

Department of Energy

§ 300.2

(2) Changes to the minimum, quantity-weighted quality rating for emission inventories;

(3) Modifications to the benchmarks or emission conversion factors used to calculate avoided and indirect emissions; and

(4) Changes in the minimum requirements for registered emission reductions.

§ 300.2 Definitions.

This section provides definitions for commonly used terms in this part.

Activity means any single category of economic production or consumption that produces measurable emissions of greenhouse gases or sequestration, the annual changes of which can be assessed generally by using a single calculation method.

Aggregator means an entity that reports to the 1605(b) program on behalf of non-reporting third parties, usually small emitters.

Avoided emissions means the emissions displaced by increases in the generation and sale of electricity, steam, hot water or chilled water produced from energy sources that emit fewer greenhouse gases per unit than other competing sources of these forms of distributed energy.

Base period means a period of 1-4 years used to derive the average annual base emissions, emissions intensity or other values from which emission reductions are calculated.

Base value means the value from which emission reductions are calculated for an entity or subentity. The value may be annual emissions, emissions intensity, kilowatt-hours generated, or other value specified in the 1605(b) guidelines. It is usually derived from actual emissions and/or activity data derived from the Base Period.

Biogenic emissions mean emissions that are naturally occurring and are not significantly affected by human actions or activity.

Carbon stocks are the quantity of carbon stored in biological and physical systems including: trees, plants, wood products and other terrestrial biosphere sinks, soils, oceans, sedimentary and geological sinks, and the atmosphere.

De minimis emissions means emissions from one or more sources and of one or more greenhouse gases that, in aggregate, are less than or equal to 3 percent of the total annual carbon dioxide (CO₂) equivalent emissions of a reporting entity.

Department or DOE means the U. S. Department of Energy.

Direct emissions means greenhouse gas emissions resulting from stationary or mobile sources within the organizational boundary of an entity, including but not limited to emissions resulting from combustion of fuels, process emissions, and fugitive emissions.

EIA means the Energy Information Administration within the U.S. Department of Energy.

Emissions mean direct release of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere from any anthropogenic (human induced) source and certain indirect emissions (releases) specified in this part.

Emissions intensity means emissions per unit of output, where output is defined as the quantity of physical output, or a non-physical indicator of an entity's or subentity's productive activity.

Entity or reporting entity means the whole or part of any business, institution, organization or household that:

(1) Is recognized as an entity under any U.S. Federal, State or local law that applies to it;

(2) Is located, at least in part, in the United States; and

(3) Whose operations affect U.S. emissions of greenhouse gases.

First reduction year means the first year for which an entity intends to register emission reductions; it is the year that immediately follows the start year.

Fugitive emissions means uncontrolled releases to the atmosphere of greenhouse gases from the processing, transmission, and/or transportation of fossil fuels or other materials, such as HFC leaks from refrigeration, SF₆ from electrical power distributors, and methane from solid waste landfills, among others, that are not emitted via an exhaust pipe(s) or stack(s).

Greenhouse gases means:

(1) Carbon dioxide (CO₂)

(2) Methane (CH₄)

- (3) Nitrous oxide (N₂O)
- (4) Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)
- (5) Perfluorocarbons (PFCs)
- (6) Sulfur Hexafluoride (SF₆)
- (7) Other gases or particles that have

been demonstrated to have significant, quantifiable climate forcing effects when released to the atmosphere in significant quantities and for which DOE has established or approved methods for estimating emissions and reductions (§300.1(f)) describes plans for periodically considering the addition of other gases or particles to this list).

Indirect emissions means greenhouse gas emissions from stationary or mobile sources outside the organizational boundary of an entity, including but not limited to the generation of electricity, steam and hot/chilled water that are the result of an entity's energy use or other activities.

Net emission reductions means the sum of all annual changes in emissions, avoided emissions and sequestration of the greenhouse gases specifically identified in §300.6(f), and determined to be in conformance with §§300.7 and 300.8 of this part.

Offset means an emission reduction that meets the requirements of this part, but is achieved by a party other than the reporting entity and has not otherwise been reported under this program.

Reporting Year means the year that is the subject of a report to DOE.

Sequestration means the removal of atmospheric CO₂ (carbon dioxide), either through biologic processes or physical processes, including capture, long-term separation, isolation, or removal of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere, such as through cropping practices, forest and forest products management or injection into an underground reservoir.

Simplified Emission Inventory Tool (SEIT) is a computer-based method, to be developed and made readily accessible by EIA, for translating common physical indicators into an estimate of greenhouse gas emissions.

Sink means an identifiable discrete location, set of locations, or area in which carbon dioxide (CO₂) or some other greenhouse gas is sequestered.

Source means any process or activity that releases a greenhouse gas.

Start year means the year upon which the initial entity statement is based. For large emitters, it is the first year for which the entity submits a complete emissions inventory under this part. For all entities, it is the year immediately preceding the first year for which the entity intends to register reductions and the last year of the initial base period(s).

Subentity means a component of any entity, such as a discrete business line, facility, plant, vehicle fleet, or energy using system, which has associated with it emissions of greenhouse gases that can be distinguished from the emissions of all other components of the same entity; and, when summed with the emissions of all other subentities, equal the entity's total emissions.

Total emissions means the total annual contribution of the greenhouse gases specifically identified in §300.6(f) to the atmosphere by an entity, including both direct and indirect entity-wide emissions.

United States or U.S. means the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and any other territory of the United States.

§ 300.3 Guidance for defining and naming the reporting entity.

(a) A reporting entity must be composed of one or more legally distinct businesses, institutions, organizations or households that are located, at least in part, in the United States and whose operations affect U.S. emissions of greenhouse gases. For the purposes of this program, a legally distinct entity is any holding company, corporation, subsidiary, partnership, joint venture, business, operating entity, government, government agency, institution, organization or household that is treated as a distinct entity under an existing U.S. Federal, state or local law. Businesses may be defined by a certificate of incorporation or corporate charters, Federal tax identification numbers, or other level of organization recognized by specific laws. Similarly, public or private institutions and organizations can define