

Natural Resources GP

Consulting Services

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Climate Change, ETS, Carbon Leakage [M2013-17]

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References available upon request

Aug 25- Sept 1 '15

EU

GHG emission savings due to renewable energy [2009-12], EC, Aug '15

The report provides an overview of GHG emission savings in the EU due to the use of renewable energy in three sectors: electricity, heating/cooling and transport. The assessment is based on data reported by EU Member States in their 2011 and 2013 bi-annual progress reports, as required under Article 22[1][k] of Directive 2009/28/EC on renewable energy. The report assesses all 28 Member States of the EU and covers the period 2009-12.

The report can be found at:

<http://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/bitstream/JRC95263/ld-na-27253-en-n.pdf>

Germany gets world's largest green hydrogen system, Aug 26 '15

The municipal utility of Mainz has worked with chemicals firm Linde, Siemens, and a local university to produce the largest facility in the world that generates hydrogen from renewable electricity.

With 17 million euros in research funding, the new facility has just gone into operation [report in German]. It takes excess electricity, partly from nearby wind turbines, to produce hydrogen by means of electrolysis. The system can convert up to six megawatts of electricity at a time. Apparently, there is no specific storage limit; trucks supply nearby hydrogen stations with green hydrogen from local storage. The press release says that the amount of hydrogen produced is enough to power "2,000 fuel cell cars."

<http://www.renewablesinternational.net/germany-gets-worlds-largest-green-hydrogen-system/150/537/89697/>

EU should pressure Western Balkans to phase out coal – report, Aug 28 '15

The EU should use its influence with Western Balkan states to wean them off coal. That was the message of Climate Action Network Europe in a report issued to coincide with a summit in Vienna on Aug 27 '15.

German chancellor Angela Merkel and EU foreign affairs chief Federica Mogherini assured leaders of the six countries of their commitment to closer integration. “I see strong political will, both in the region and in Europe, to make this happen,” Mogherini said at the summit.

<http://www.rtcc.org/2015/08/27/eu-urged-to-help-western-balkans-phase-out-coal/>

Poland's Law & Justice party favors non-binding UN deal, Aug 28 '15

Poland's conservative opposition Law and Justice party [PiS] is hoping that a UN climate deal later this year will be non-binding, which could enable it to renegotiate current EU emissions laws...

PiS looks poised to win a parliamentary election on Oct. 25. The party, in alliance with two smaller conservative parties, has a lead over the ruling Civic Platform, opinion polls show. Poland has long argued for special dispensation under EU emissions rules because it generates its electricity mainly from highly polluting coal. This will not change if PiS wins elections in October, a member of the party told Reuters.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/08/28/us-climatechange-summit-poland-idUSKCN0QX1A120150828>

Dutch government to appeal against carbon emissions ruling, Sept 1 '15

The Dutch government will appeal against a district court ruling ordering it to cut emissions of GHG faster than currently planned, in a politically sensitive case that is being closely watched by policy-makers abroad.

Deputy Minister for the Environment Wilma Mansveld wrote in a letter to parliament on Sept 1 that the government would contest the 24 June ruling which ordered it to slash emissions by 25% from 1990 levels by 2020. But the government said it will also begin implementing the lower court's ruling because the filing of an appeal does not undo its obligation to comply.

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/sep/01/dutch-government-to-appeal-against-carbon-emissions-ruling?>

EU Transaction Log – Norway

EU Transaction Log presents details of emission rights for all facilities participating in the EU ETS [includes data for all countries and for all years from the start of the ETS]. The table below presents some Norwegian installation names, allowances and status for the Phase 3 [2013-2020] period for 2015.

Installation Name	Allowance	Allocation *	Status
Agder Energi Varne		3176	Open
Eidsiva Bioenergi Hamar AS		7806	Open
Norcem AS Brevik		713393	Open
Norcem AS Kjølsvik		343493	Open
Nordic Paper Greåker		12193	Open
Vajda-Papir Scandinavia AS		6368	Open
RHI Normag AS		5849	Open
Hydro Aluminium AS Karmøy aluminiumsverk		282112	Open
Glencore Manganese Norway		46283	Open
Tizir Titanium and Iron AS		324035	Open

**in current ETS period before last 30 April*

USA

Obama aims to boost homeowner renewable energy use, Aug 24 '15

President Barack Obama on Aug 24 expanded his push for greater renewable energy adoption, announcing fresh financial incentives for solar power development and use. The steps include an additional \$1 billion in loan guarantees for new research projects and near-term savings for homeowners using renewable energy.

http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/08/24/business/24reuters-usa-energy-obama.html?_r=0

Obama urges US cities: Join Mayors Compact, Aug 25 '15

President Obama urged US cities to commit to climate action and set the goal of at least 100 US cities joining the Compact of Mayors by the end of November.

In a statement reacting to the White House announcement, UN special envoy for cities and climate change Mike Bloomberg said: Cities account for about 70 pct of all GHG emissions, so any plan to attack climate change must recognize their central role in the battle [...] Today's call to action by the White House will complement the EPA's important new regulations and bolster the US's standing at the UN climate summit in December.

<http://newsroom.unfccc.int/green-urban/white-house-urges-us-cities-to-join-climate-compact/>

US refrigerants with lower impact on global warming, IM, Aug 26 '15

Titanium dioxide [TiO₂] and fluorochemicals producer The Chemours Co. has launched two new refrigerants with low global warming potential [GWP] in the US. The Opteon refrigerants are the first in a portfolio of low GWP stationary refrigerants Chemours plans to launch in the US over the next few years.

... Thierry Vanlancker, president of Chemours' fluoroproducts division, noted that there has been a shift within the heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration [HVACR] industry towards products that have a lower impact on global warming, adding that Opteon products could be a key solution towards stricter regulatory and sustainability requirements.

EPA Chief says 'tremendous' chance offered for carbon capture, Aug 26 '15

Gina McCarthy, the head of the US EPA, said the need to reduce carbon emissions offers a chance to push ahead with low-carbon technology such as carbon capture and storage.

"In the US even with our Clean Power Plan, every fuel will still continue to play a part" including coal and gas, she said in Tokyo. The Clean Power Plan, an initiative announced earlier this month, would require the American power sector to cut carbon pollution 32 pct by 2030 from 2005 levels. "There's a tremendous opportunity today to accelerate our progress on cleaner combustion and carbon capture and storage," McCarthy said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-08-26/epa-chief-says-tremendous-chance-offered-for-carbon-capture?>

Xcel Energy reduced GHG emissions by > 20 pct in past decade, Aug 26 '15

Xcel Energy, a major US electricity and natural gas company, has become the first utility in the country to register nearly a decade's worth of GHG emissions data with The Climate Registry. The company pledged to begin reducing emissions in 2005, according to Xcel Energy Vice President Frank Prager. In the years since, the utility has seen more than a 20 pct reduction in CO₂ emissions and is on track to achieve a 30 pct reduction companywide by 2020.

<http://www.power-eng.com/articles/2015/08/xcel-energy-reduces-greenhouse-gas-emissions-by-more-than-20-pct-in-past-decade.html?>

Murdoch: climate change 'alarmist nonsense', Aug 27 '15

Media mogul Rupert Murdoch took to Twitter Aug 26 night to weigh in on the recent volatility in global financial markets, calling small business "the only hope for growth" while decrying the regulatory obstacles standing in its way -- and pointing a finger at climate change "alarmist nonsense." His message was 'A climate change skeptic not a denier. Sept UN meets in NY with endless alarmist nonsense from u know whom! Pessimists always seen as sages'.

<http://edition.cnn.com/2015/08/27/politics/rupert-murdoch-links-regulations-climate-change-nonsense-to-global-financial-turmoil/>

Examples of emissions trading successes, failures, National Geographic, Aug 27 '15

The emissions trading program in the northeastern US—the Regional GHG Initiative [RGGI]—is responsible for about half the region's emissions

reductions—an amount far greater than reductions achieved in the rest of the country.

The study in the journal *Energy Economics* determined that even when controlling for other factors—the natural gas boom, the recession, and environmental regulations—emissions would have been 24 pct higher in participating states without RGGI [subscription]. RGGI, the first market-based regulatory program in the US, is a cooperative effort among states to create a “cap” that sets limits on CO₂ emissions from the power sector—a cap lowered over time to reduce emissions. Power plants that can’t stay under the cap must purchase credits or “emissions allowances” from others that can.

<http://voices.nationalgeographic.com/2015/08/27/recent-studies-provide-examples-of-emissions-trading-successes-failures/>

Climate change study for Pennsylvania: good and bad effects for farmers, Aug 27 '15

A state-mandated report on the effects of climate change in Pennsylvania says farmers should prepare for drastic changes to agriculture, both good and bad. The report says climate change would bring more favorable conditions for such agricultural pests as weeds and insects.

But there could be favorable changes for farming, the report notes. For example, longer growing seasons and more tolerable temperatures could mean new crops could be grown in Pennsylvania. Overall, though, the study by a team of Penn State researchers predicts profound and mostly negative influences on Pennsylvania as climate change accelerates. Expect dangerously high summer temperatures and more severe storms. And an increased threat of some diseases carried by insects and worsening water quality.

http://lancasteronline.com/news/local/new-climate-change-study-for-pennsylvania-predicts-good-and-bad/article_a78dd6f4-4cc6-11e5-9a76-8b68c15b1331.html

Companies support California’s climate change bills, Aug 30 '15

With just a few days left in the state legislative session, more than 24 California companies have announced their support for two major climate bills that would set new ambitious state goals for reducing climate-changing pollution, boosting renewable energy and decreasing petroleum use over the next 15 years.

“Our support is firmly grounded in economic reality,” wrote companies such as Autodesk, Dignity Health, Levi Strauss & Co., Mars and Symantec in letters delivered to legislative leaders. “We know that tackling climate change is one of America’s greatest economic opportunities of the 21st century and we applaud the California State Legislature for taking steps to help seize that opportunity,” they wrote.

<http://ens-newswire.com/2015/08/30/dozens-of-companies-support-californias-climate-change-bills/>

EPA SNAP Stakeholder Meeting Sept 11 '15

EPA is hosting a meeting for interested stakeholders to exchange information on the Significant New Alternatives Policy [SNAP] program. During the past 12 months, EPA has taken four separate actions under the SNAP program, to support the President's June 2013 Climate Action Plan, which directs EPA to "use its authority through the Significant New Alternatives Policy Program to encourage private sector investment in low-emissions technology by identifying and approving climate-friendly chemicals while prohibiting certain uses of the most harmful chemical alternatives." As part of SNAP's continuous efforts, we are seeking to engage with stakeholders as we consider various next steps.

China

Hormel Foods' plant cuts GHG Emissions 60%, Aug 14 '15

Hormel Foods achieved a 60 pct decrease in GHG emissions in 2014, compared to 2013, at its Beijing, China plant after replacing two coal fire boilers with more efficient steam generators, relocating the equipment closer to ovens to reduce energy loss, and installing heat recovery technology and thermal solar panels to heat water for sanitation.

<http://www.environmentalleader.com/2015/08/14/hormel-foods-plant-cuts-ghg-emissions-60/>

China Eximbank issues biggest carbon-backed loan -paper, Aug 25 '15

The Export-Import Bank of China has lent 100 million yuan [\$15.60 million] to the top fertilizer producer in Hubei province using carbon permits as collateral, the biggest loan of its kind in China so far, the People's Daily newspaper said.

China's banking regulators have been encouraging state and commercial banks to offer more financial services to encourage firms to cut their CO₂ emissions. In fact, the Hubei emissions exchange has signed up with the local branch of Eximbank to promote green credit and carbon financing, media reports say.

The Hubei Yihua Chemical Industry Co, one of 138 companies forced to cut CO₂ emissions under the local pilot ETS, was granted the 100-million yuan loan by Eximbank, according to the official newspaper.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/08/25/china-carbon-eximbank-idUSL4N1103HS20150825>

New study attributes fewer carbon emissions to China, Aug 25 '15

..A Harvard-led study released last week in Nature found that the carbon pollution caused by burning coal in China is actually 14 pct lower than originally thought. Researchers found that from 2000 to 2012, total energy consumption was 10 pct higher than the official statistics. Meanwhile, emissions factors for

coal in China are actually 40 pct lower than what the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [IPCC] assumed. They also found that Chinese emissions from cement production were actually 45 pct lower than thought.

“Altogether, our revised estimate of China’s CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion and cement production is 2.49 Gt of carbon in 2013, which is 14 pct lower than the emissions reported by other prominent inventories,” the study’s abstract reads. This is hundreds of millions of mt of CO₂ less than the world thought China was emitting. The reason has to do with the way scientists had assumed coal was burned in China.

<http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2015/08/25/3694669/chinas-missing-carbon-emissions/>

China on track to hit carbon-emission goals sooner, Aug 25 '15

China may achieve its goal to stop the growth of its carbon emissions before its deadline of 2030 because the country's discharge of CO₂ already may be less than reflected in current estimates, according to a new study.

Beijing hasn't reported on the level of its CO₂ emissions for 2014, but outside groups estimate it at between 9 billion and 10 billion mt. As China continues to invest in its economy, that figure is expected to grow to as high as 20 billion mt.

But any estimates of growth are meaningless if they're based on an inaccurate reading of the current level of emissions, according to Dabo Guan, a climate specialist at Britain's University of East Anglia, one of the 24 authors of the study, published August 19 in the journal Nature. "Without an accurate baseline, any target will become a number-crunching game," he told Reuters.

<http://www.businessinsider.com/china-on-track-for-carbon-emission-goals-2015-8>

China, US to cooperate in ‘clean coal’ technologies, Aug 26 '15

China and the US have taken a major step towards an agreement to advance “clean coal” technologies that claim to reduce the fuel’s contribution to climate change — and could offer a potential lifeline for an industry that has seen its fortunes fade. The agreement between the US Department of Energy and China’s National Energy Administration allows the two nations to share their results as they refine technologies to capture the GHG produced from burning coal, said Christopher Smith, the energy department’s assistant secretary for fossil energy.

<http://www.scmp.com/news/china/policies-politics/article/1852654/china-us-cooperate-developing-clean-coal-technologies>

Coal hub seeks its place under the sun, Aug 26 '15

Shanxi province, China's coal hub in the north, has charted a plan to replace "dirty" coal with cleaner energy sources like solar power due to the steep fall in commodity prices and the government's determination to reduce carbon

emissions. In June, Datong, a major coalfield in the province, got approval under the National Energy Administration's "Top Runner" program to pilot photovoltaic technology research and development.

Wang Mingsheng, deputy head of Datong's Development and Reform Commission, said the city can no longer rely on the past growth model of coal production, as demand has fallen sharply due to slower economic growth and the government's clean energy initiatives.

<http://en.ccchina.gov.cn/Detail.aspx?newsId=54981&TId=96>

Automakers, paper mills to be included in China's carbon market: Aug 28 '15

China is considering proposals that would force automakers and paper mills to cut GHG emissions as part of a nationwide carbon trading scheme due to be launched in early 2017, a local media report said, citing a government official.

China was originally aiming to include six industrial sectors in the scheme - power generation, ferrous metals, nonferrous metals, building materials, chemicals and aviation. But according to a National Business Daily report, a trial carbon trading involving the "six plus two" sectors will begin in 2017 and its scope will be further extended at a later date.

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/business/china-to-include-automakers-paper-mills-in-national-carbon-market-media/articleshow/48708636.cms?>

China's ecological footprint expected to peak in 2029, Aug 29 '15

The average ecological footprint per capita in China is expected to peak at 2.9 global hectares in 2029 amid fast-paced urbanization, according to a report released on Aug 28 by the Beijing branch of the World Wide Fund for Nature [WWF], that noted the ecological footprint could reach its peak three years early if the country adopts a green development path, potentially lowering it to 2.7 global hectares per capita.

<http://en.ccchina.gov.cn/Detail.aspx?newsId=54998&TId=96>

China's largest onshore wind turbines starts operation, Aug 30 '15

China's largest set of onshore wind turbines has started operation in a demonstration area for renewable energy in north China's Zhangjiakou City, Hebei Province. The unit is capable of generating up to 120,000 kilowatt hours of electricity daily, enough for 10s of thousands of households.

<http://en.ccchina.gov.cn/Detail.aspx?newsId=55012&TId=96>

Elsewhere in the World

Minimising the global warming potential of clay based geopolymers, 2014

Production of Portland cement [PC] binders contributes substantially to global CO₂ production and various bodies including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [IPCC] have identified geopolymers as alternative binders with the potential to reduce these emissions. The hypothesis of this research is to investigate whether this is a realistic proposition in the light of limited waste materials such as fly ash and ground granulated blast furnace slag commonly used as geopolymer precursors. The effect of use of natural clay minerals as alternative precursors on global warming potential [GWP] is investigated. Methods of designing mixes with the lowest possible GWP are presented and these are compared to the GWP of PC and currently available metakaolin based geopolymer binders. It is concluded that it is possible to reduce the GWP by approximately 40%, but other impacts may increase.

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0959652614004016>

Global insecurity & refugee crisis linked to climate change, Aug 25 '15

"We are experiencing a surprising uptick in global insecurity... partially due to our inability to manage climate stress," Columbia University professor Marc Levy, who conducts studies for US government agencies, said on Aug 25 '15 at the Global Security Initiative, a research body in Arizona.

Ongoing violence in Syria, for example, is connected with climate change, Levy said. A record drought in Syria from 2006 to 2010 wreaked havoc on agriculture, spurring an exodus of unemployed rural residents into urban areas and intensifying dissatisfaction with the government.

Refugees fleeing conflict and violence in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and Sudan are now streaming into Europe. "Some of those migrants are fleeing areas that are hard to live in because of climate stress," he said, adding that global warming is just one of many factors contributing to the recent refugee crisis.

Nations grappling with climate change will be "tempted" to pursue policies that benefit themselves in the short term but make others worse off, he said.

<http://www.trust.org/item/20150826044645-dju5b/?source=fiOtherNews2>

Ban Ki-moon discusses global issues with French President, Aug 26 '15

The UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, met with the President of France, Francois Hollande to discuss issues of climate change, including meetings on the margins of the 70th session of the General Assembly in New York in September, as well as at other meetings involving leaders. The statement emphasised that both sides agreed on putting into practice the Green Climate Fund and reaching out to all member states to accelerate momentum over the coming months.

<http://www.wam.ae/en/news/international/1395284690201.html?>

We can turn CO₂ in the air into new materials, but don't expect that to stop climate change, Aug 26 '15

New research has raised the possibility of a breakthrough by using CO₂ directly captured from the air to produce a type of graphene, the two-dimensional form of carbon often described as a "wonder material". But reported claims that this amounts to producing "diamonds from the sky" are somewhat misleading.

There is already a significant market for CO₂ and products made from it, most obviously fertiliser and fuels. This process of treating the gas as a feedstock rather than a waste product is known as CO₂ utilisation [CDU] and usually starts by capturing CO₂ from industrial flue gases – exhaust from furnaces or fuel-powered generators.

<http://phys.org/news/2015-08-co2-air-materials-dont-climate.html?>

General Mills to cut more than 25% of GHG emissions by 2025, Aug 30 '15

General Mills [GIS - Get Report] has set an ambitious goal of reducing its GHG emissions 28 pct by 2025 - not just within its own operations but from farm to fork to landfill. CEO Ken Powell said General Mills is compelled to act because climate change ultimately will be bad for business.

General Mills will invest more than \$100 million in energy efficiency and clean energy within its own facilities worldwide, and partner with suppliers to foster more sustainable agricultural practices, including sourcing products from an additional 250,000 acres of organic production globally by 2020.

<http://www.thestreet.com/story/13270727/1/general-mills-aims-to-cut-more-than-a-quarter-of-its-greenhouse-gas-emissions-by-2025.html?>

Iran

GHG emissions rising in Iran, Aug 28 '15

The head of National Air and Climate Change at Iran's EPA reports that 500 million mt of GHG are produced by the country annually and in the next 10 years it is expected to reach 2 billion mt.

According to IRNA, Ali Rajabi told a press conference on Aug 26 that GHG emissions in Iran are high and on the rise. He said Iran should start falling in line with the rest of world in trying to reduce GHG. Some of the chief sources of GHG emissions are power plants, transportation and oil and gas refineries. Seventy pct of GHG emissions produced in Iran are related to road transportation.

The Rohani administration, which took power two years ago, has begun implementing some plans for reducing GHG.

There are 200 Environment Protection Projects in the Persian Gulf aimed at reducing 70 pct of air, land and sea pollution from oil production and distribution activities by 2020.

<http://www.payvand.com/news/15/aug/1146.html?>

Mexico

Mexico's dragging energy reforms threaten green reputation, Aug 28 '15

Mexican lawmakers' apathy to pass its prize climate policy is stunting the potential of its wind and solar industry, say experts, dimming its green reputation.

President Enrique Pena Nieto launched sweeping reforms to break the 75-year monopoly of creaky state oiler Pemex and privatise its electricity market in 2013.

The "energy transition law" paved the way for renewables to provide 35% of the Latin American country's electricity needs by 2024, up from their 14% share last year.

With wide scope for wind in blustery Oaxaca, and solar in sun-drenched Sonora state, that target isn't "beyond the realm of possibility," says Duncan Wood, director of the Mexico Institute at the Wilson Center, a think tank...

In tying together several strands of policy like a carbon tax, clean energy certificates and feed-in tariffs, the package is a comprehensive assault on climate change.

The government has vowed to slash GHG emissions 22% below current projections by 2030. Heat-trapping gases will peak in 2026, it said in March.

<http://www.rtcc.org/2015/08/28/mexicos-dragging-energy-reforms-threaten-green-reputation/>

N. Zealand

ETS not lucrative for industry, says economist, Aug 25 '15

The Ministry for the Environment has just produced figures showing that in 2014, the Crown supplied 5 million credits, worth around \$30m, to large companies that trade overseas.

The recipients include New Zealand Steel, which received 1,073,489 credits. At a current market price of \$6.80 per unit, that would be almost \$7.3m [\$7,299,725.2]. Also getting lots of Government-paid credits was the Methanex plant in Taranaki, which makes methanol for export from natural gas. That picked up 777,432 credits, worth almost \$5.3m [\$5,286,537.6]. Other large recipients were the aluminium smelter, Fletcher's Holcim Cement and Carter Holt Harvey.

The money was paid under a system that shields big export companies from meeting the full cost of their GHG emissions.

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/282312/ets-not-lucrative-for-industry,-says-economist?>

Kyoto Protocol [KP]

Ukrainian, Russian carbon credits increased emissions by 600 million mt, Aug 25 '15

A report issued by the Stockholm Environment Institute says that a UN plan to reduce emissions by allowing countries to create carbon credits from activities that actually increased emissions pumped more than 600 million mt of carbon into the atmosphere...

Under the UN scheme, called Joint Implementation, they then were able to sell those credits to the EU's carbon market. Companies bought the offsets rather than making their own more expensive, emissions cuts. But this study says the vast majority of Russian and Ukrainian credits were in fact, "hot air" – no actual emissions were reduced.

They looked at a random sample of 60 projects and found that 73% of the offsets generated didn't meet the key criteria of "additionality". This means that these projects would have happened anyway without any carbon credit finance.

<http://pjmedia.com/tatler/2015/08/25/report-ukraine-russian-carbon-credits-increased-emissions-by-600-million-tons/?singlepage=true>

Has Joint Implementation reduced GHG emissions? Lessons learned for the design of carbon market mechanisms, Aug 26 '15

The study systematically evaluates the environmental integrity of Joint Implementation [JI] in the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. The analysis indicates that about three-quarters of JI offsets are unlikely to represent additional emissions reductions. This suggests that the use of JI offsets may have enabled global GHG emissions to be about 600 million mt of CO₂ equivalent higher than they would have been if countries had met their emissions domestically. Of the six largest project types assessed in more detail, they find only one – N₂O abatement from nitric acid production – had overall high environmental integrity. The evaluation clearly shows that oversight of an international market mechanism by the host country alone is insufficient to ensure environmental integrity. The paper makes recommendations for the ongoing review of the JI Guidelines, for carbon markets generally, and for a new climate agreement.

<http://www.sei-international.org/mediamanager/documents/Publications/Climate/SEI-WP-2015-07-JI-lessons-for-carbon-mechs.pdf>

UNFCCC establishes regional collaboration for Asia-Pacific Region, Aug 27 '15

Clean technology in developing countries has received a further boost with the establishment of a centre to promote the Clean Development Mechanism [CDM] in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Welcoming the establishment of the centre in Bangkok, Thailand, Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change said: “By providing a hub for CDM project opportunities in the Asia-Pacific region, the new Regional Collaboration Centre in Bangkok is a further step towards a truly global climate change response and serves as another example of successful international cooperation.”

The Centre will be operated in partnership with the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies [IGES] and will support all countries in the region in identifying and designing CDM projects and offering opportunities to reduce transaction costs. It will work in collaboration with the other Regional Collaboration Centres in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.

http://cdm.unfccc.int/press/newsroom/latestnews/releases/2015/2508_index.html

Carbon credits under Kyoto Protocol actually increased emissions, Aug 27 '15

Under the KP, there are two GHG emissions offsetting mechanisms: joint implementation [JI] and the Clean Development Mechanism [CDM].

JI allows countries with emissions-reduction commitments under the Kyoto Protocol to generate Emission Reduction Units [ERUs] from GHG reduction projects and transfer them to other countries. Almost 872 million ERUs had been issued under JI as of March 2015, about a third of all Kyoto offset credits. In a nutshell, JIs are carbon credits and include things like reforestation projects.

A recent report by the Stockholm Environment Institute [SEI] found that the use of JI actually may have enabled GHG emissions to be about 600 million mt of CO₂ equivalent [t CO₂e] more than if countries had met their emissions targets domestically.

Ukraine, Russia, Poland and Germany have the highest ERU issuances, with 439 projects registered and over 800 million ERUs issued, which account for 94 pct of ERU issuances. The report found “environmental integrity concerns” for over 80 pct of ERUs in Russia and Ukraine. By contrast, environmental integrity in Poland was rated at 70 pct and 97 pct in Germany.

http://www.enn.com/climate/article/48912?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+ClimateChangeNews-Enn+%28Climate+Change+News+-+ENN%29

Switzerland accepts KP Amendment, Aug 31 '15

Switzerland submitted its instrument of acceptance of the Doha amendment to the Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC on 28 August 2015.

The amendment is expected to enter into force after three quarters of the Parties to the Protocol submit their instruments of acceptance to the Depository.

The UN is encouraging governments to speed up their ratification of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, the international emissions reduction treaty. Ratification is necessary to provide valuable momentum for global climate action for the years leading up to 2020.

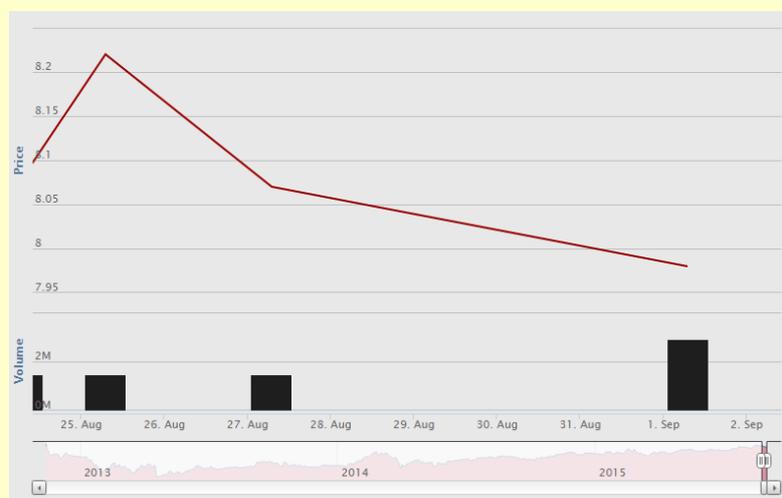
<http://newsroom.unfccc.int/unfccc-newsroom/switzerland-accepts-kp-amendment/>

EU Emissions allowances

EUA Primary Market Auction, Aug 25- Sept 1'15

Date	Contract	Median €/mtCO ₂	Auction volume mtCO ₂	Most active country
25/8/2015	EUA 3. Phase	8,18	1459000	IT: 2.096.100
27/8/2015	EUA 3. Phase	8,06	1459000	IT: 2.057.850
28/8/2015	EUA 3. Phase	8,04	1599000	NA
1/9/2015	EUA 3. Phase	7,97	2918000	IT: 4.069.800

EU Emissions allowances Aug 25- Sept 1'15 in the Primary market



EU Emissions allowances Aug 25- Sept 1 '15 in the Secondary market



Source: *European Energy Exchange*



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