

## **Q. What is the Association of Climate Change Officers (ACCO)?**

**A.** ACCO is a professional development organization whose mission is to:

- Advance the professional knowledge, skills and experience of those dedicated to managing and implementing response to challenges and opportunities relating to climate change and energy issues;
- Provide a forum for the exchange and enhancement of best practices, industry standards, and innovation in the area of greenhouse gas management;
- Educate industry and government on the importance of employing qualified professionals, developing sound organizational structures and establishing incentives to encourage innovation; and
- Assist in developing, promoting and implementing best practices and standards in the private and public sectors regarding greenhouse gas management.

## **Q. What are some examples of goals that ACCO will aim to achieve?**

**A.** ACCO will endeavor to advance the professional knowledge, skills and experience of those dedicated to developing and managing GHG strategies, and to promote the development and implementation of best practices involving organizational structures and incentives. Some examples of goals will include:

- Enhance credibility and understanding of critical role climate change officers play, while enabling companies to stay ahead of the curve in addressing challenges brought on by climate change and climate change policy;
- Advance standards of climate change efforts and professional climate change officers;
- Provide a resource for businesses and government seeking expertise in the fields of climate change and energy;
- Promote and enhance collegial and professional relationships among members of ACCO and its committees and between the ACCO and other professional organizations;
- Enhance public awareness of ACCO and the duties and needs of its members, and promote working relationships with other related professional, industry and government organizations;
- Develop a certification and re-certification program for practitioners on the basis of regulatory requirements, professional competence, study and experience; and
- Provide a platform of continuing professional education for its membership to maintain current and active expertise in the laws, rules, regulations, court decisions and best practices involving climate change and energy.

## **Q. Will ACCO take a policy position on climate change or related issues?**

**A.** ACCO will not take any policy positions on climate change, but will provide educational opportunities for members and information to policymakers on how companies are responding to climate change challenges and opportunities (while also spotlighting ACCO members' innovation and efforts).

**Q. Who should join ACCO?**

**A.** Any individual with an active interest in developing and managing climate change strategies and compliance with existing and impending policy at the municipal, state, regional, national and international levels, as well as companies and institutions that employ them, should join ACCO. Additional "affiliate" memberships are available to businesses, organizations, government and other institutions. The association is open to both U.S. and international members.

**Q. Where are the benefits for joining ACCO?**

**A.** The following benefits are available to ACCO organizational and individual members:

- Participation in the ACCO Peer Cluster Program<sup>®</sup>, which provides access to fellow ACCO members assigned as peers, mentors and prospective collaborators
- Opportunities to contribute content for ACCO publications and events
- Subscriptions to CCO Quarterly, ACCO's newsletter
- Participation in ACCO working groups
- Discounts on ACCO events and ACCO partner events, and invitations to ACCO member-only events
- Access to extensive expertise across disciplines and sectors represented by ACCO's diverse community of members, partners, sponsors and other collaborators
- Additional benefits are offered to ACCO organizational members depending on membership level. Please refer to the membership brochure for the full suite of ACCO benefits.

**Q. What is a Peer Cluster Group<sup>®</sup>?**

**A.** ACCO's Peer Cluster Program<sup>®</sup> is a newly launched peer review and business improvement forum developed for members to advance their organization's climate response strategies and further develop their own leadership skills. A Peer Cluster group consists of eight to twelve members from across sectors who collaborate on a monthly basis and meet in person once per year (in conjunction with an ACCO conference) for peer review and facilitated discussion of industry issues, best practices, opportunities, and capacity building strategies. The program enables climate officers to rise above day-to-day operational issues and reap the benefits of other members' experience, insight, and knowledge. By providing a neutral and safe forum for consulting with peers a deep level of trust can be developed, thus creating an environment that is not replicated at traditional industry events or in large groups with competitors. Members are carefully screened and assigned according to size and scope of employer operations, stated interests and other criteria.

**Q. What types of research, data and publications does ACCO generate?**

**A.** ACCO members and staff conduct research projects, synthesize findings and produce publications that provide opportunities for members to learn from and shape best practices on a broad range of climate-related strategies and issues. These research reports, benchmark studies and white papers provide prospective authors and underwriters the opportunity to be recognized as thought leaders related to service offerings or targeted subject matter.

**Q. Are ACCO research reports accessible to the public?**

- A.** Abstracts and publicly available reports from all ACCO research projects will be stored on the ACCO website at [www.ACCOonline.org/knowledge.html](http://www.ACCOonline.org/knowledge.html).
- Individual and basic organizational members interested in downloading complete reports may purchase the reports at a discounted rate. As reports may vary in price, members will receive a 25% discount on reports.
  - Bronze, silver and gold organizational members should reference the instruction sheet for their membership category for information on how to access non-public complete reports and raw data (if applicable) from research projects.
  - Raw data is not available to individual, basic or bronze members.

**Q. What is the nature of ACCO's relationship with the GreenGov Symposium?**

- A.** In June 2011, the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) announced that ACCO would serve as a co-sponsor for the GreenGov Symposium. The GreenGov Symposium is designed to bring together leaders from government, the private sector, non-profits and academia to identify opportunities to create jobs, grow clean energy industries, and curb pollution by incorporating sustainable practices into the Federal Government's operations.

ACCO's co-sponsorship of the 2011 and 2012 GreenGov Symposium with CEQ is part of ACCO's ongoing effort to advance the knowledge and skills of public and private sector leaders dedicated to developing and directing strategies for climate change and sustainability.

More information on the 2012 GreenGov Symposium is available at [www.GreenGov2012.org](http://www.GreenGov2012.org).

**Q. What is the nature of ACCO's relationship with the Climate Leadership Awards?**

- A.** In January 2011, EPA requested proposals from one or more organizations to continue to recognize corporate leadership on climate change. Subsequently, the consortium consisting of The Climate Registry, the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES), and the Association of Climate Change Officers (ACCO) was selected by EPA to partner on the new national recognition program.

The Climate Registry, C2ES, and ACCO have a history of collaboration, complementary expertise, and their respective memberships represent more than 450 corporations, as well as numerous other public and private sector organizations. Together they have extensive experience working with national and global corporations on carbon management, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and strategies to integrate climate change into their operations.

More information on the Climate Leadership Awards is available at [www.epa.gov/climateleadership](http://www.epa.gov/climateleadership).

**Q. What is the relationship between the Climate Leadership Awards and the Climate Leadership Conference?**

- A.** Each year, the consortium (ACCO, The Climate Registry and C2ES) and EPA will honor award recipients at an awards gala held in conjunction with the Climate Leadership Conference. Award winners and special guests will be invited and the event will be open to the public.

The Climate Leadership Conference, conducted by the consortium with EPA as headline sponsor, brings together leaders from business, government and academic institutions who are interested in exchanging best practices on how to address climate change while simultaneously running more competitive and sustainable operations.

The conference provides programming that offers climate-related solutions on topics including leveraging clean energy opportunities, managing climate risks and building resilience, supply chain strategies, disclosures and questionnaires, setting and achieving GHG reduction goals, education and engagement strategies, and making the business case for climate response.

More information on the Climate Leadership Awards is available at [www.climateleadershipconference.org](http://www.climateleadershipconference.org).