Carbon Price 2011: Increased rigor on accurate carbon data

The opportunity now exists to review and revise your data sets to ensure that you are ready for the introduction of the carbon tax in July 2012.

The new legislation will require a significant increase in the scrutiny of your carbon data.

The National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (NGER) **data sets are expected to be the means for determining which facilities trip the thresholds for carbon tax liability.** With a financial value placed upon emissions and the ASX monitoring carbon impact statements in the market place, there will be additional emphasis on the accuracy of NGER figures.

Reporters will want to minimise their exposure to the carbon tax, while the government will want to ensure that all liable emissions are covered.

In addition to the existing penalties for non-compliance already listed in the NGER legislation, individuals who deliberately or negligently mis-report greenhouse and energy figures may be at risk of charges of tax fraud.

Businesses will continue to calculate their emissions using the methodologies set out in the NGER (Measurement) Determination 2008. For certain emissions sources, businesses will be required to use "higher order" methods introduced over time. This will increase the level of detail required to be captured through measurement and verification, and the importance of accuracy and completeness of emissions data.

The role of the Registered Greenhouse and Energy Auditors (RGEAs) is likely to gain increased importance under the Climate Change Plan. There will be a continuing need for verification of NGER figures, especially around higher order methods, and EITE applications.

Energetics is a member of the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency (DCCEE), Greenhouse and Energy Audit Panel. We have a number of auditors with experience in NGER compliance, as well as extensive experience on the audit panel of the NSW Energy Savings Scheme, which is likely to form the basis of a Federal energy efficiency program.

Energetics is able to utilise this experience and "sit on your side of the fence" to provide pre-verification support and internal audit and review services to our customers.

This will ensure that you optimise your greenhouse and energy data reporting systems to reduce the risk of non-compliance and that your reported emissions correctly reflect your carbon tax liability.

For further information contact

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