

The Climate Registry Water-Energy Greenhouse Gas Program



Water-Energy Nexus Registry



The significant amount of energy required to power California's water lifecycle also significantly impacts its carbon footprint. The California Energy Commission estimates that the transportation, treatment, wastewater processing and disposal, and heating of water in California consumes 20 percent of its electricity and 30 percent of its non-power plant related natural gas.



California has established statewide targets of reducing its GHG emissions. Assembly Bill 32 ("AB 32", Nunez, Pavley, 2006) requires California to reduce GHG emissions to the levels they were in 1990 by the year 2020. Senate Bill 32 ("SB 32", Pavley, 2016) furthered that mandate by requiring the Air Resources Board (ARB) to ensure that statewide GHG emissions are reduced by 40 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2030. As GHG emission targets get more stringent, the impact of water consumption only grows in significance.



The energy intensity and GHG impact of a given volume of water can vary significantly from location to location due to variations in water transportation requirements, geography, and processing needs. These variations can make it challenging for water users to accurately account for GHG emission impacts.

To support these GHG reduction efforts, the California State Legislature passed Senate Bill 1425 ("SB 1425", Pavley, Chapter 596, Statutes of 2016) which requires CalEPA to oversee the development of a registry for GHG emissions resulting from the water-energy nexus using the best available data for voluntary use by entities doing business within the State.

In March of 2018, TCR began working with CalEPA on a 3-year program to develop the voluntary registry and protocols for quantifying GHG emissions related to water use or conveyance. TCR will be coordinating this work with water agencies and other stakeholders to design the protocols and methodologies, which may then be used to estimate GHG reductions. Registry membership will be open to water agencies and other entities doing business in California. We are planning to open the online reporting tool and Help Desk services by early spring 2019.

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.

Contact us

For more information on our water-energy work please email us at policy@theclimateregistry.org or call our help desk at (866) 523-0764, ext. 3

We look forward to speaking with you!
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