



## E Source Carbon Management

Helping you solve your greenhouse gas emissions challenges.

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### Greenhouse Gas Inventory Development

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In response to pressures from investor groups, nonprofits such as the Carbon Disclosure Project, large retailers such as Walmart, and other organizations, more and more companies are developing corporate greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories and are voluntarily reporting their emissions. In addition, regulations are in place or under development to require some companies to report their GHG emissions to federal or state regulators. For large emitters, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) mandatory GHG reporting rule went into effect in early 2010. Many observers believe that most ordinary companies, not just large GHG emitters, will come under mandatory reporting rules in the coming years.

If you haven't already done so, now is the time to develop a corporate GHG emissions inventory and data management system and to consider your climate change and sustainability business strategy.

**Developing a GHG inventory is an important first step.** Understanding your current GHG emissions profile provides the basis for weighing your strategic options and creating opportunities to enhance your business image and competitiveness. Completing a GHG inventory will allow your company to:

- Estimate financial risks under future state, regional, or national climate change policies and regulations
- Report emissions (and risks) to shareholders
- Identify opportunities to reduce emissions
- Evaluate whether to join a voluntary climate change program or emissions registry

#### **Download Free White Paper: GHG Inventories 101**

Businesses that have calculated and reported their GHG emissions can begin:

- Using independent third-party validation (auditing) of their inventories
- Determining GHG emissions throughout their supply chains
- Bringing other sustainability metrics (for example, waste and water) into the conversation
- Calculating the GHG footprints of individual products
- Evaluating enterprise-level software packages for managing GHGs, energy, and sustainability

#### **Download Free White Paper: Third-Party Verification of Greenhouse Gas Inventories**

E Source can help you develop a comprehensive GHG inventory, provide your organization with a long-term inventory management plan, and equip you with the tools to manage the inventory process going forward.

With our assistance, you'll be able to:

- Clarify your organizational boundaries (for example, which emissions are the responsibility of your company and which are not)
- Have confidence that, thanks to our rigorous preinventory validation process, your baseline data are accurate
- Know your total emissions by facility and emission source
- Uncover any trends, assess emissions intensity, and identify opportunities for emissions reductions
- Become equipped with a detailed road map (or Inventory Management Plan [IMP]) for updating and maintaining your inventory for years into the future

The IMP documents data sources, emissions quantification methods, and emission factors. It identifies key staff roles and responsibilities for managing the process and updating the inventory in future years as well as providing preparation for possible third-party verification of the inventory.

**GHG data management is a key to long-term success.** After completing a GHG inventory for your company's operations, E Source can help you assemble data collection and management systems to make your annual inventory updating process as smooth and efficient as possible. In addition, if it makes sense for your company we can help you select an appropriate web-based or enterprise software tool and help you upload your energy and emissions data. To complement the software tool, we can also help you create a system to manage the data collection process and annual inventory reports.

**Download Free White Paper: Setting a GHG Reduction Goal**

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## GHG Accounting Principles

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Before beginning an inventory at any level, it is helpful to understand some basic principles of inventories. These principles provide the basis for tracking your company's GHG emissions from year to year and for comparing emissions totals among different companies. Currently, the standard international protocol for corporate greenhouse gas inventories is the World Resources Institute's GHG Protocol. The GHG Protocol explains five principles for a high-quality inventory:

- *Relevance*—the inventory includes the appropriate facilities and types of emissions sources to meet the company's goals.
- *Completeness*—an adequate percentage of the company's total facilities and emissions sources have been included in the inventory.
- *Consistency*—the same facilities, emissions sources, and emissions quantification methods are used from year to year.
- *Accuracy*—using accepted quantification methods and emissions factors as well as managing data quality.
- *Transparency*—the important boundary decisions, data sources, and quantification methods are well documented.

The GHG Protocol is used as the basis for many programs, including the EPA Climate Leaders program and the California Climate Action Registry. In addition, the European Union's Emissions Trading Scheme uses parts of the GHG Protocol.

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## Voluntary Programs and GHG Reporting Options

Hundreds of U.S. companies are leveraging voluntary climate change programs to help develop cost-effective plans for responding to future GHG regulations. Many companies in these programs are taking moderate steps to reduce their GHG emissions, and some are setting aggressive emissions-reduction goals and positioning themselves as leaders. Businesses are joining these programs for a variety of reasons, ranging from pressure by investors and environmental groups to a desire for a stronger voice in shaping climate change policy.

Based on the results of the inventory and your company's situation, we can help you evaluate the costs and benefits of reporting emissions to the Carbon Disclosure Project, the Climate Registry, or a different reporting portal.

### [Download Free White Paper: Voluntary Climate Change Programs](#)

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## Climate Change Briefings and Strategy Consulting

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Our experts are available to provide half- or full-day on-site customized workshops with your company's management team on climate-related business issues. Available modules for presentations and facilitated discussions include:

- Regulatory and policy developments and implications
- GHG trading markets
- Voluntary climate change programs
- The inventory and data process
- Stakeholder relations
- Strategic business options

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## Why Choose E Source?

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E Source experts have the knowledge and experience to help you answer these questions and navigate this new challenge. Over the past eight years, E Source has assisted more than 100 companies of all types with GHG emission inventories, management plans, reduction goals, and other strategic issues. We have provided technical support to the [EPA Climate Leaders](#) program since its inception in 2002. Our GHG knowledge and experience enable us to recommend best practice GHG inventory management approaches and risk-mitigation strategies.

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## For Additional Information

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[Download Carbon Management brochure \(PDF\)](#)

For more information about greenhouse gas consulting, [contact us](#).  
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