The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) manages California’s water resources, systems, and infrastructure, including the California State Water Project. This 700-mile water storage and delivery system supplies water to more than 27 million people in Northern California, the Bay Area, the San Joaquin Valley, the Central Coast and Southern California, and it irrigates about 750,000 acres of farmland. DWR has been reporting its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to The Climate Registry (TCR) since 2007 and third-party verifying its emissions data since 2010. DWR’s total GHG emissions have dropped significantly over that time.

In 2016, its total emissions were just over one million metric tons of carbon dioxide (mtCO2e), marking a 69 percent reduction from 3.25 million mtCO2e in 2007. At the same time, DWR has increased energy efficiency and achieved energy savings at many of its facilities. DWR has achieved average savings of 1.14E6 kWh per year – equivalent to $87,000 in annual energy savings – at 26 of its facilities, including operations buildings and visitor centers.

DWR credits using TCR’s GHG reporting guidance with enabling it to more accurately quantify its emissions, and then determine what kinds of projects and upgrades are best positioned to reduce emissions.

“Our membership with The Climate Registry has helped us to quantify our emissions on a more detailed and accurate level,” said Ram Verma, Chief of the Market Instruments and GHG Management Branch at DWR. “For example, before our TCR membership, we lacked detailed quantification of emission factors to determine our accurate carbon footprint. But thanks to TCR’s emission factors, we can accurately assign emissions numbers at a more detailed level. Specifically, we can now quantify which emissions are Scope 1, 2, or 3, providing us with an understanding of where we can best achieve savings and better control our emissions.”

As a TCR member, DWR has also benefited from increased recognition for its leadership on GHG reporting, as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies. As a respected leader in the space, DWR is often asked to assist other agencies or provide input on their GHG management plans.

In May 2019, DWR became a Founder of the Water-Energy Nexus Registry.

The Climate Registry is a non-profit organization that designs and operates GHG reporting programs. The Water-Energy Nexus Registry is a voluntary program that allows participants to measure, track, and mitigate the GHG emissions associated with California’s water system. It is sponsored by CalEPA and administered by The Climate Registry.