

Comments to EPA/SAB Biogenic Carbon Emissions Panel
May 23, 2012 Teleconference
(By Peter Becker, PhD)

All carbon emissions to the atmosphere enhance global warming, even those that are reabsorbed by living vegetation within an arbitrary 100-year time frame. It is therefore vital to reduce all carbon emissions as rapidly as possible to avoid ecological and climatic tipping points.

The EPA/SAB Biogenic Carbon Emissions Panel is a critical element of this emissions reduction process as it grapples with the complexities of the EPA's draft accounting framework. To avoid being overwhelmed by these complexities, we offer the following suggestions to the Panel members:

- Understand and accept that accounting must conform with the restrictions of the Clean Air Act, which regulates emissions from specific facilities
- Commit to a problem-solving process that seeks all of the best available information, even when that contradicts a personal ideological predisposition
- Strive for logical consistency and simplicity
- Make your point once and succinctly to encourage full participation by all Panel members
- Support the Panel Chair's efforts to keep the discussions on track and thereby produce a timely report