



RGGI Stakeholder Workshop on GHG Offsets

June 25, 2004

**NY PSC, 8th Floor Hearing Room A, One Penn Plaza (West 33rd Street
between 7th and 8th Avenue), New York City**

AGENDA

8:30 – 8:45 **Introduction and overview of workshop: *including summary of past discussions and general definitions (e.g., difference between offsets, set asides, and opt-ins)***

Jonathan Pershing, WRI

8:45 – 10:45 **Panel 1. *Reviewing existing programs***

How do current offsets programs operate? What are the critical issues that practitioners have considered – and how have barriers been overcome?

- Maurits Henkemans, Netherlands Economics Ministry, on Dutch CERUPT/ERUPT Program, UNFCCC JI and CDM and EU program
- Ben Feldman, Natsource
- Mike Burnett, Climate Trust
- Joe Kruger, RFF, on economics and linking to trading programs, including offsets examples from criteria pollutants

Discussion Moderator: Jonathan Pershing, WRI

10:45 – 11:00 **Break**

11:00 – 12:00 **Panel 2. *Developing an Offset Program: Pros and Cons***

What are the advantages and disadvantages of including offsets in RGGI's cap and trade program? What are the tradeoffs that must be addressed in offset programs?

- Dale Bryk, NRDC, on the case for a limited offset program
- Brian Jones, MJB&A, on the case for an expansive offset program

Discussion Moderator: Judi Greenwald, Pew Center on Global Climate Change

12:00 – 1:15 **LUNCH**

1:15 – 4:00 **Panel 3. *Design Issues***

Session to address the HOW and WHAT of offset projects, focusing on the criteria should be for project inclusion. How can offsets be monitored, verified and quantified? How should an offsets program be structured? How should additionality be addressed? What are the opportunities, and what issues and concerns arise, with respect to offsets in specific sectors and with respect to non-CO₂ gases or sinks? What are the administrative requirements? What are the appropriate roles for case by case review, the development of protocols, and selection of approved lists of eligible offset categories?

- Janet Ranganathan, WRI, on GHG-Protocol project module
- Ken Colburn, NESCAUM, on project offsets operation, certification, and administration
- Neil Sampson, The Sampson Group, on agriculture and forestry
- Karl Schultz, Climate Mitigation Works, on non-CO₂ gases

Discussion Moderator: Joe Kruger, RFF

2:45 – 3:00 **Break**

3:00 – 4:00 **Continuation of Panel 3. *Design Issues***

4:00 – 4:30 **Wrap-up**

Judi Greenwald, Pew Center on Global Climate Change