

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003

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HOUSE DRH45017-LD-46C (3/20)

Short Title: NC Climate Action Registry.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Hackney.

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE NORTH CAROLINA CLIMATE ACTION
REGISTRY.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Article 21B of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes is amended
by adding a new section to read:

"§ 143-215.107E. Legislative findings.

(a) The General Assembly makes the following findings:

(1) It is in the best interests of North Carolina, the United States of
America, and the earth as a whole to encourage actions to achieve all
economically beneficial reductions of greenhouse gas emissions from
North Carolina sources.

(2) Mandatory greenhouse gas emissions reductions may be imposed on
North Carolina sources at some future point, and, in view of this, the
State has a responsibility to use its best efforts to ensure that
organizations that voluntarily reduce their emissions receive
appropriate consideration for emissions reductions made prior to the
implementation of any mandatory programs.

(3) The State's tradition of environmental leadership should be recognized
through the establishment of a registry to provide documentation of
those greenhouse gas emissions reductions that are voluntarily
achieved by sources in the State.

(4) The State hereby commits to use its best efforts to ensure that
organizations that establish greenhouse gas emissions baselines and
register emissions results that are verified in accordance with this
section receive appropriate consideration under any future
international, federal, or State regulatory scheme relating to

1 greenhouse gas emissions. The State cannot guarantee that any
2 regulatory regime relating to greenhouse gas emissions will recognize
3 the baselines or reductions recorded in the North Carolina Climate
4 Action Registry.

5 (b) No later than July 1, 2004, the Department shall adopt guidelines to establish
6 the North Carolina Climate Action Registry. Participation in the Registry shall be
7 voluntary. No later than July 1, 2005, the Commission shall adopt rules to expand the
8 Registry. The guidelines and the rules under this subsection shall do all of the
9 following:

- 10 (1) Design programs to establish emissions baselines and to monitor and
11 track greenhouse gas emissions.
- 12 (2) Adopt systems to verify emissions and reductions of emissions.
- 13 (3) Adopt a uniform format for reporting emissions baselines and
14 reductions in order to facilitate their recognition in any future
15 regulatory scheme.
- 16 (4) Maintain a record of all emissions baselines and reductions.

17 (c) The purposes of the North Carolina Climate Action Registry are all of the
18 following:

- 19 (1) To help various entities in the State establish emissions baselines
20 against which any future federal greenhouse gas emission reduction
21 requirements may be applied.
- 22 (2) To encourage voluntary actions to increase energy efficiency and
23 reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- 24 (3) To enable participating entities to record voluntary greenhouse gas
25 emissions reductions made after 1990 in a consistent format that is
26 supported by third-party verification.
- 27 (4) To ensure that sources in the State receive appropriate consideration
28 for verified emissions reductions under any future federal regulatory
29 regime relating to greenhouse gas emissions.
- 30 (5) To recruit broad participation in the process from all economic sectors
31 and regions of the State.
- 32 (6) To recognize, publicize, and promote registrants that make voluntary
33 reductions of emissions.
- 34 (7) To create an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions from all major
35 emission sectors.

36 (d) The Commission shall adopt rules that require facilities that participate in the
37 North Carolina Climate Action Registry and that are significant sources of carbon
38 dioxide and other greenhouse gases to report these emissions by amount.

39 (e) Companies and organizations shall be encouraged to establish emissions
40 reduction goals based on international best practices for specific industries and
41 economic sectors. The Department shall recognize, publicize, and promote participants
42 that commit to monitor their emissions, set emissions reduction targets, establish
43 emissions baselines, and report the quantity of their annual emissions progress.

44 (f) The following definitions apply in this section:

- 1 (1) Greenhouse gas. – Carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide,
2 hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride.
- 3 (2) Greenhouse gas emissions. – Emissions of a greenhouse gas, including
4 all of the following:
- 5 a. Stationary combustion source emissions, which are emitted as a
6 result of combustion of fuels in stationary equipment such as
7 boilers, furnaces, burners, turbines, heaters, incinerators,
8 engines, flares, and other similar sources.
- 9 b. Process emissions, which consist of emissions from chemical or
10 physical processes other than combustion.
- 11 c. Fugitive emissions, which consist of intentional and
12 unintentional emissions from both:
- 13 1. Equipment leaks such as joints, seals, packing, and
14 gaskets.
- 15 2. Piles, pits, cooling towers, and other similar sources.
- 16 d. Mobile source emissions, which are emitted as a result of
17 combustion of fuels in transportation equipment such as
18 automobiles, trucks, trains, airplanes, and vessels."

19 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.