

Subject: RE: HB 2020 Goals

The CPO had the following response from the question below:

The United States committed to achieving economy-wide emissions reductions of 26%-28% by 2025 from a baseline of 2005 emissions under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement. In the formal document committing to these reductions, United States described this commitment as “consistent with a straight line emission reduction pathway from 2020 to deep, economy-wide emission reductions by 80% or more by 2050.”

The United States’ commitment focused on anthropogenic emissions reductions. While economy-wide emissions can include net fluctuations in carbon from the landscape and the United States accounted for this in its commitment, the document makes clear that any crediting of sequestration would be net increases in sequestration beyond the baseline amount of sequestration occurring in the base year 2005. As this document notes, this is the established international accounting procedure. It’s also clear from this document that the focus of achieving these reductions, particularly the near term targets is on decarbonization (i.e. curtailing fossil fuel use) and reducing other anthropogenic emissions such as methane and other gases with high global-warming potentials.

The focus on anthropogenic emissions is particularly evident in the actions the U.S. has taken and the actions they plan(ned) to make. All of the actions listed focus on reducing anthropogenic emissions, such as the fuel economy standards implemented by US DOT and EPA, reducing emissions at power plants, lowering use of HFCs (a potent type of GHG).

Thank you,
Beth