

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH &amp; SAFETY SYMPOSIUM

# Carbon-caring companies are ahead of curve

## Nationwide CO<sub>2</sub> mandates aren't far off, officials predict

By Jim Johnson

CINCINNATI — Companies would serve themselves well by getting a handle on their carbon footprint now because it's only a matter of time before the country mandates a carbon dioxide emission program.

That was one view coming out of an exploration of the subject at an Environmental, Health & Safety Symposium conducted March 26-27 in Cincinnati.

There's plenty of talk these days in legislative corridors about how to best tackle the issue of greenhouse gases.

And with carbon dioxide making up an estimated 80 to 90 percent of all man-made GHG emissions these days, the focus is squarely on controlling carbon.

"There's a lot of momentum building both for voluntary programs and mandatory programs," said Paul Dubenetzky, senior vice president of air compliance and energy services for Keramida Environmental Inc. in Indianapolis.

Federal legislation is likely, he said, and that will make CO<sub>2</sub> a pocketbook issue for companies.

A mandatory control program, he said, will definitely influence energy costs, Dubenetzky said.

He suggested that companies participate in a voluntary climate change program so companies will be able to hit the ground running if they face mandatory participation later.

Manuel Oliva does just that as environmental engineer for the Climate Leaders program at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Climate Leaders is a voluntary greenhouse gas reporting and reduction program that has about 165 participating companies.

Companies must develop a carbon inventory, create a management plan and then establish an aggressive, long-term greenhouse gas emission reduction goal.

"We require anybody who enters our program to set aggressive corporatewide GHG reduction goals" for a 5-to-10-year period, Oliva said.

"We're trying to create a program that gives you not only a place to put your data and help you get a handle on your greenhouse gas emissions, but we're trying to [create] a program that has credibility, and that's the most important thing to us," Oliva said.

Climate Leaders will help com-

panies address the issue.

There are also business opportunities to be had in the growing interest in climate change, he said.

And that's a fact not lost on the folks at Cummins Inc., the Columbus, Ind.-based maker of diesel engines.

Cummins faces the greenhouse gas issue on both sides of the fence, both on the manufacturing

side and through the consumer use of the diesel engines that the company makes.

Cummins initially looked at its emissions from 2000 and 2005 and developed a carbon inventory and found it had already achieved a 2.3 percent absolute reduction during that time. The company then studied what it considered feasible when setting a goal for

2005 to 2010.

The result was the creation of a 25 percent sales-adjusted intensity reduction goal on a worldwide basis.

Cummins expects it will be able to save about \$30 million a year by cutting energy use and reducing greenhouse gas emis-



Resnik

sions in the process.

"It's a good way to communicate it to the organization," said Alan Resnik, director of corporate environmental management for Cummins. "It's good for the business, this work that we're taking on."

The symposium was organized by the Manufacturers' Education Council. ■

Contact Waste News senior reporter Jim Johnson at (937) 964-1289 or [jjjohnson@crain.com](mailto:jjjohnson@crain.com)



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panies with assistance in meeting their reduction goals and help publicize reduction stories.

Oliva said there is plenty of interest these days in climate change issues, including shareholder pressure on companies to



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