

November 7th Lexington Kentucky

Framework:

Approach:

National Voluntary plan

Recognize/reward current efforts: provide tax incentives
structure tradable certified carbon credits
-credits for carbon capture
-credits for carbon emission reduction
-credit for carbon sequestration
-multiple (bundled) environmental credits
-establish market for credits
(Univ. of Chicago is developing?)

Encourage replication of current efforts

Establish accounting standards: place a value on environmental services and ecosystem, use whole carbon accounting

Establish Regulatory certainty

Begin education on the issue: develop an outreach packet for landowners

Provide adequate support: ie: have adequate seedlings available, provide lead time to respond, technical support, pool the private landowners, provide conservation easements, review ethics law restrictions

Green power is developing...would consumers pay more for power generated as part of a carbon sequestration project?

Need a banking system: credits for ecological asset enhancement, ie: wetlands, increased water quality,

Framework: Phase II: After formalization and structure of plan, set caps

IRS should change its evaluation...accept the recommendations of Nature Conservancy appraisers

The best framework would be an international treaty.

Is there an international consensus that carbon sequestration is a viable alternative? (can we count reforestation/afforestation? Does conservation count?)

Issues:

Currently, efforts of carbon sequestration are rewarded only with public relations benefit and the hope of a seat at the policy table.

Landowners may be concerned about encumbrance (ie: 70 year rotation)

Regulatory uncertainty

Institutional barriers: waste regulations

State & federal regulations

Ethics regulation (ie: forestry could not provide trees to certain groups)

Protocol: measurement, monitoring (need a standard)

Discount factor for longterm investment

Change regulatory approach from hammer to carrot

Private property rights (east vs. west)

Develop a manual for "how to" for owners of abandoned mines...DOE is doing now?

Establish short-term options...Ie; Property buyout, shorter term crops...perhaps 15 year rotation rather than 65...

Recognize value of forest products (need constituency)

Insurance for carbon credits? (If you find out that the landowner has cut trees, burned down, etc.)

Need cross media approaches: USGS and Watershed approaches

Recognize tradeoffs: outreach, improve distribution of information

Continuum between industry and environment

Need national energy policy (cost of electricity/environmental concerns)

Need to create a simple, feasible framework

Work Together:

Start small, do pilot projects

Need a point of leadership

Need funding incentives for creating partnerships

Need better information flow

Farm Bill/USDA should facilitate partnerships with private landowners and industry

The research community should provide applied technical information including theoretical information for extrapolation.

Need global incentives (fuel efficiency) ...it's everybody's problem

Need unified message and direction

Need an online database with information on: growth rates, costs, operating techniques, how carbon sequestration is measured, etc.

Need consistent application and interpretation

The Administration needs to maintain a stable policy of seeing this as an important issue.

Need clear direction from government: what is required? Allowed?

Also mentioned: special carbon credits for reclaimed mines.

Develop our own treaty (similar to the NAFTA agreement) instead of the Kyoto treaty.

(NOTE: 2nd group also said we (US) should develop its own approach.)

Hold more of these kinds of meetings

Get all the players together...national meeting including govt, RC&D, big landowners, tax people, OSM, EPA, DEP, utilities, economists

What about Weyerhaeuser, etc? Do they (forest products industry) have a way to influence landowners to become involved in carbon sequestration?

Carbon credits: should they be given for doing what you were going to do anyway? (Under a US approach there could be credits issued for "what you were going to do anyway" just to reach the goal)

The makeup of rural landowners is changing...different demographics, different motivation

Try small projects first...not large demonstration projects

Problems faced with deer, other wildlife eating seedlings...

Establish partnerships with organizations, IE: RC&D

Use a sharp eye, be ready to hustle when mandate is given