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Canada's Climate Change voluntary challenge & registry inc.

Champion News

The Official Newsletter of the
Voluntary Challenge and Registry (VCR) Inc.



The Australian Greenhouse Challenge Program

The Greenhouse Challenge (GC) is a national program of voluntary agreements between Australian industry and the Commonwealth Government, under which companies/associations commit to limiting their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Launched in October 1995, the program is a joint initiative between the Commonwealth Department of the Environment; the Department of Industry, Science and Tourism; and the Department of Primary Industries and Energy.

The GC Office has been established as a single point of contact with industry, to manage the program on a day-to-day basis. In the last six months alone, it has grown from a staff of 12 to 25, with an annual budget of just over \$6 million (AUS) per year (committed by the Commonwealth for 4 years).



The GC program has three main objectives:

- 1 to emphasize industry's contribution to Australia's national GHG reduction strategies;
- 2 to encourage companies to excel to the highest possible levels of energy efficiency ; and
- 3 to provide recognition to companies that are actively reducing their GHG emissions.

Participating companies/associations are required to demonstrate that they have examined all economically feasible actions to limit their GHG emissions. They must

submit annual reports describing their progress and, if called upon, must provide the necessary information to enable their reports to be evaluated by independent experts.

Companies/associations wishing to join the program must enter into a Cooperative Agreement, which is jointly signed by company Chief Executive Officers and the three Commonwealth Government ministers responsible for the program. These agreements cater to three categories of emitters: **T1**, large industrial companies and associations emitting over 100,000 tonnes of CO₂ E/year; **T2**, medium-sized industrial and commercial companies emitting 20,000 to 100,000 tonnes of CO₂E/year; and **T3 'Allies'**, small companies emitting less than 20,000 tonnes CO₂E/year.

The submission process begins with the envoy of a Letter of Intent to the GC Office. A sector caseworker is then assigned, and the next six steps to completing the Cooperative Agreement are as follows:

- 1 Develop an inventory of emissions based on 1990 or 1995 as a base year.
- 2 Develop an action plan of measures to reduce GHG emissions.
- 3 Forecast the projected emissions to 2000.
- 4 Enlist CEO-level support in signing a cooperative agreement with the Commonwealth (includes agreement to random third party verification of report).
- 5 Develop a system for monitoring emissions.
- 6 Report progress annually to the Commonwealth.

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Thank you!

We would like to extend our thanks to those among you who took the time to fill out our newsletter feedback questionnaire. Your comments were very much appreciated as input for future issues.

And for those of you who have not yet filled out the questionnaire, we invite you to do so!

We welcome your feedback as a means to improve our newsletter.

-The VCR Inc. Team



VCR Inc.

To date, Australia has celebrated the signing of 117 Cooperative Agreements (27 of these with industry associations) between industry and the Commonwealth, with an additional 154 Letters of Intent signed by companies. On November 20, 1997, Australia's Prime Minister, John Howard, set targets for the GC program to sign 200 Cooperative agreements by 2000 with the largest GHG emitters, energy consumers and industry associations. Concurrently, the Commonwealth plans to recruit 300 medium-sized emitters through similar cooperative agreements. By 2005, Australia's goal is to have signed 1000 Cooperative Agreements.

According to preliminary estimates, the first thirty companies to sign cooperative agreements will reduce their aggregate emissions by 4.4 million metric tons of carbon (17%) by 2000 below baseline expectations. One third of these companies are expected to reduce emissions below 1995 levels by 2000.¹



For further information on Australia's Greenhouse Challenge program, please visit their web site at <http://www.dpie.gov.au/resources.energy/environment/greenhouse/challenge.html> or please contact:

The Greenhouse Challenge Office:

GPO Box 858
Canberra, ACT 2601, Australia
Tel.: +91-2-6271-6400
Fax: +61-2-6271-6450
E-mail: greenhouse.challenge@greenhouse.gov.au

¹ UNEP, *Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions: The Role of Voluntary Programmes*. United Nations Publications: Paris, 1997 (p.73).

TAC Recommendations Approved by VCR Inc. Board

The first face-to-face Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting took place in Toronto on

Thursday, August 27, 1998, with the primary objective of finalizing the Champion Level reporting template for VCR Inc. board approval. TAC members (**see insert**) also discussed the development of an awards template, which will serve as the basis from which to select all future awards recipients.

Since then, VCR Inc. board members have met and approved the following recommendations presented by TAC:

1 Registration

- Raise minimum entry requirements to include 1) senior management support, 2) a commitment to report regularly, and 3) quantification of a base year.

2 Champion Level Reporting

- Establish a Champion level reporting system with Gold, Silver, and Bronze designations based on the degree of inclusion of the following elements:
 - senior management support
 - base year quantification
 - results achieved
 - target setting
 - projections
 - measures/actions to achieve targets
 - education/training/awareness
- Authorize the use of a series of VCR Inc. logos in conjunction with these designations and consider other incentives for deepening the level of reporting.

3 Awards Program

- TAC will develop criteria for various categories of awards and act as the judging panel.
- Awards will be judged based on VCR Inc. submissions prior to October 15, 1998.

4 Participant's Handbook

- TAC members and associations will be engaged in the process of writing an updated version of this document.

VCR Inc. Invited to Speak at Joint Ministers' Meeting

The federal and provincial Ministers of energy and the environment have invited VCR Inc. to attend the upcoming Joint Ministers' Meeting in Halifax on October 20, 1998. We have been asked to discuss the status of the voluntary approach towards greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction as reflected in our activities at VCR Inc. Among the messages we intend to deliver at this meeting are the following:



- VCR Inc. has a unique structure as a stand-alone, private-public partnership between federal/provincial governments across Canada and industry sector leaders who represent approximately 70 % of the industrial potential for GHG reduction.
- Description of VCR Inc.'s mission and mandate.
- VCR Inc.'s business strategy is to *Broaden Participation, Deepen Reporting, and Build Momentum* with respect to GHG reduction.
- VCR Inc. has identified success indicators that will form the basis for quantifying the progress of the voluntary effort to mitigate climate change.
- VCR Inc. stands ready to act as the national registry for Early Action Credits and will also serve to register all credits traded through the Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Trading Pilot (GERT).
- Ministers can enhance voluntary efforts by developing and executing a targeted promotional plan within their respective jurisdictions, which would outline specific activities to be undertaken in support of VCR Inc.

Watch for VCR Inc. Success Stories

We have received many requests for stories that illustrate success in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. As a result, we will begin as of November 1998 to send out regular releases or 'success stories' every second month (alternating with Champion News), highlighting the achievements of various VCR Inc. registrants.

Should you wish to have your company/ association featured, please contact us by tel.: (613) 565-5151, fax: (613) 565-5743 or e-mail: info@vcr-mvr.ca.

Thinking About Energy Savings? Help is Available from the OEE

In spring 1998, Natural Resources Canada launched the new Office of Energy Efficiency (OEE).

The OEE is home to a wide variety of programs that are well known to many VCR Inc. registrants: the Energy Innovators Initiative, the Industrial Energy Efficiency Initiative, the Commercial Building Incentive Program, the Federal Buildings Initiative, FleetSmart, and many more. Many of these programs have goals that compliment those of VCR Inc., and VCR Inc. and the OEE are working together to establish a synergistic approach towards the reduction of greenhouse gases.

As Canada's "one-stop" service for energy efficiency and alternative transportation fuels, the OEE is well equipped to provide the detailed information you need to increase the energy efficiency of your operations. From common-sense, inexpensive solutions to the latest in energy-use

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Meetings/Events (that involve VCR Inc.)

**Monday to Tuesday
October 5 to 6, 1998**
All day.
Montréal, Quebec
*The Greenhouse Gas
Emission Reduction Trading
(GERT) Pilot Technical
Committee Meeting*

**Wednesday to Thursday
October 7 to 8, 1998**
All day.
Montréal, Quebec
*Credit for Early Action
Table Meeting*

**Wednesday to Thursday
October 14 to 15, 1998**
All day.
Ottawa, Ontario
*Enhanced Voluntary
Action Table Meeting*

**Monday to Tuesday
October 19 to 20, 1998**
All day.
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Joint Ministers' Meeting

**Thursday
October 22, 1998**
All day.
Ottawa, Ontario
*VCR Inc. Technical Advisory
Committee Meeting*

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technology, the OEE can help you to save energy costs and conserve Canada's resources.

The OEE offers two workshops as part of its Dollars to Sense series: the first of these is the *Energy Master Plan Workshop*. It is designed to help you develop your VCR Inc. Action Plan. "If you want to know what you can do to reduce energy costs, I recommend you sign up for this workshop", says Idris Sadikoglu from the Carleton Board of Education. The second Dollars to Sense

workshop, *Energy Monitoring and Tracking*, will be invaluable for those among you wishing to set your targets and measure your progress.

Should you wish to learn more about energy efficiency or about the dates of the above Dollars to Sense workshops, please contact the OEE at:

**Office of Energy Efficiency
Natural Resources Canada**
580 Booth St., 18th Floor
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0E4
Fax: (613) 943-1590
Web site: <http://oe.e.nrcan.gc.ca>

The VCR Inc. Team

If you were wondering what we looked like... here we are!



From left to right (front row): **Sarah Mullin**, Technical Coordinator; **Natalie Rochon**, Communications Coordinator; and **Bob Flemington**, President.
From left to right (back row): **Brian Rawson**, Registry Analyst; and **Trish Chartrand**, Executive Assistant.

VCR Inc. office hours are from 9:00 to 17:00, Monday through Friday. Should you have any questions or comments, you may reach us by tel.: (613) 565-5151, fax: (613) 565-5743, or e-mail: info@vcr-mvr.ca. We welcome your inquiries!



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Meetings/Events

(that involve VCR Inc.)
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Wednesday
November 25, 1998
All day.
Toronto, Ontario
*Environment and Energy
Conference of Ontario*

Thursday
November 26, 1998
Morning (Time TBD)
Ottawa, Ontario
*Canadian Industry Program
for Energy Conservation
(CIPEC) Executive
Council Meeting*

Thursday
November 26, 1998
13:30 to 15:30
Ottawa, Ontario
VCR Inc. Board Meeting

Wednesday
December 2, 1998
8:30 to 15:30
Toronto, Ontario
*CIPEC Task Force
Council Meeting*

Thursday
February 11, 1999
Early evening (Time TBD)
Ottawa, Ontario
*Second Annual Council
of Champions Meeting
VCR Inc. Board Meeting
VCR Inc. Champion
Awards Ceremony*

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