



Standard Guide for Basic Assessment and Management of Greenhouse Gases¹

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INTRODUCTION

This guide provides a *uniform* set of options for communicating and planning greenhouse gas (GHG) management as well as strategies for addressing GHGs associated with a facility's operations. This guide may not apply to entities where such GHG assessment and management is already widely available through standard, uniform sets of guidance (for example, the construction of green buildings; mandatory air quality rules), or other standards. This guide provides a *uniform* voluntary framework for identifying management options and steps that may be beneficial to evaluate (GHG) solutions. It provides basic management strategies for existing corporations, commercial businesses, and government facilities, even those currently outside of various voluntary and regulatory schemes. The environmental assessment and management strategies contained in this guide recognize the overall value of existing responses. This guide references and blends similar, effective programs and extends them to a consistent approach that will facilitate communication and be a basic tool for business and industry.

Background—Activities that reduce GHG emissions or limit their atmospheric releases have been initiated internationally. This guide offers a framework of initiatives for individual or local efforts in managing GHG. To facilitate best practices, most GHG management programs establish a baseline of current emissions, establish objectives for reducing or managing those emissions, monitor progress in meeting these objectives, and report (either internally or externally) the results of these efforts. This guide offers useful principles in determining options, and in the selection of prudent activities, based on various scenarios and technology improvements, to enhance preservation of life and environmental conservation.

1. Scope

1.1 Overview—This guide presents a generalized systematic approach to voluntary assessment and management of the causes and impacts of GHGs. It includes actions, both institutional (legal) and engineering (physical) controls for GHG reductions, impacts, and adaptations. Options for a tiered analysis provide a priority ranking system, to address the “worst first” challenges of a facility, addressing practicality and cost-benefit.

1.2 Purpose—The purpose of this guide is to provide a series of options consistent with basic principles and practices for GHG-related action. This guide encourages consistent and comprehensive assessment and management of GHG outcomes from facility and business operations.

1.2.1 The guide also provides some *high-level* options for the monitoring, tracking and performance to evaluate the effectiveness of the commercial entity's strategy to ensure that a reasonable approach is taken.

1.2.2 This standard ties into the ASTM Committee E50 standards series related to environmental risk assessment and management.

1.3 Objectives—The objectives of this guide are to determine the conditions of the facility and or/property with regard to the status of GHGs and actions to be taken to manage and reduce or offset those emissions.

1.3.1 The guide provides a three-tiered decision strategy that focuses on business risk, cost-effective solutions in response to greenhouse gases, and related issues such as the need for energy independence.

1.4 Limitations of this Guide—Given the variability of the different types of facilities that may wish to use this guide, and the existence of state and local regulations, it is not possible to address all the relevant standards that might apply to a particular facility. This guide uses generalized language and

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