

OGCI position on mechanisms to value carbon

OGCI principles on effective policy mechanisms for providing a value to carbon

FEBRUARY 2021

OGCI principles on policy mechanisms providing a value to carbon

Explicit market-based mechanisms – such as carbon taxes or emissions trading programmes – can provide a transparent and technology-neutral pathway to greenhouse gas emissions abatement.

In circumstances where explicit carbon valuation is not possible or practicable, other implicit carbon valuation mechanisms – such as cost-conscious performance standards or financial incentives such as tax credits and subsidies for emerging technologies – can provide an effective alternative way of reducing emissions provided they are transparent, narrowly targeted, well defined, do not distort competition, and are part of a holistic policy framework that aims to achieve the desired climate ambition.

OGCI supports carbon valuation mechanisms that are based on the following design principles:

- In the case of market-based mechanisms, be as broad as possible in scope, enabling maximum abatement through scale
- Drive emissions reductions at lowest societal cost in a transparent and technology-neutral way
- Stimulate additional value-generating activity through the realization of societal benefits in parallel with emissions abatement
- Incentivize innovation and low carbon technology development
- Endeavour to avoid overlapping emissionsreduction regimes and avoid undue administrative burdens
- Where available, make use of well-designed national and international markets for trading carbon offsets

Governments also have a role in the support of research, development and deployment of new technologies that have the potential to lower the carbon intensity of the economy. OCGI encourages government support for low carbon research, development and deployment based on the following design principles:

WHY A CARBON VALUE IS IMPORTANT

Governments, in designing and implementing appropriate policies and regulations, play an important role in reducing carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions.

To be effective such policies should maximize efficiency, minimize economic distortions, support sustainable development, and provide a predictable, transparent and equitable framework for nations, individuals and businesses, while minimizing negative impacts on social and economic development.

The most efficient policies and regulations are those that abate the highest volume of emissions for the lowest societal cost. For the majority of sources and sectors, the most effective means of reducing emissions is the application of an economic value (or price) to carbon-based emissions.

Policies are an important part of successful national climate strategies. Well-designed policies and regulations, so as to achieve a balance of greenhouse gas emissions between sources and sinks aiming for a net zero future, should take into account energy security, market stability, affordability as well as reliability to ensure promotion of sustainable development.

- Focuses on pre-commercial technologies and systems that have the potential to scale to provide significant emissions reduction
- Recognises the potential of the oil and gas sector to contribute to broader decarbonization and the sector's vital role in the energy transition
- Leverages public-private partnerships to enable, scale up, and commercialize solutions with large emissions abatement potential
- Makes use of partnerships with the private sector to share knowledge, accelerate innovation and minimize costs and development schedules
- Provides a platform for follow-on private sector investment



WHAT IS THE OIL AND GAS CLIMATE INITIATIVE (OGCI)?

The Oil and Gas Climate Initiative is a CEO-led initiative that aims to accelerate the industry response to climate change. OGCI member companies explicitly support the Paris Agreement and its aims. As leaders in the industry, accounting for almost 30% of global operated oil and gas production, we aim to leverage our collective strength and expand the pace and scope of our transitions to a low-carbon future, so helping to achieve net zero emissions as early as possible.

Our members collectively invest over \$7B each year in low carbon solutions. OGCI Climate Investments was set up by members to catalyze low carbon ecosystems. This US\$1B+fund invests in technologies and projects that accelerate decarbonization in oil and gas, industry and commercial transport.

OUR APPROACH TO ADVOCACY

OGCI is at the forefront of climate action in the oil and gas sector. OGCI constructively engages and advocates with external stakeholders on the basis of positions agreed by consensus.

For more details about our advocacy practices, please visit https://oilandgasclimateinitiative.com/about-us/#advocacy

For more information about this position paper, please contact Julien Perez, VP Strategy & Policy, OGCI or Justine Roure, Project Manager, OGCI at policy@oilandgasclimateinitiative.com

oilandgasclimateinitiative.com

























LEGAL DISCLAIMER

While all OGCI member companies have contributed to the development of this document, the views or positions it contains may not fully reflect the views of a particular OGCI member company. Similarly, this document does not cover all relevant activities of OGCI member companies; nor do all member companies participate in all of the activities described.

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT

This document contains certain forward-looking statements – that is, statements related to future, not past events and circumstances – which may relate to the ambitions, aims, targets, plans and objectives of OGCI and/or its member companies – as well as statements related to the future energy mix.

Forward-looking statements involve risk and uncertainty because they relate to events and depend on circumstances that will or may occur in the future and are outside of the control of OGCI and/or its member companies. Actual results or outcomes may differ from those expressed in such statements, depending on a variety of factors. OGCI does not undertake to publicly update or revise these forward-looking statements, even if experience or future changes make it clear that the projected performance, conditions or events expressed or implied therein will not be realized.