



The Climate Registry

COVER MEMO TO ACCOMPANY
Water-Energy Nexus Registry Protocol

UPDATES AND CLARIFICATIONS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

January 14, 2021

The Climate Registry (TCR) is pleased to release the [Water-Energy Nexus \(WEN\) Registry Protocol Updates and Clarifications](#) for public comment. TCR is accepting comments on proposed changes until **Monday, February 15th** and will host a webinar on **Tuesday, February 2nd at 11:00am Pacific** to overview the changes outlined below.

Introduction to WEN Registry Protocol Updates and Clarifications

The [WEN Registry Protocol](#) presents the reporting requirements and quantification methods for TCR's voluntary greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reporting program for the water sector in California. TCR has drafted an update to the WEN Registry Protocol primarily to:

- Reflect new and/or refined quantification methods for water-related emissions sources addressed in the [IPCC's 2019 Refinement](#) to the 2006 Standards on Quantifying and Reporting National GHG Inventories; and
- Provide more flexibility in accounting for N₂O emissions from wastewater treatment and discharge close collaboration with wastewater managers and an extensive literature review.

Key updates to the WEN Registry Protocol include:

1. A summary of the water sector-specific emissions sources addressed in the WEN Registry Protocol is added to the Introduction to the WEN Registry Protocol. ([Water Sector GHG Emissions Quantification](#))
2. Refined quantification methods and emission factors for calculating CH₄ emissions from wastewater treatment and discharge. The updates now provide distinct methods to differentiate between process and effluent CH₄ emissions from centralized waste water treatment plants (WWTPs), and to account for the removal of sludge from the liquid stream when calculating CH₄ emissions. ([Calculating CH₄ Emissions from Wastewater Treatment and Discharge](#))
3. Refined and more flexible quantification methods and emission factors for calculating N₂O emissions from wastewater treatment and discharge. ([Calculating N₂O Emissions from Wastewater Treatment and Discharge](#))



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4. New guidance to optionally report non-biogenic CO₂ emissions that result from the presence of fossil carbon in wastewater streams. ([Calculating CO₂ from Wastewater](#))
5. New quantification methods and emission factors for calculating and optionally reporting CO₂ and CH₄ emissions from reservoirs and other wetlands. ([Reservoirs and Other Managed Wetlands](#))
6. New disclosure options for indirect water use embedded in consumed electricity are added to the existing list of suggested water data disclosures. ([Reporting an Inventory in the Water-Energy Nexus Registry](#))

Please refer to the WEN Registry Protocol Updates and Clarifications document to review these and other minor changes. While TCR welcomes comments on all aspects of the WEN Registry Protocol, it particularly seeks comments on the major changes outlined above.

TCR strives to implement a transparent protocol development process that includes the participation of a wide array of stakeholders. We sincerely appreciate your interest in the development of the WEN Registry Protocol. TCR will hold a webinar to outline the proposed changes and address stakeholder questions on **February 2, 2021 at 11:00 am PST**. Click [here](#) to register. Written comments on the WEN Registry Protocol Updates and Clarifications must be submitted by populating [TCR's public comment feedback form](#) and emailing it to wen@theclimateregistry.org by February 15, 2021. Your comments may be publicly posted by TCR unless you specifically request that TCR does not reveal your identity/organization. If you have any questions, please contact the WEN Registry help desk at (866) 523-0764, ext. 5 or wen@theclimateregistry.org. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful feedback and comments. TCR will consider the public comments that are received in finalizing an update to the WEN Registry Protocol.