Over the last 30 years, emissions trading has proven itself as an environmental and economic policy mechanism that has been applied around the world. The CarbonSim exercise is a fabulous tool that synthesizes those years of learning into one step-by-step learning experience that demonstrates how markets function and the dynamics and illustrate how ETS design choices impact outcomes.

Though very useful as a policy instrument, emissions trading can be challenging to understand. A well-designed ETS simulation tool can provide stakeholders with a clear understanding of what emissions trading entails and how it works, even if they are not familiar with these concepts.

The CarbonSim exercise is a great way to provide practical knowledge for industries and decision makers on how carbon trading works. It can change people’s attitudes from “ETS is a burden for business” to “businesses can make profits from this system if they make it right, ecologically, economically, and socially.”

The Santiago CarbonSim exercises were excellent. Participants with a range of views were able to collaborate and participate in an experiential learning process that brought to life the core elements of an emissions trading system. The simulation leaves participants with a common understanding that results are driven by design. Highly recommended for advocates, policymakers, and decision makers on how carbon trading and ETS works. It can change people’s attitudes from “ETS is a burden for business” to “businesses can make profits from this system if they make it right, ecologically, economically, and socially.”

Before CarbonSim I thought I knew a lot about cap and trade policy. Having used this exercise I have a deeper understanding of a businessman who has dual financial and regulatory obligations. I learned that compliance troubles and market forces necessitate a dynamic strategic alignment way. And I see that environmental and economic outcomes are a function of the design decisions that are made to resolve those design trade-offs.

The ETS simulation game, CarbonSim, was a very useful complement to a recent workshop on ETS trading strategies for MSE entities. The opportunity to practice with a realistic trading simulation was invaluable for the participants, helping them to gain experience in compliance strategies including abatement, auction, and side trading. And decision makers need skills which take time to develop. Building a deeper appreciation of these technical challenges allows me to be more effective in my advocacy.

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