

## **The Climate Trust<sup>®</sup> Names New Vice-President**

***Proven innovator Dick Kempka to lead business development at climate solution pioneer***

**PORTLAND, OR** – Dick Kempka, formerly Vice-President of Environmental Markets at Equator, an environmental asset management firm, has been named Vice-President of The Climate Trust. Ben Vitale, President of The Climate Trust said, “Dick’s deep experience in carbon finance and business development makes him the perfect choice for this newly created position. His pioneering work for both private companies and non-profits will allow him to contribute immediately to further advance The Climate Trust’s mission. I’m thrilled that Dick joined our team and enabled The Climate Trust to expand into the heartland of the U.S.” Kempka will be responsible for spearheading revenue generation through partnerships with utilities and other companies, carbon sales from the Climate Legacy Program, and new innovation programs related to “low carbon” farming and forestry activities among others. He will open The Climate Trust’s first office outside of Oregon in Memphis, Tennessee to expand programs in the Midwestern and Eastern U.S.

Kempka joined Equator in 2007 where he had primary responsibilities in carbon sales, origination, and client relationships focusing largely on domestic forest carbon and wetland mitigation bank investments. In this capacity he partnered closely with timber investment management organizations, real estate investment trusts, and other large private non-industrial landowners, environmental firms and conservation non-profit organizations. Dick developed a first-of-a-kind grassland carbon project that exceeded industry standards and was ultimately financed by a major international insurance company. Prior to Equator, Kempka work for over 15 years with Ducks Unlimited, a leading wetland conservation organization, where served as Director of Energy and Technology at National Headquarters and led DU’s entry in the eco-asset markets. In this capacity he established an innovative carbon transaction with a consortium of 25 diverse energy companies in the bottomland hardwood region of the Lower Mississippi Valley.

Kempka will assume the business development leadership role for The Climate Trust in January 2011. He said “I am excited to be given the opportunity to work with the talented TCT team and utilize my carbon finance, asset management and environmental markets background. Currently, there are new opportunities to deliver carbon reduction and nutrient management projects in the agriculture and forestry sectors due to the anticipation of expanding markets in California and other states and Canadian provinces. The Climate Trust programs have been setting the standard for quality emission reduction programs for 10 years and I look forward to establishing other enduring partnerships over the coming years”. Kempka has a Master’s degree from Indiana State University and B.S. from Carroll College in Wisconsin.

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The Climate Trust is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with over 10 years of carbon market experience. Our mission is to provide expertise, financing, and inspiration to accelerate innovative climate solutions that endure. In order to arrest the rise in greenhouse gas emissions and to avoid the most dangerous impacts of climate change, The Climate Trust works to accelerate project implementation, develop financing solutions, and establish a supportive policy environment in the renewable energy, agriculture, forestry, energy efficiency and transportation sectors.