

Champion News

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



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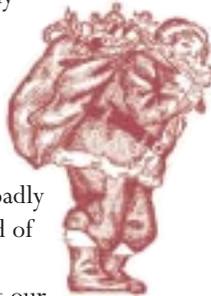
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President's Message

As the holiday season rolls around again, and we prepare to enter into a new year, I look back with a mixture of pride and pleasure upon our achievements since the incorporation of VCR Inc. in October 1997.

A little over a year ago, the Voluntary Challenge and Registry shifted from a government-incubated program to a private-public partnership (VCR Inc.). Our first objective was to recruit a Council of Champions, to establish a Board of Directors, and to form a Technical Advisory Committee. Another was to establish a new, more rigorous system of reporting. And a third was to engage more registrants, while we continued to work closely with existing ones.

It is a pleasure working with our new Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), comprised of broadly based experts in the field of climate change. TAC's function is to ensure that our Board receives appropriate multi-stakeholder input to decision-making. It has also worked actively with us to establish our Champion Reporting System, which is designed to encourage continuous improvement in the comprehensiveness of reports posted on the VCR Inc. National Registry. The establishment of more rigorous entry requirements and the continuous improvement that is encouraged by this new System will serve to deepen reporting significantly.



In this process, we have continued to develop strong ties with industry associations, relying on them to act as the key agent of change within their respective sectors. We have also worked closely with governments from across the country, partnering with existing federal, provincial, territorial and municipal programs.

From a personal perspective, I have been busy with many other experts across the country, playing an active role on several climate change tables and committees. This consultation process, in and of itself, has stimulated significant interest and activity in finding innovative ways to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) generation and to report it publicly on our National Registry.

The result of this work has made VCR Inc. an active and vital corporation. It is clear to me that the *voluntary* approach towards GHG reduction is a very important element of Canada's climate change effort, and I believe that VCR Inc. has a leading role to play to enhance the reach of such activities.

I thank you for the support you have given us during this transition period, and I wish you and your family all the best over the holiday season.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Flemington, P.Eng.
President



Seasons Greetings!

We would like to extend our warmest of wishes to you and your family over the holiday season! We appreciate the support you have given us over the past year during our transition phase and look forward to continued collaboration in the years to come.

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year! And a Happy Hanukkah!

-The VCR Inc. Team



VCR inc.

Council of Champions Meeting and Leadership Awards Ceremony Are Fast Approaching...

We are currently in the process of planning for our second annual Council of Champions meeting, which will be held in conjunction with VCR Inc.'s Leadership Awards Ceremony in Hull, Québec. The event is scheduled to take place at the Museum of Civilization on the evening of February 11, 1999, and will be followed by a board meeting. The Honourable Ralph Goodale, Minister of Natural Resources Canada, has been invited to present the leadership awards and to address the audience. His colleague, The Honourable Christine Stewart, Minister of Environment Canada, has also been invited to deliver a speech and to join in the celebration. VCR Inc.'s first Annual Report is scheduled for release at this time.



Invitees will include Board and Council of Champions members, association heads, industry and government representatives, awards recipients, environmental non-government organizations and media. Invitations will be mailed out the week of January 4, 1999.

Go For Gold!

VCR Inc. is preparing to launch its new Champion Reporting System. The standard reporting elements of the System will provide a better understanding of the impact of voluntary action on climate change. In January 1999, we will distribute guidelines on how registrants can become a Bronze, Silver or Gold Champion Reporter.

The Champion Reporting System brings more profile and credibility to registered reports. The depth of commitment and continued improvements in reporting actions to address the climate change challenge will be publicly recognized. Registrants will also be given the opportunity to utilize VCR Inc. Champion logos, which will recognize the reporting status achieved.

In the spirit of fostering continuous improvement, we have raised the bar for entry into the VCR Inc. Registry as well. Effective April 15, 1999, all registered plans must include senior management support, a commitment to regular reporting and a base year calculation.

Ministers Respond to VCR Inc. at JMM

The federal and provincial Ministers of energy and the environment invited VCR Inc. to attend the Joint Ministers' Meeting (JMM), which took place in Halifax from October 19 to 20, 1998. Ron Munkley, Chair, VCR Inc. Board of Directors, and Bob Flemington, President, VCR Inc., discussed the status of the voluntary approach towards GHG reduction, as reflected in our activities at VCR Inc.

The **Record of Decisions** reached by the Ministers in response to our presentation was as follows:

- "The Ministers supported VCR Inc's approach to-date to become the registry for early actions.
- The Ministers supported the Technical Advisory Committee's direction in defining and standardizing reporting requirements for participation in the VCR. The new reporting requirements will both raise the bar in terms of defining a minimum level of participation in the VCR, and improve the quality, consistency and credibility of submission.

- The Ministers supported VCR Inc.'s plans to introduce a new Champion recognition program and the proposed awards ceremony planned for February 1999. The Ministers also directed officials to develop for their consideration government initiatives for recognizing "good performers". These proposals are, to the fullest extent possible, to be complementary to the VCR awards initiatives.
- The Ministers asked that VCR Inc. Board of Directors report on progress in the Spring of 1999.
- The Ministers supported VCR Inc.'s efforts to broaden participation in the VCR and directed their officials to show leadership by publicizing government actions and to work with suppliers and partners of government to raise awareness of the climate change issue and the importance of participating in the VCR.
- The Ministers directed officials to work with VCR Inc. to bring forward pilot projects and innovative actions that can be promoted on VCR Inc. to raise awareness of similar opportunities and the VCR."

The complete *Summary of Decisions* reached by the Ministers at JMM and the *Notice to Media* issued after the event are available at www.scics.gc.ca/cinfo98/83063350_e.html.

U.S. Programs Reach Out to All Sectors

Released in October 1993, the United States' *Climate Change Action Plan* reflects the country's efforts to involve business, non-governmental organizations and government at all levels in striving to meet the climate change challenge. The Department of Energy (DOE), the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Transportation



together have implemented over 50 voluntary programs and actions to mitigate GHG emissions in the U.S.

The following programs provide some idea of the efforts currently underway:

Voluntary Reporting of Greenhouse Gases (VRGHG) –

Administered by the DOE, this program is available to any legal entity in the U.S. from large corporations, to health institutions, to private households. 155 entities are currently reporting to the Program, representing over 600 individual projects. The VRGHG offers technical assistance to its participants and also invites participants from other voluntary programs to use the 1605b form that was developed under the Energy Policy Act of 1992, enabling entities to record details of specific projects in a standard format.

Green Lights – An initiative that encourages all sectors and governments to reduce lighting electricity consumption. Since October 1993, more than 500 new participants have signed on, bringing the total to more than 1650. Estimated savings to date are valued at approximately \$90 million.

Climate Challenge – A joint partnership between the DOE and electric utilities. It encourages efforts to improve efficiency in end-use, distribution, transmission and generation; increase use of energy-efficient electrotechnologies; implement fleet fuel switching; and recover methane from landfills and coal seams.

Climate Wise – A program designed to advance the use of new technologies to improve energy efficiency and curb pollution in industrial practices. This program concentrates its efforts on promoting the use of renewable energy,

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Meetings/Events

(that involve VCR Inc.)

Wednesday

December 2, 1998

8:30 to 15:30
Toronto, Ontario
*CIPEC Task Force
Council Meeting*

**Thursday and Friday
December 3 to 4, 1998**

Ottawa, Ontario
*Enhanced Voluntary Action
Table Meeting*

Thursday

December 17, 1998

Toronto, Ontario
*Technical Advisory
Committee Awards Judging
Committee Meeting*

Thursday

February 11, 1999

Early evening (Time TBD)
Hull, Québec
*Second Annual Council
of Champions Meeting
VCR Inc. Leadership
Awards Ceremony
VCR Inc. Board Meeting*



Dollars to \$ense Workshops

(organized by NRCan)

Toronto, December 3, 1998
Vancouver, January 13, 1999
Regina, January 20, 1999
Winnipeg, January 20, 1999
Mississauga, January 27, 1999

*For more information,
please contact the
Office of Energy Efficiency
at (613) 943-1590.*



VCR inc.

advanced technologies for energy and resource efficiency, co-generation and other process improvements such as waste reduction.

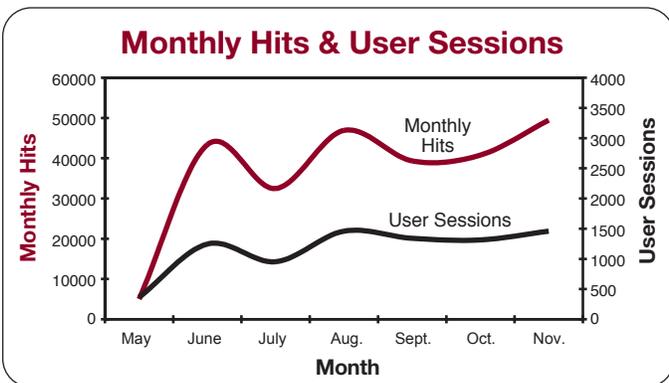
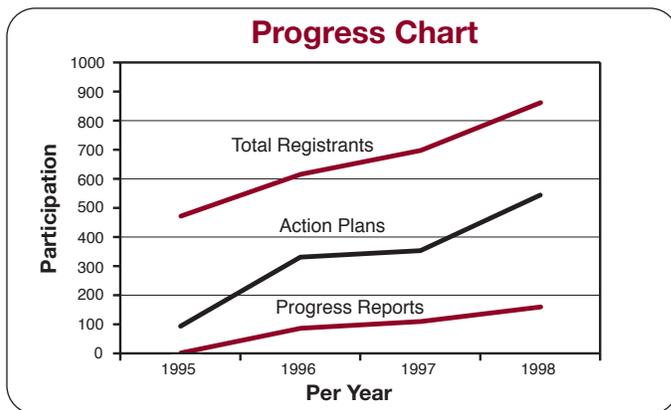
For further information on any of these or other voluntary programs offered by the U.S. Government, please contact:

Voluntary Reporting of Greenhouse Gases Program

U.S. Department of Energy
 Energy Information Administration, EI- 81
 1000 Independence Avenue, SW
 Washington, DC 20585, U.S.A.
 Tel.: 1-800-803-5182 or (202) 586-0688
 Fax: (202) 586-3045
 E-mail: infoghg@eia.doe.gov
 Web Site: <http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/1605/frntvrgg.html?96,68>

Success Indicators

These graphs represent the first in a series of success indicators that we plan to include in every issue of *Champion News*.



Hit: An action on the Web server, such as when a user views a page or downloads a file.

User Session: A session of activity (all hits) for one user of a Web site. A unique user is determined by the IP address or domain name. By default, a user session is terminated when a user falls inactive for more than 30 minutes.



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Champion News is now available in electronic format! Please check out the *What's New?* section of the VCR Inc. web site to download your PDF copy of the newsletter. See www.vcr-mvr.ca for more details.



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