

Thank you for your commitment to the Federal Supplier Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Pilot. We want to inform you that we are ending the pilot as of the end of September. We will continue to provide limited technical assistance through November 16, 2012.

The Pilot was launched in August 2010 to assist 60 small businesses to complete annual greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventories, assess the benefits and challenges small businesses encounter when completing a GHG emissions inventory, and identify the type of outreach, training and other direct assistance and incentives that will encourage small businesses to conduct a GHG emissions inventory and disclose their emissions data.

Initially, pilot participation levels climbed to more than 80 small businesses. However, participation has steadily declined. The results of the survey we conducted last spring show that each of you found the inventory process to be cumbersome and difficult. Recognizing the difficulties you all have faced -- including time constraints to complete the required inventories, the use of your staff resources and a drop in participation -- we have decided to end program.

The valuable data collected from the pilot and lessons learned will help inform the General Services Administration (GSA) and the Federal community as we make future policy decisions related to the capabilities of small businesses to inventory and report GHG emissions data. The information and experiences you have shared helped to create a road map for us to develop best practices and strategies for small businesses who want to reduce their GHG emissions. You have helped us understand that training and assistance in completing an inventory must be paramount.

Through your participation and commitment to the program, we are hopeful that each of you has learned that you can take important steps to cost effectively manage your energy usage and reduce GHG emissions by developing corporate-wide GHG inventories and setting ambitious reduction goals. GSA values and appreciates the effort that each of you has made to meet the pilot requirements and achieve the program milestones. We are proud of your many accomplishments.

The conclusion of the pilot does not signal the end of GSA's commitment to assist companies with energy reduction best practices from lessons learned through the Pilot. We recently launched the *Sustainable Supply Chain Community of Practice* on the data.gov web site, www.data.gov/communities/supplychain. The site is designed to bring together government, industry, associations, non-profits, and academic institutions to achieve more sustainable supply chains. It initially is focusing on the apparel, building materials, food concessions, furniture, information technology, professional services, and waste management market sectors.

We also hope you will continue to use the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Climate Change web site, www.epa.gov/climatechange, as well as EPA's Small Business Program's Greening Your Business web site at www.epa.gov/osbp/greening.htm. Additional ideas can be found on the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Manufacturing Extension Partnership site at <http://www.nist.gov/mep/successes.cfm#>. We have enjoyed working with you and hope that you will display the well deserved Federal Supplier Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Pilot logo as a testament to the small business community of your leadership and dedication to GHG reduction practices.

Again, we want to reiterate our sincere appreciation for your engagement in the Federal Supplier Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Pilot.

Sincerely,

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