC disaggregation, carbon calculators, the clarity of certain text and word choice in the GHG Standard, and potential consumer confusion regarding ‘cross-branding’ of the Green-e name (between the renewable energy program and GHG program). A summary of key discussion points is given below. After Board discussion, the Board provided guidance to CRS staff to edit portions of the GHG Standard (see final standard as adopted by Board).

### *Eligible resource types*

The discussion of eligible fuel types addressed the fact that certain types of biomass that are eligible for use in Green-e certified renewable energy products are not eligible for use as certified GHG reductions. Likewise, there is a slight difference in the definition of hydroelectric eligibility. Not all RECs that are eligible to be certified under the Green-e

renewable energy program would be eligible to be certified under the GHG certification program.

*Conclusion:* The Board sought clarification on these, and CRS staff revised language based on Board discussion.

#### *RECs as GHG reductions*

The Board raised the question of if by adopting a new standard CRS is retreating from a previous policy position or negatively affecting currently Green-e certified products, since certified Green-e REC buyers can currently make carbon offset claims related to their electricity use. Discussion addressed the growing concern about making REC-related offset claims for Scope 1 emissions, and need for this standard to provide guidance and consumer protection in this area.

*Conclusion:* CRS staff noted this concern and are working to provide the necessary clarity around these issues by developing a Green-e protocol for emission reductions from renewable energy.

#### *Carbon calculator*

There was agreement among the Board on the need for a methodology or calculator for GHG value of RECs that is uniformly adopted.

*Conclusion:* CRS staff indicated that they are in the process of addressing this issue and plan to work with other leading groups in this area, including the work of World Resources Institute and the US Environmental Protection Agency.

#### *Timing test*

The choice of the “new” date for eligible GHG reduction projects as the year 2000 was questioned. CRS staff responded that 2000 is compatible with other existing standards (like the Kyoto Protocol’s CDM).

*Conclusion:* Board agreed with CRS staff rationale, and if some facilities built before 2000 are additional, these facilities may petition supply RECs for a Green-e certified GHG reduction product on a case-by-case basis.

#### *Performance test*

The issue of a sector-wide performance test as a determinant of additionality was raised, since GHG reduction projects can be built for more reasons than simply selling GHG reductions.

*Conclusion:* The Board provided language to clarify the performance test requirements.

#### *Green-e brand*

Using the Green-e logo for both certified renewable energy products and certified GHG reductions (‘cross-branding’) could be confusing to customers.

*Conclusion:* The Board advised that customer disclosure and marketing materials must be clear.

#### *Fully-aggregated RECs*

The Board was concerned that there was potential for RECs being stripped of their GHG benefit and still being marketed for their environmental benefit. *Conclusion:* Language on fully-aggregated RECs and on net carbon benefit was discussed and clarified. A REC that has its GHG benefit stripped is no longer considered a REC, meaning that a REC cannot be double-sold as both a REC and a GHG reduction.

*Variation between GHG Partner Programs*

The Board was concerned that there may be some variation in the methodologies used by different GHG Partner Programs. This could potentially lead to differences in quality of GHG reductions that are Green-e certified when sold.

*Conclusion:* Through this program CRS staff will work to help eliminate significant variances between Partner Programs.

One Board member had to leave the call early, at which point the majority of the Board was in favor of the Standard, while 2 wanted to continue discussion. After further discussion, the Chair called for a vote.

**Vote:**

For: 8

Against: 1

Abstain: 1

**\*\*Standard approved\*\***

**8. Next Steps and Adjourn**

The Green-e Board will schedule the next meeting for October, 2007.

*Call was adjourned at 1:30 pm PDT.*