

Vancouver Charter: Verifying the Environmental Performance of Technologies



Arising from the March 28th, 2006

2nd International ETV Forum

Environmentally Sound Technologies:

Harmonizing International Approaches to Performance Verification

Opportunity

- ❖ Organizations mandated to address the environmental performance of technologies are seeking to strengthen relationships to promote global access to environmentally sound technologies.
- ❖ Opportunities for synergy exist, including performance verification of technologies of international importance and development of relevant performance benchmarks and verification protocols.



Opportunity

- ❖ International ETV Forum in Vancouver provided a platform for discussion and dialogue.
- ❖ The Vancouver Charter reflects significant interest and commitment in working towards international harmonization of performance verification and reporting.



Vancouver Charter for Action

- ❖ Mechanism for future cooperation and harmonization amongst key stakeholders in the area of environmental performance verification.
- ❖ An integrative tool for engaging stakeholders, linking to key institutions and facilitating international cooperation in support of transparent, environmental performance verification and reporting.



Vancouver Charter for Action – Guiding Vision

- ❖ Long-term vision based on sustainability, recognizing the challenges in improving the relevance and usefulness of information used to support decisions related to the development and deployment of environmentally sound technologies.



Principle 1 – Environmental Sustainability

- ❖ Recognize and respect the value of sustainability, through the development and nurturing of environmentally sound technologies, and the application of related performance criteria.



Principle 2 – Responsible Practices

- ❖ Promote the use of environmental performance verification (EPV) as a decision-support tool to assist in the development and application of environmentally sound technologies and management practices.



Principle 3 – Stakeholder Engagement

- ❖ Engage key stakeholders and foster their participation in the development of relevant environmental performance criteria through stakeholder-driven benchmarking and verification processes.



Principle 4 – Cooperative Networks

- ❖ Expand and enable cooperative networks to facilitate the development and sharing of test methods and verification protocols which build upon existing delivery systems.



Principle 5 – Transparency

- ❖ Ensure environmental performance information is reported in a manner which meets the needs of stakeholders by enabling continuous improvement, accountability and transparency.



Principle 6 – Scientific and Technical Capacity

- ❖ Develop and implement performance verification and reporting processes based on reliable data and credible analysis.



Proposal

- ❖ Strengthen institutional capacity to address specific environmental issues and commitments through technology performance verification and related activities.
- ❖ Examine the potential and requirements for international performance verification and reporting standards, possibly through an ISO type framework.



Benefits

- ❖ Accelerates the implementation and deployment of ESTs through credible environmental performance verification
- ❖ Supports Agenda 21 and the Bali Strategic Plan, as well as various Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements
- ❖ Strengthens working relationships with all partners in areas of mutual interest to promote global access to ESTs.

