

Wisconsin Voluntary Emission Reduction Registry

Enabling Legislation

In Wisconsin, [legislation](#) directing the WI Department of Natural Resources to create a voluntary Air Pollutant Registry was introduced and has been signed into law as Wisconsin ACT 195. Act 195 went into effect on June 1, 2000.

Wisconsin ACT 195 requires the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to establish and operate a system for registering reductions in emissions of GHGs (made after January 1, 1991), fine particulate matter, mercury and other air contaminants if the reductions are made before law requires them. The Act allows the department to accommodate the registration of carbon sequestration from the creation or preservation of carbon reserves and the avoided emissions resulting from energy efficiency measures and from the use of renewable energy sources. Finally, the Act specifically directs the department to promulgate rules for the system as consistent as possible with other state, federal and international programs designed to reduce emissions of GHGs.

Full Text

Wisconsin ACT 195

Rules and Regulations

The Department of Natural Resources is charged with drafting the rules to implement the emissions reduction registry in Wisconsin.

Scope of the Registry

The scope of the Wisconsin registry is much more far reaching than other states in that the registry will permit reporting of emissions reductions in GHGs and air pollution – including NO_x, SO₂, VOC, PM-fine, CO, lead and mercury.

Reporting Entity/ Scope of Accounting System

Anyone who makes a reduction in direct or indirect emissions above threshold amounts and cut-off dates specified is eligible to participate.

The threshold levels are:

GHGs	25 tons per year CO ₂ equivalent
NO _x	1 ton per year
SO ₂	1 ton per year
VOC	1 ton per year
Fine PM	1 ton per year
Carbon monoxide	1 ton per year
Lead and lead compounds	0.5 tons per year
Mercury and mercury compounds	5 pounds per year

Inventory Boundary Issues

The source where the emission reduction occurred must be located in Wisconsin to be eligible and the reduction in emissions is further constrained by time. Eligible reductions in emissions of greenhouse gases must be made after December 31, 1990 and eligible reductions in emissions of air contaminants must be made after December 31, 1993.

The Wisconsin rule places some limits on the reductions that are eligible to be reported. For example, emission reductions that are the result of shifting emissions from one emission unit to another emission unit may not be registered.

Inventory Quality

Emissions and/or emission reductions may be reported for projects, individual facilities, or for all facilities owned or operated in Wisconsin. To register ozone precursor emission reductions, reductions in emissions of nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds and carbon monoxide shall also be reported for the five-month ozone season (May through September) and as tons or pounds per day, averaged over the ozone season. Furthermore, the emission reductions may be reported in terms of tons or pounds per year or in terms of tons or pounds per unit of activity or both. . Rate-based reductions shall be reported as tons or pounds per unit of output.

Quantification Tools

The DNR outlines in its draft rule the quantification protocols that may be used

(a) The following protocols may be used to quantify baselines, emission reductions, avoided emissions, and carbon sequestered:

- 1. Source emission testing performed in accordance with NR 439.07 and 439.075.*
- 2. Continuous emissions monitoring performed in accordance with methods specified in ss. NR 439.09 and 439.095.*
- 3. [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Guidelines for National Emission Inventories, 1996.](#)*Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Guidelines for National Emission Inventories, 1996.**
- 4. [International Performance Measurement and Verification Protocol, IPMVP, 2000.](#)*International Performance Measurement and Verification Protocol, IPMVP, 2000.**
- 5. [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Compilation of Air Pollutant Emission Factors, AP-42, Fifth Edition, January 1, 1995, including Supplements A through G.](#)*U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Compilation of Air Pollutant Emission Factors, Volume I: Stationary, Point, and Area Sources, AP-42, Fifth Edition, January 1, 1995, including Supplements A through G.**
- 6. [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Compilation of Air Pollutant Emission Factors, Volume II: Mobile Sources AP-42,](#)*

Fifth Edition, January 1, 1995, including Supplements A through G.
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Compilation of Air Pollutant Emission Factors, AP-42, Fifth Edition, January 1, 1995, including Supplements A through G.

7. *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Emission Inventory Improvement Program Technical Reports, Volumes 1-10, 1997*
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Emission Inventory Improvement Program Technical Reports, Volumes 1-10, 1997

8. *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, State Workbook: Methodologies for Estimating Greenhouse Gas Emissions, 1995.*

9. *U.S. Department of Energy, North American Energy Monitoring and Verification Protocol (NEMVP).*

10. *Guidelines, Voluntary Reporting of Greenhouse Gases under Section 1605(b) or the Energy Policy Act of 1992, US Department of Energy*

Verification

Registrants must certify that the information submitted to the registry is true, accurate and complete. Registrants may hire a third party to verify registered emissions or emission reductions.

Full Text

Contacts

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Links

[Wisconsin Voluntary Emission Reductions Registry Advisory Committee Web site](#)

Wisconsin ACT 195

