# Cisco Policy Position on Climate Change

1.  Cisco supports a substantial reduction in global greenhouse gas (GhG) emissions through market mechanisms such as cap and trade and an international offset trading scheme, accompanied by complimentary measures, such as the promotion of energy efficiency initiatives in order to achieve GhG emission reductions.

2.  Because climate change is a global challenge, requiring both global and local solutions, Cisco supports multilateral approaches to reduce GHG emissions. A comprehensive international and legally-binding UN agreement is needed to provide context for national actions and policies, facilitate international cooperation and provide businesses with certainty to innovate and scale up global investment in low-carbon technologies.

3.  Cap and trade mechanisms provide a clear market signal to reduce carbon emissions by creating incentives for consumers and businesses to use energy more efficiently and invest in long term low-carbon innovation.

4.  The emerging global carbon market should begin by building on current institutions and mechanisms, e.g. linking up existing and developing regional carbon markets.

5.  Cisco believes that information and communication technology (ICT) has the power to transform how the world manages climate change. Cisco supports policies that promote the adoption of ICT as a means of driving energy efficiency throughout more carbon-intensive sectors of the economy through means such as smart grids, smart buildings, smart transportation, and travel substitution.  ICT can measure, manage and improve energy use, and should be embedded to help meet cap and trade, offset, and general GhG reductions.
    *   The Global e-Sustainability Initiative report "*SMART 2020 Enabling the low carbon economy in the information age*" concludes that ICT could enable emissions reductions of 7.8Gt CO2 by 2020 or 15% of business as usual emissions[1]. This is five times larger than the total expected emissions from the entire ICT sector in 2020.

6.  Cisco believes that project-based emissions reductions, such as offsets, will be important in crediting actions that verifiably lead to emissions reductions. Transaction costs for validation, verification, and independent scrutiny of offsets can be reduced through networked real-time monitoring platforms.

7.  Cisco supports policies that increase tax incentives for the use of energy efficient products, promote investment in renewables; increase funding for environmental/energy R&D and provide incentives for the building of smart grids. Cisco supports governmental leadership in its own operations through use of travel substitution, building/retrofitting smart buildings and building smart grids for governmentally-owned electric utilities.

8.  Cisco supports product efficiency standards that promote innovation by being performance-based, take into account product functionality and rely on objective criteria, real-world data and system-level efficiency.

9.  Cisco is committed to creating efficiencies and innovations in its products to lower it carbon footprint, and in its operations where it plans to reduce its global GhG emissions by 25% world-wide by 2012.

10. Cisco believes in the network as the platform for adaptation to climate change.

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[1] See http://www.gesi.org/