

**MAKING SENSE OF CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMS
FOR THE SOLID WASTE PROFESSIONAL**

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ABSTRACT: Making Sense of Climate Change Programs for the Solid Waste Professional

Climate Change initiatives that have great potential to impact solid waste operations appear to be growing exponentially at the local, state, regional and federal level. Waste Management, Inc. has been an active participant in all manner of programs to address Climate Change. The paper to be presented at SWANA's Arid Climate Symposium reviews and makes sense of the large array of programs and their impact on solid waste management professionals, particularly those operating in arid climates, who face significant problems in verification, selection of protocols and reporting greenhouse gas emissions. The paper will address future initiatives including the status of President Obama's call for "legislation that places a market-based cap on carbon pollution"; explain voluntary reporting programs such as The Climate Registry, a nonprofit collaboration among North American states and provinces, that sets standards to calculate, verify and publicly report greenhouse gas emissions; and summarize regional programs such as the Western Climate Initiative that is the basis of New Mexico's Climate Change legislation debated in 2009. Individual state rulemaking and its impact on solid waste management also will be addressed by the paper, including California's transportation fuel regulation that links greenhouse gas reductions and fuel use to mandatory standards. The New Mexico Environment Department's own set of regulations detailing how and when solid waste managers must report their impacts also will be covered by the paper. Conclusions will provide recommendations for an approach to dealing with each program from the perspective of operators in an arid climate, how operators might differentiate and explain landfill operations in an arid and wet climate, and offer predictions of what lay ahead.

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