

Press Release

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Teaching the new carbon math: the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Management Institute is training how to measure and manage GHG emissions

The new math is carbon accounting and the GHG Management Institute is poised to teach it. Dedicated to training tomorrow's managers of GHG emissions, the GHG Management Institute is now live at www.ghginstitute.org. Earth Council Geneva (ECG), the GHG Experts Network (GEN) and ClimateCHECK have combined their forces and expertise to form this institute committed to professional learning on climate change.

"Our mission is to train and develop a community of experts with the highest standards of professional practice in measuring and managing GHG emissions," said Gao Pronove, Managing Director of the Institute. "Our supported online learning platform, blending e-learning and interaction with expert instructors, allows us to train a global audience in the most effective manner possible." The Institute's focus is on GHG emissions accounting, inventories, management, and verification. The courses are developed and instructed by the same experts who prepared today's international standards and founded national government programs.

"The Institute's philosophy is 'if you cannot accurately measure GHG emissions, you cannot manage them'," according to Michael Gillenwater, Dean of the Institute and Director of the GHG Experts Network. "Quantifying greenhouse gases is the first step for a company to truly understand and assess their climate liabilities. It is only after this that corporations can manage their emissions and reduce their impact."

Reto Braun, Chairman of ECG (www.earthcouncil.com), former CEO of the Swiss Post and previous President of Unisys, said: "After having trained over 7,000 learners in more than 80 countries on the subjects of global trade, climate change and biodiversity, we are pleased to work with our partners in launching this important initiative."

"The content that our GHG Protocol team designs is considered a global standard," said Jonathan Lash, President, World Resources Institute (WRI), which is working with the GHG Management Institute to develop its first course on corporate GHG emissions accounting. "It is critical that energy managers – whether they're working on projects throughout the developing world or trying to make improvements at their individual companies – really get their heads around these issues."

The GHG Management Institute will promote best practice and help build confidence in the professional competencies of GHG practitioners, according to Tom Baumann, CEO of ClimateCHECK.

"The Institute is committed to ensuring that everyone around the world can access these courses," stated Janos Pasztor, Director, UN Environment Management Group. "They have created a need-based scholarship fund to ensure that this level of access is possible."

The first classes are open for enrollment, and are due to begin November 1st. More information is available at the website - www.ghginstitute.org.

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About The Greenhouse Gas Management Institute:

The GHG Management Institute, an alliance of experts in GHG accounting and e-learning, recognized the need, the urgency, and the timeliness of offering state-of-the-art training. The resulting programs provide instruction of the most rigorous standards, in a manner proven to be the most efficient learning method of the modern world... supported online courses. Online learning can train large groups of people quickly, from all walks of life, with the ability to accommodate their personal needs and schedules.

The Institute is working closely with WRI in developing a series of courses related to the GHG Protocol, as well as other organizations such as the Carbon Disclosure Project, Clear Carbon Consulting, and Abatement Solutions, in developing new courses and programs.

These courses will be most useful to corporate managers who are now being tasked with developing something oftentimes unknown to them (GHG accounting) and to prospective GHG consultants. This presents an incredible opportunity to learn a valuable and very marketable skill.

In the spirit of reaching out to as many people as possible, the Institute offers scholarships and discounts for non-profit organizations, as well as need-based organizations and individuals in developing countries. Sponsors for such scholarships are most welcome, and will be acknowledged on the Institute's website and in its publications. As a non-profit operation, the Institute is committed to reinvesting all above-cost revenues, generated from course enrollment, into the development of the Institute and its courses, the scholarship fund, and the mission of ECG and GEN.

A Certificate of Participation is included with the cost of the course. For a Certificate of Proficiency, an exam must be passed.

About Earth Council Geneva (ECG):

ECG's mission is to empower people around the world to understand environmental issues, and to encourage them to pursue sustainable development. Since 2001 it has been the partner of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in training hundreds of international GHG experts tasked with reviewing the national GHG inventories of Parties to the UNFCCC. <http://www.earthcouncil.com/>

About Greenhouse Gas Experts Network (GEN):

GEN is a professional network of experts in GHG inventories, monitoring, and verification. Launched in early 2006 with support of the United Nations Development Program, it has grown to over 800 members worldwide. The Network's mission is to professionalize the field and improve the capacity of experts, especially those in developing countries. <http://www.ghgnetwork.org>

About ClimateCHECK:

ClimateCHECK is an established leader of innovative GHG management services and products that achieve the double dividends of environmental and economic benefits. ClimateCHECK collaborates with a large network of research and not-for-profit organizations in working with companies to develop the knowledge and tools to manage GHG risks and opportunities.