

# Water-Energy Greenhouse Gas Guidance PILOT PROGRAM

COOL PLANET

Eight percent of California's electricity consumption is associated with water and wastewater operations, resulting in both a significant portion of California's energy demand and carbon footprint. Given the significant amount of energy required to power the water system, the extreme variability in precipitation from year to year, and the increasing demand for resources from a rapidly growing population, an improved understanding of the emissions associated with each process in water management will help water agencies in California to optimize the efficiency of their operations and reduce emissions. However, standardized methodologies designed to measure, account for, and track the emissions intensity of these operations have not yet been available.

To address this, The Climate Registry (TCR) developed the Water-Energy-GHG (WEG) Guidance, a new methodology to quantify the GHG emissions intensity of water delivered to Southern California, as part of the Cool Planet Project with support from Southern California Edison (SCE). The WEG intensity metrics developed under this guidance will provide a consistent means for water suppliers, their customers, potential funders, and the public to compare and analyze the GHG emissions associated with California's water treatment and delivery, before water is delivered to a tap for the first time.

Throughout 2017, TCR and SCE hosted an innovative pilot for water agencies located in SCE service territory to test the WEG Guidance. With support from participating water suppliers TCR:



Assisted agencies in gathering, organizing and reviewing the data required to develop and report a comprehensive GHG inventory, if agencies were not already doing so;



Assisted agencies in developing one or more WEG intensity metric, depending on the data and resources available to them;



Developed a WEG intensity metric calculation tool, which complements and expands upon existing water-energy intensity calculation tools;



Provided a Final Report with a summary of pilot participation activities and the metrics developed for each water agency with suggestions for how to improve the accuracy, credibility, and completeness of their WEG intensity metrics going forward;



Gathered feedback and lessons learned from participants to inform the development of WEG Guidance 2.0.

Contact us to learn more about the WEG Guidance pilot project:  
Chelsea Hasenauer, [chasenauer@theclimateregistry.org](mailto:hasenauer@theclimateregistry.org), (213) 785-1231



The Climate Registry

## WEG Guidance 2.0

In order to paint a more complete picture of the emissions associated with water management in California, additional guidance is required to measure the emissions intensity of water management activities that occur after we dispose of water through our drains, such as wastewater treatment or the conveyance of water to and from recycling facilities. As advanced water treatment processes continue to become more sophisticated, and recycled water is considered a potential long-term solution for meeting Southern California's increasing water demand, it will be important for California to understand the emissions trends associated with these downstream water management activities.

TCR will now work to expand the scope of the WEG Guidance to include methodologies for tracking the emissions intensity of wastewater and recycled water. These additional intensity metrics will help water agencies optimize their decision-making with regards to emissions reductions. Stay engaged in the development of WEG Guidance 2.0 in 2018.

## Special thanks to participating water agencies:

California American Water

City of Brea

City of Huntington Beach

City of Pomona

City of Santa Barbara

City of Santa Monica

City of Ventura

Cucamonga Valley Water District

Eastern Municipal Water District

Golden State Water Company

Inland Empire Utilities Agency

Irvine Ranch Water District

Metropolitan Water District

Suburban Water

Walnut Valley Water District

West Basin Municipal Water District

### About Cool Planet

The Cool Planet Project, administered in partnership with SCE, provides eligible SCE business customers membership into TCR to access the tools to calculate, verify, and publicly report their GHG footprint as a reward for participating in demand response and/or installing energy efficiency projects.

### About The Climate Registry

TCR is a non-profit governed by U.S. states and Canadian provinces and territories. TCR designs and operates voluntary and compliance GHG reporting programs globally, and assists organizations in measuring, reporting and verifying (MRV) the carbon in their operations in order to manage and reduce it.

The Cool Planet program provides utility business customers with education and technical training to measure and manage their energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. The Cool Planet program is funded by California utility rate payers and administered under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission, through a contract awarded to The Climate Registry. California customers who choose to participate in this program are not obligated to purchase any additional services offered by the contractor. This program is offered on a first-come, first-served basis from 2/1/2013-12/31/2018 or until funds are depleted. Terms and conditions apply. The trademarks used herein are the property of their respective owners.