

SYNERGY 2009 Breakout Session

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Trading Carbon Credits

30% of electricity is used in buildings

In 2009, there is a prediction of a significant decline in CO₂ output in the U.S. (it's been on an incline for the past 10 years).

There is talk of putting a price tag on CO₂ output in 2012 or 2013 – approximately \$13/ton of CO₂. Today you can trade voluntary carbon credits.

The U.S. has a target of 83% below where we were in 2005. The U.S. signed the Kyoto treaty, but congress never ratified it. As of 2008, 183 countries had signed and ratified the Kyoto Treaty.

There are three main regulatory systems. CCAR is the most rigorously adopted option domestically.

Types of carbon credits vary – regulated/voluntary. There are charismatic carbon credits which are credits given for wind projects and things of that nature.

Prediction: the U.S. will likely follow Germany's lead where the seller is responsible for large items. For instance, if you buy a new fridge or washing machine, you can't throw the old one away. They won't pick it up. When you go to buy a new fridge, you return your old one in its place and the seller must dispose of it.

Since trading carbon credits isn't required yet, it's hard for companies to get the benefits they need from the government.

Eventually companies will say "we can't do business with you because your CO₂ gas emissions are too high." E.g. Today, Walmart asks "what's your carbon footprint?" and then says you need to reduce that by X%.