

THE CLIMATE
REGISTRY

2020

IMPACT REPORT



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

My first full year as Executive Director of The Climate Registry has certainly been an eventful one. In addition to the climate crisis, we were faced with two other crises: a global pandemic and a social justice reckoning in the U.S. that rippled around the world. These are critical intersectional issues affecting our health and security, jobs and the economy, and the future of our planet. They need intersectional solutions—solutions that are generated through collaboration and capacity building across sectors, regions, and communities. This type of cross-sector collaboration has always been fundamental to the success of The Climate Registry, and we look forward to further advancing our collaborative efforts as we work together towards net zero.




I am proud and grateful that the staff at The Climate Registry has not only survived this incredibly tough year, but has in fact ramped up our resources and support for climate action in North America. We are more nimble than ever after adopting a best-in-class governance structure that includes a Board of Directors representing a wide variety of sectors, as well as a Council of Jurisdictions advisory body. We are ready to support climate action and ambition on the road to net zero by initiating the development of the Net-Zero Portal, a global database for carbon-neutral pledges and pathways. And we emerged with more robust programming for building capacity in greenhouse gas (GHG) measurement, reporting and verification, with new goal-setting guidance and an expanded consulting practice.

At the end of the day, our goal is to empower North American organizations to do more in the fight against climate change by providing services and tools that help them reduce their emissions. In 2020, despite all the challenges, we rose to the occasion, and we will continue to rise. We look forward to helping you rise to meet yours.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Amy E. Holm".

Amy Holm
Executive Director



The Climate Registry (TCR) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization governed by a Board of Directors and advised by a Council of Jurisdictions.

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DIANE WITTENBERG, CHAIR

Ms. Wittenberg was the founding President of the California Climate Action Registry and the first Executive Director of its successor organization, The Climate Registry. Ms. Wittenberg also launched the California PEV Collaborative (now VELOZ) and co-authored “California Goes Green, A Roadmap to Climate Leadership.” Previously, she served as Vice President of Southern California Edison and Edison International. Ms. Wittenberg is also a member of the California State Park Commission.

EDAN DIONNE

Ms. Dionne is Vice President, Environmental, Energy and Chemical Management Programs with IBM’s Corporate Environmental Affairs department. She leads a team that is responsible for defining IBM’s strategy in these areas, establishing and maintaining IBM’s global environmental management system, and setting internal requirements and goals. Ms. Dionne has over 35 years of experience as an environmental professional with deep knowledge across environmental, energy and chemical management topics. She also serves on the board of the Wildlife Habitat Council.

LAURIE FITZMAURICE

Ms. Fitzmaurice is Executive Director at the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA). She has nearly 30 years of experience in business development, specializing in energy infrastructure development around the world. Prior to her current role, Ms. Fitzmaurice was Vice President of Business Development at EDF Renewables México, based in México City, where she was responsible for the management of the business development department, focused on the origination and development of new wind and solar energy projects.

MARY D. NICHOLS

Ms. Nichols is widely recognized for a career as one of the world’s most important environmental regulators, serving as Chair of the California Air and Resources Board from 1975-1982 and then from 2007-2020. Ms. Nichols is currently a professor at UCLA Law School and holds visiting appointments in the Columbia Global Energy Program and the Cornell Atkinson Center for a

Sustainable Future. She also serves as the Vice-Chair of the China-California Climate Center and Co-Chair of the Commission on the Future of Mobility.

JANET PEACE

As Chief of Advisory Services at Bluesource, Ms. Peace is responsible for leading outreach, guidance, and engagement on key climate issues. Prior to her current role, she was on the executive management team at the Pew Center on Global Climate Change and helped launch its successor, the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES). Ms. Peace is an advisor to the World Bank’s High-Level Commission on Carbon Pricing Competitiveness and American University’s Center for Environmental Policy.

RICHARD SAINES

Mr. Saines is a Partner at Pollination, a specialist climate change advisory and investment firm, and is globally recognized as a leading climate change lawyer. For two decades he has advised governments, multinational companies, financial institutions, funds and project sponsors on the economic transition to a low-carbon economy. Rick is a former Partner and head of Baker McKenzie’s North American Climate Change Practice, and the former Chair of the International Emissions Trading Association (IETA). He serves on the Governing Council of IETA and the Board of Advisors to the USC Schwarzenegger Institute.

CATHY S. WOOLLUMS

Ms. Woollums is the Senior Vice President, Chief Sustainability Officer for Berkshire Hathaway. She is responsible for developing, leading and integrating the sustainability strategy throughout the company. Ms. Woollums has served on the Iowa State Bar Association’s Environmental and Natural Resources Section Council and the Iowa Climate Change Advisory Council and acts as chair of the Berkshire Hathaway Sustainability Leadership Council. Prior to joining Berkshire Hathaway Energy, she was a litigation attorney in private practice and served as a judicial clerk for the Seventh Judicial District of Iowa.

OUR COUNCIL OF JURISDICTIONS

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Christopher Gilmore, Executive Director, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

CALIFORNIA

Rajinder Sahota, Deputy Executive Officer for Climate Change & Research, California Air Resources Board

COLORADO

Shaun McGrath, Environmental Health & Protection Director, Department of Public Health and Environment

GEORGIA

Karen Hays, Air Protection Branch Chief, Environmental Protection Division

HAWAII

Scott Glenn, Chief Energy Officer, State Energy Office

ILLINOIS

Carrie Zalewski, Chairman, Illinois Commerce Commission

MARYLAND

Ben Grumbles, Secretary, Department of the Environment

MASSACHUSETTS

Will Space, Senior Technical Advisor for Climate Programs, Department of Environmental Protection

MICHIGAN

Brandy Brown, Climate and Energy Advisor, Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Joseph T. Fontaine, Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and Technical Programs Manager, Air Resources Division, Department of Environmental Services

NEW YORK

Maureen Leddy, Director of Office of Climate Change, Department of Environmental Conservation

NEVADA

Bradley Crowell, Director, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Cory Doll, Manager, Climate Change and Air Quality, Department of Environment and Natural Resources

NOVA SCOTIA

Brittany White, Senior Policy Analyst, Department of Environment & Climate Change

OKLAHOMA

Kendal Stegmann, Air Quality Division Director, Department of Environmental Quality

OREGON

Kristen Sheeran, Senior Climate Policy Advisor, Department of Environmental Quality

PENNSYLVANIA

Patrick McDonnell, Secretary, Department of Environmental Protection

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Todd Dupuis, Executive Director, Climate Change and Environment, Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action

QUÉBEC

Marc DeBlois, Senior Advisor, Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques

RHODE ISLAND

Terrence Gray, Deputy Director for Environmental Protection, Department of Environmental Management

TENNESSEE

Alexa Voytek, Energy Programs Administrator, Department of Environment and Conservation

WASHINGTON

Becky Kelley, Senior Policy Advisor for Climate, Office of Governor Jay Inslee

WISCONSIN

Maria Redmond, Director, Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy

WYOMING

Todd Parfitt, Director, Department of Environmental Quality

YUKON

Rebecca Turpin, Director, Climate Change Secretariat, Department of Environment

Building Capacity in GHG Measurement, Reporting and Verification

NET-ZERO PORTAL

At the 2020 Climate Leadership Conference, TCR announced an important new initiative: the Net-Zero Portal, a global database for tracking and comparing carbon neutrality pledges and pathways. As an increasing number of companies and governments around the world make net-zero pledges, the portal will provide essential information on these targets and the pathways to achieving them. Organizations and jurisdictions can use this information to build capacity, learn about effective strategies, and encourage those with existing pledges to build out more specific actions and goals. In addition, the Net-Zero Portal will empower the public to better understand the myriad carbon neutrality pledges and pathways.

In 2020, TCR spearheaded the first phase of portal development: establishing an expert advisory committee, working group, and steering committee to design a framework for the database. This inclusive process will ensure that the database reflects a wide range of perspectives and that it is relevant across countries and sectors. Working group members are considering transparency requirements, disclosure criteria, scaling or rating systems, and the resources provided in the database.

We'd like to thank all of our valued partners for their contributions, especially the Net-Zero Portal sponsors:



If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact Chelsea Hasenauer at chasenauer@theclimateregistry.org.

GOAL-SETTING SERVICES FOR CARBON FOOTPRINT REGISTRY MEMBERS

TCR developed new goal-setting services to support our Carbon Footprint Registry members' increasing climate ambition. As part of the offering, TCR developed goal-setting guidance that outlines the recommended steps for developing a GHG reduction goal. In addition to the guidance, TCR developed new resources and hosted an informational webinar on how to increase climate ambition. Beginning in 2021, TCR will offer consulting services to members wishing to set goals and achieve recognition, along with a webinar series exploring topics in GHG reduction and goal setting.

“Through The Climate Registry, we annually calculate and publicly disclose our carbon footprint. What we’ve found through that process is that, since 1990, the department has reduced its carbon footprint by over 70%.”

— John Andrew, Assistant Deputy Director,
California Department of Water Resources

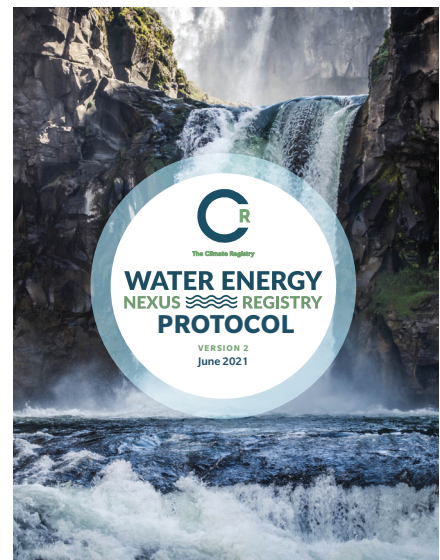
WATER-ENERGY NEXUS REGISTRY

In 2020, the Water-Energy Nexus Registry was administered by TCR on behalf of the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA). The registry helps organizations in California's water sector—as well as large water consumers—identify opportunities to decrease emissions, save energy, and reduce costs.

Participants include water agencies and other organizations such as Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, East Bay Municipal Utility District, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Sonoma Water, Sierra Nevada Brewing Company, and Stanford University.

In addition, the California Department of Water Resources and Sonoma Water (who are also Water-Energy Nexus Registry founders) developed system-average performance metrics that disclose the emissions intensity of their water. These metrics can be used by 1) water users, to better understand the emissions embedded in the water products or co-products they receive, and 2) water managers, to better understand the upstream emissions of their water and wastewater management operations.

In 2020, TCR also drafted an update to the Water-Energy Nexus Registry Protocol to reflect new and refined quantification methods for water-related emissions sources that were addressed in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 2019 Refinement to the 2006 Standards on Quantifying and Reporting National GHG Inventories. These updates will provide more flexibility in accounting for N₂O emissions from wastewater treatment and discharge.



SMALL BUSINESS GUIDANCE

Small businesses account for nearly half of U.S. GDP, and they have a large role to play in addressing climate change. However, many small businesses lack specialized tools and resources to accurately estimate their GHG emissions and demonstrate GHG emissions reductions. TCR is working on streamlining GHG reporting for small businesses and providing them with tools and guidance that suit their needs.

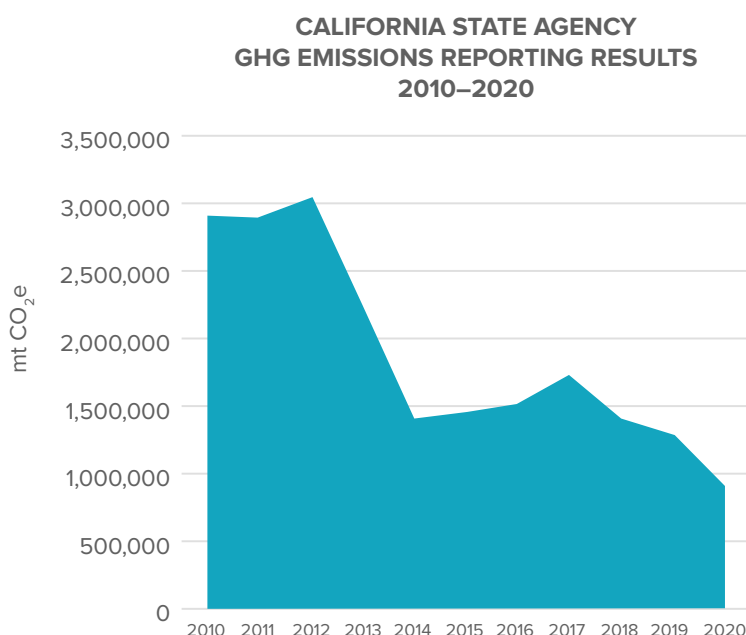
This past year, TCR launched the second phase of our Small Business GHG reporting initiative, sponsored by Southern California Gas Company and Edison International. This phase included the development of Small Business Guidance, which was released for public comment and revised to incorporate more information on opportunities for emissions reductions and recognition. As many businesses employed novel strategies to navigate challenging times, participants appreciated the opportunity to incorporate their sustainability goals into their operations.

ELECTRIC POWER SECTOR PROTOCOL

TCR collected member feedback on proposed updates to the Electric Power Sector (EPS) Protocol and published updates and clarifications to the protocol in December 2020. The revisions incorporated concepts and requirements of market-based accounting for purchased electricity that were introduced in WRI's GHG Protocol Scope 2 Guidance and TCR's General Reporting Protocol v. 2.1, as well as several updates arising from member requests. Improvements include clarified methods for reporting electricity delivery metrics; additional flexibility for reporting power generation metrics, as well as biogenic CO₂, CH₄ and N₂O metrics; and an improved EPS Report workbook. TCR would like to extend sincere thanks to the member organizations who provided feedback on the protocol updates.

CALIFORNIA STATE AGENCY PROGRAM

In 2012, former California Governor Jerry Brown signed an executive order requiring state agencies and departments to reduce their GHG emissions by at least 10 percent by 2015 and by 20 percent by 2020 against a 2010 baseline. To meet this requirement, California state agencies report their annual GHG emission totals to the State of California using TCR's resources and online reporting platform. In 2020, TCR continued to administer the program, with the 44 participants reporting reduced emissions by over 52 percent from



2010 to 2019. These reductions were achieved by procuring 100% renewable energy at state-owned facilities, switching to electric vehicles and consuming renewable diesel, and decreasing reliance on fossil fuels such as natural gas. In 2018, former Governor Brown issued executive order B-55-18, committing the state to carbon neutrality by 2045. TCR continues to work with the state agencies to achieve this ambitious new target.

CONSULTING SERVICES

Green Together Collaborative, a project of the California Strategic Growth Council

Former Governor Brown signed AB 2722 into law in 2016, creating the Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Program. TCC is funded by California Climate Investments, a statewide program that puts cap-and-trade dollars to work reducing GHGs and funding community-led development and infrastructure projects that achieve environmental, health, and economic benefits in disadvantaged communities across California.

In 2020, TCR was selected to provide technical assistance to one of TCC's grantees, the Green Together Collaborative (GTC). GTC is a partnership between several organizations and government agencies with funded projects in Pacoima-Sun Valley, including Community Partners, Pacoima Beautiful, Grid Alternatives Greater Los Angeles, Los Angeles Business Council, the Trust for Public Land, Los Angeles Department of Transit, Los Angeles Conservation Corps, and the UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation. The Collaborative's vision is to help build a community that is safe, green, socially inclusive, and resilient to climate change. In 2020, TCR assisted GTC with communications and project management. TCR will continue to support communications through 2021.

Low Carbon Fuel Standard Verifier Accreditation Training

California Air Resources Board's Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) program aims to decrease the carbon intensity of California's transportation fuel pool and provide an increasing range of low-carbon and renewable alternatives. The program relies on accurate data monitoring and reporting to support implementation and track effectiveness. In 2018, third-party verification became a new LCFS program requirement.

In 2020, TCR, in partnership with the Climate Action Reserve and Greenhouse Gas Management Institute (GHGMI), developed and delivered in-person and virtual trainings to verification bodies that intend to conduct verifications for the program.

Showcasing and Supporting North American Subnational Climate Action

HIGHLIGHTS VIDEO: ANNUAL UN CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES DELEGATION (COP25)

In 2020, TCR and the Climate Action Reserve released a video featuring highlights from our activities showcasing sub-national leadership at COP 25 in Madrid, Spain. Delegates included representatives from the States of California, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Washington, and Wisconsin; the City of Los Angeles; University of California, Berkeley; and companies such as Bay Area Air Quality Management District, BMW North America, Southern California Gas Company, Edison International and Berkshire Hathaway.

TCR and the Reserve are planning on hosting a delegation at COP26 in Glasgow, UK, in November 2021. Learn more about our delegation at www.copdelegation.org.

“Being part of the US subnational delegation allows Minnesota to share our state’s efforts to reduce carbon pollution and learn from experts in other states and countries to benefit from ideas and experiences.”

—Tim Sexton, Assistant Commissioner and Chief Sustainability Officer, Office of Sustainability and Public Health, State of Minnesota



Climate leaders at COP 25 in Madrid

CLIMATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The Climate Leadership Conference

(www.climateleadershipconference.org) is North

America's premier event dedicated to addressing the climate crisis through policy, innovation, and business solutions. Every year, the three-day program offers a

critical opportunity to recognize progress, strategize and add to the momentum of businesses, cities, and states that are acting to combat the climate crisis. TCR has partnered with the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES) since 2012 to present the conference.



CLIMATE
LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE

The 2020 Climate Leadership Conference in Detroit convened over 400 business, government, and nonprofit leaders and featured many notable speakers, including Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin Mandela Barnes; U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (Michigan); Liesl Clark, Director of the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy; and renowned author Andrew J. Hoffman, the Holcim Professor of Sustainable Enterprise at the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business and School for Environment and Sustainability.



Senator Debbie Stabenow



Amy Holm, Executive Director of The Climate Registry; and Bob Perciasepe, Former President of C2ES

COFFEE WITH CLIMATE LEADERS

At the start of the pandemic, TCR introduced a new video series, "Coffee with Climate Leaders WFH," to sustain momentum on climate action and to provide a platform for climate leaders to connect.

Throughout 2020, TCR's Executive Director, Amy Holm, interviewed some of North America's most influential climate leaders, innovators, and problem-solvers about their work and the opportunities and challenges ahead. Guests included Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin Mandela Barnes; California Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia; Rachel Kyte, Dean of The Fletcher School at Tufts University; Ben Grumbles, Maryland's Secretary of the Environment; Mustafa Santiago Ali, Vice President of Environmental Justice, Climate, and Community Revitalization at The National Wildlife Federation; and Vicki Arroyo, then-Executive Director of the Georgetown Climate Center. Episodes can be viewed here: <https://www.theclimateregistry.org/thoughtleadership/coffee-with-climate-leaders-wfh/>

Recognizing and Incentivizing Excellence in GHG Reporting and Reductions

CLIMATE LEADERSHIP AWARDS

The Climate Leadership Awards

(www.climateleadershipconference.org/awards) program recognizes and incentivizes exemplary corporate, organizational and individual leadership in response to climate change in the United States. The awards are presented annually at a special ceremony during the Climate Leadership Conference. Since 2012, the Climate Leadership Awards have recognized nearly 200 organizations and individuals from across the U.S.

In 2020, the awards recognized leaders such as the California Department of Water Resources, SC Johnson, Tyson Foods, Environmental Defense Fund, and the City of Los Angeles. William K. Reilly, a former Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and president and chairman of the board for the World Wildlife Fund, was awarded the 2020 Climate Pioneer award. Highlights from the conference can be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xd77bnU3wOY&t=4s>

“Events like the Climate Leadership Conference spur the kind of innovation, thinking and cross-sectoral partnerships that we need in order to address climate change.”

—Catherine Leland,
Senior Manager,
Sustainability,
Edison International



2020 Climate Leadership Award Winners

CLIMATE REGISTERED RECOGNITION™ PROGRAM

The Climate Registered™ recognition program showcases the achievements of participants in the Carbon Footprint Registry. It offers five tiers of recognition with unique benefits connected to each tier. Recognition is available for organizations at all points on the reporting spectrum—from those who have just started to build their capacity to those who exemplify true excellence in reporting and reducing GHG emissions.

The recognition requirements were revised in 2020 to be more flexible and responsive to members going through verification. Requirements that do not directly correlate with climate action were removed, and the administrative burden for organizations interested in earning recognition was streamlined. Recognition status is now tied to achievements within a specific emissions inventory indefinitely, rather than granted to the organization in general for one year.

In 2020, the following members earned Climate Registered™ recognition:



Climate Registered AllStar

California Department of Water Resources

Xcel Energy (Northern States Power Company, Public Service Company of Colorado, and Southwestern Public Service Company)



Climate Registered Platinum

CommonSpirit Health
Qualcomm Technologies, Inc.

Sacramento Municipal Utility District

University of California, Office of the President



Climate Registered Gold

3Degrees

Albertsons Companies, Inc.

American Licorice Company

Blue Source, LLC

Clean Power Alliance

Climate Action Reserve

Columbia University

DAK Americas

David and Lucile Packard Foundation

Delta Air Lines

Denver Water

Driftwood Dairy

East Bay Community Energy

Enwave Seattle (formerly Seattle Steam Company)

Exelon

Government of Yukon

Harrison Industries

Heising-Simons Foundation

Marin Sanitary Service

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Mithun

New York Power Authority

New York State Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Nuclear Energy Institute
Pacific Gas and Electric Corporation

Port of Los Angeles

Rodney Strong Vineyards

San Diego Gas and Electric

San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Power Enterprise

Seattle City Light

Sierra Nevada Brewing Company

Sonoma Clean Power

Sonoma Water (previously Sonoma County Water Agency)

Southern California Gas Company

Specialty Solid Waste and Recycling

Stanford University

Terra Global Capital, LLC

The City of Woodland, CA

The Climate Registry

The Tower Companies

Turlock Irrigation District

University of California, Berkeley

University of California, Irvine

University of California, Los Angeles

University of California, Merced

University of California, San Francisco

University of California, San Diego

University of California, Santa Barbara

Waste Connections, Inc.



Climate Registered Silver

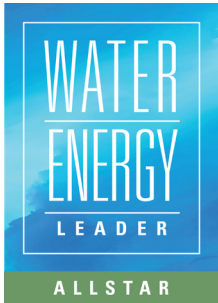
Sound Transit

United States Postal Service

WATER-ENERGY LEADER PROGRAM

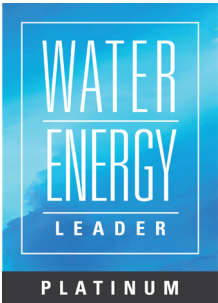
The Water-Energy Leader Program showcases the achievements of participants in the Water-Energy Nexus Registry. With five tiers of recognition, the Water-Energy Leader program helps participants communicate that they are taking action on climate change, starting with the important first step of tracking the emissions connected to the water they deliver, treat, or use in their operations.

In 2020, the following members earned Water-Energy Leader recognition in addition to Climate Registered recognition:



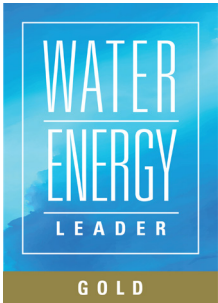
**Water-Energy
Leader AllStar**

California Department
of Water Resources



**Water-Energy
Leader Platinum**

Qualcomm
Technologies, Inc.



**Water-Energy
Leader Gold**

Stanford University
Sonoma Water
Metropolitan Water District
of Southern California
Sierra Nevada Brewing Company



Thought Leadership

In 2020, TCR staff were involved as advisors in the following initiatives:

- » American National Standards Institute (ANSI) National Standards Board Greenhouse Gas Validation/Verification Accreditation Committee
- » American Society for Quality Technical Advisory Group 207 on environmental management, working on drafting and publishing standards for the International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
- » Center for Resource Solutions' Stakeholder Working Group on Accounting for Standard Delivery Renewable Energy
- » Technical Advisory Group for the Green-e Renewable Fuels Standard
- » Environmental Protection Agency Center for Corporate Climate Leadership's publication, *Corporate GHG Inventorying and Target Setting Self-Assessment*
- » The California Emissions Estimator Model GHG Handbook Technical Advisory Committee
- » Climate Disclosure Standards Board
- » Mobilizing Voluntary Carbon Markets Steering Group

Looking Ahead

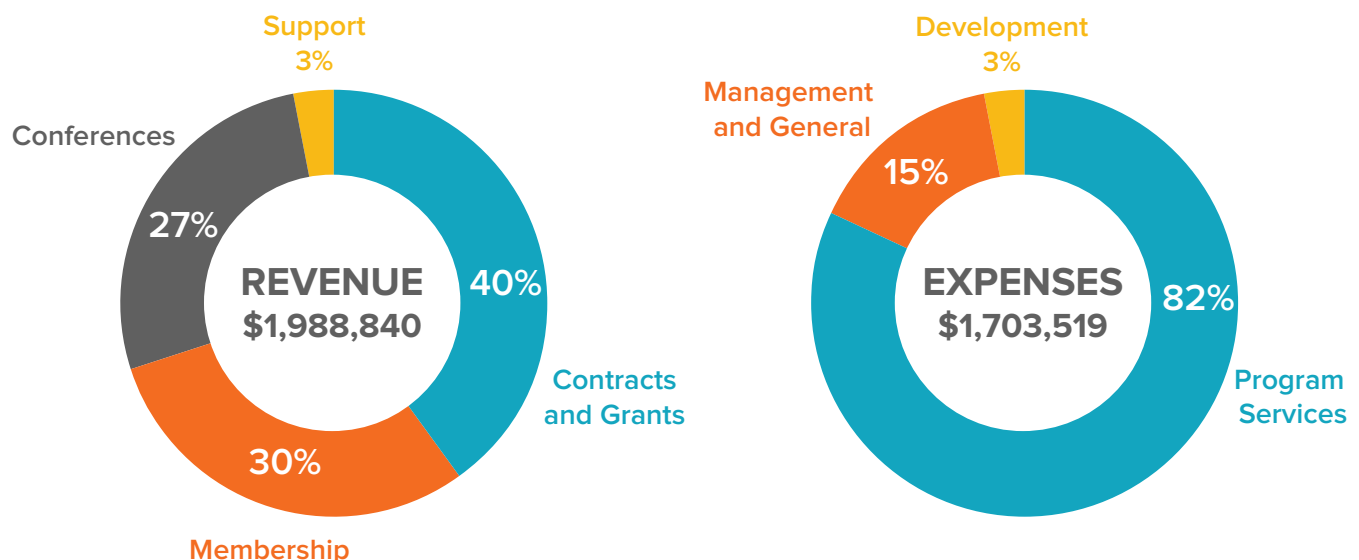
NET-ZERO PORTAL: FROM DESIGN TO DEVELOPMENT

The expert working group is currently defining the (1) data types and structures, (2) key functionalities, (3) consensus-based glossary of carbon-neutral terminology, and (4) primary users and desired user experience. The portal is expected to go into development in Fall 2021, at which time experts will be asked to provide technical feedback on the user experience and beta test the platform. If you have any questions about this game-changing database or are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact Chelsea Hasenauer at chasenauer@theclimateregistry.org.

EMPOWERING SMALL BUSINESSES TO BE CLIMATE LEADERS

Building on the Small Business Guidance developed in 2020, TCR is launching a project to encourage small businesses to understand their environmental impact and reduce their GHG emissions. This new reporting initiative will be tailored to small businesses' financial resources and administrative needs. It will feature guidance, reporting tools, and training designed specifically for small businesses, helping them build capacity in collecting data, calculating GHG emissions, and identifying opportunities for emissions reductions.

TCR Financials





**THE CLIMATE
REGISTRY**

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info@theclimateregistry.org

(866) 523-0764

If you would like to contribute to The Climate Registry's efforts to reduce our generation's carbon footprint, please visit <https://theclimateregistry.secure.nonprofitsoapbox.com/donation>