

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Registry in Israel

Goals, Methods and Reporting Process

Background

Israel, a non-annex 1 country, adopted the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1996, and ratified the Kyoto protocol in 2004. In December 2009, at the Climate Summit in Copenhagen, Israeli president, Mr. Shimon Peres, has declared that “by 2020 the government of Israel intends to make best efforts to reduce its CO₂ emissions by 20% compared to a business-as-usual scenario.”

Consequently, it is expected that reduction goals will be set and policy measures will be implemented in order to meet them. In addition, by 2013 (post Kyoto) new international agreements requiring all countries to adopt national action plans on climate change are expected. These agreements will require all countries to report annually to the UN about their emission inventory and the progress towards achieving their declared goals.



Voluntary registry in Israel

Israel is currently on the threshold of setting national goals for greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions and devising regulations and legislation that will grant Ministries the authority required for achieving these goals. The national voluntary registry for reporting and registering GHG emissions will enable monitoring the progress towards reaching these goals.

The registry will serve several needs:

For reporting entities - participating in the reporting process will be a learning tool for quantifying GHG emissions, internalizing and streamlining required procedures, emissions reduction, managing business risks associated with GHG emissions and identifying reduction opportunities. It will improve organizations public image regarding sustainability and commitment to the community through transparency and public reporting. It will also develop understanding of the emissions quantifying process in preparation for the anticipated mandatory emission reporting and reduction scheme. Participation will also enhance the capacity of a business entity to function within the global GHG trading markets and document its record of past emission reductions in lieu of future requirements.

For the government – reported data will offer a future tool for better insight into emission sources and means for their reduction within the framework of newly developed policy measures.

For the public – exposure of relevant data through public reports will enable a better understanding of the issue, will build heightened awareness and will enhance personal commitment and action.

The process of designing the Israeli registry

All processes and reporting methods for the Israeli registry were defined by a team from the Ministry of Environmental Protection and the Samuel Neaman Institute at the Technion in cooperation with a large team of stakeholders, including: Israel Electric Corporation; Manufacturers Association of Israel, Egged and Dan (public transportation cooperatives) Neshet Cement Co., Adam Teva v'Din (environmental NGO), Forum 15 (18 largest municipalities in Israel), Central Bureau of Statistics, Israel Defense Forces, Ministry of National Infrastructures, Israeli Institute of Energy and Environment and Ministry of Agriculture. The goal of the team was to establish a registry protocol with reporting instructions to guide organizations and companies from all business sectors in reporting their GHG emissions.

The Israeli protocol was developed with full attention to various stakeholders needs and in accordance with agreements and understandings already achieved regarding similar protocols around the world. This registry approach encourages balanced and accurate reporting while meeting international standards.

The Israeli registry is predicated upon the principle of companies and organizations joining voluntarily, however, upon joining all entities are obliged to adopt and follow the guidelines prescribed within the registry protocol.

The operating protocol and reporting instructions

The registry gives reporting companies a starting point for characterizing, quantifying and annual reporting of GHG emissions that reflect companies' operations and activities. The methods of quantification also establish a clear and agreed upon baseline for future calculation of emissions and emission reductions.

The protocol contains eight chapters that include background for each one of the subjects discussed as well as clear instructions for registering and reporting emissions.

The recommended methods of quantifications are based on engineering and operational data that are normally available to the company and do not require, at this time, measurement or monitoring of emitted GHG.

For example, for direct emissions from fuel combustion the required data would be the quantities of the various fuels the company consumed in the reporting year and the applicable emission factor for each fuel type.

For indirect emissions resulting from electricity consumption the required data would be the amount of electricity consumed and the relevant emission factor, supplied by the Israel Electric Corporation or by a private electricity provider.

The document includes appendixes with detailed tables of emission factors needed for emission calculations. Also included are general instructions regarding greenhouse gasses that might be emitted from each sector, and a check-list enabling easy follow up on all the data needed for completing the report.

To illustrate the methods used the document includes several sample calculations as well as decision points that should be considered by the reporting company when creating the report.

Stages for the registry implementation in Israel

The main goal of the registry's implementation is to provide the participating parties with the tools and methods needed for data collection, quantification of GHG emissions, their aggregation and public reporting by the various industry sectors. In order to allow for vetting of the process and examination of the methods it has been agreed to define the first reporting year (2010) as a "pilot" year during which the process will be thoroughly tested.

During the 2010 pilot year, the following steps would take place:

- By the end of the 1st quarter of 2010 a 'promotion kit' consisting of a Registry Flyer, a 'Declaration of Intent' form and a CD containing the final protocol document will be available for distribution.
- During the first half of 2010 a training manual will be developed, and an Excel Workbook will be produced for collection and reporting of data.
- By the end of May 2010 all information regarding joining the registry and information pertaining to training and technical support will be published at the Ministry of Environmental Protection website.
- The website will also provide a link to an internet helpdesk which will allow for posting questions and general answers will be periodically posted on the site.
- On June 2nd 2010 a training workshop will be held for all interested companies to present and discuss the registry's implementation methods and to provide specific examples regarding the collection and processing of data.
- Starting on July 1st 2010 organizations will be able to formally start joining the Israeli registry.
- By around October 2010 a second training workshop will be held to further review reporting spreadsheets..

According to the protocol, first reports pertaining to 2010 emissions will be submitted to the reporting center by June 30th, 2011. Lessons learned from the protocol implementation during the first "pilot" year will be used as the basis for further updates and improvements.

