



The Climate Registry

# 2019

## IMPACT REPORT





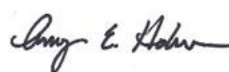
## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

After serving in various positions at The Climate Registry for the past eight years, I was honored to be appointed as Executive Director in August 2019. I am so very proud of the work we do and the partnerships we have built over the last 10+ years with state and local jurisdictions, public and private institutions, and other non-governmental actors in North America and beyond.

Our vision is to empower our generation to reduce its carbon footprint. Every day we work towards this vision by advancing innovative carbon measurement, reporting, and verification programs that mitigate carbon emissions and build resilience in the face of a changing climate.

This impact report summarizes the milestones that The Climate Registry has achieved in 2019, and also highlights the colleagues and partners who inspire us. Many thanks to all of you – our members, funders, board members, and partners—for helping us to engage individuals, organizations and communities on climate action. Your invaluable support allows us to increase our ambition in scaling up our low-cost, high-value carbon measurement, reporting, and verification services, while also convening events and trainings that inspire and empower us all to do more in the fight against climate change.

There is no time to lose. We look forward to partnering with you in 2020 and beyond to increase our collective impact and secure a more sustainable future for generations to come.



Amy Holm  
Executive Director



## OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Climate Registry (TCR) is a 501©(3) non-profit organization governed by a Board of Directors comprised of U.S. states, Canadian provinces and territories, and Native Sovereign Nations. One member per jurisdiction serves on the Board of Directors. Board members are appointed by their respective governors, premiers or other governing authorities.

Thank you to the following jurisdictions currently represented on our Board of Directors:

Alberta	Nova Scotia
British Columbia	Nunavut
California	Oklahoma
Colorado	Ontario
Connecticut	Oregon
Georgia	Pennsylvania
Hawai'i	Prince Edward Island
Iowa	Québec
Manitoba	Rhode Island
Maryland	Saskatchewan
Massachusetts	Tennessee
Michigan	Vermont
Minnesota	Virginia
Montana	Washington
New Hampshire	Wyoming
New York	Yukon
Northwest Territories	



# OUR IMPACT

*over the years*

**3.56**

billion tons of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions have been reported to TCR and verified by a third party



The Climate Registry



**12**

TCR-led delegations, comprising leaders of states, local governments, NGOs and corporations, have attended the annual UN Conference of the Parties



**1,693** verified GHG inventories have been reported to TCR, representing over

**10,500** facilities from more than **30** different industrial sectors



**170**

U.S. organizations from 19 sectors have won Climate Leadership Awards



**5** best practice GHG reporting protocols have been published by TCR

**377**

organizations, businesses, agencies and municipalities have publicly reported GHG inventories to TCR



# Building Capacity in GHG Measurement, Reporting and Verification

## THE CARBON FOOTPRINT REGISTRY & GENERAL REPORTING PROTOCOL



The Carbon Footprint Registry is TCR's original voluntary GHG reporting program. In 2019, we revamped it to provide greater flexibility and streamlined guidance for GHG emissions reporting. The program update included the most extensive overhaul of the General Reporting Protocol (GRP) to date. GRP v. 3.0 is composed of streamlined modules to ensure that organizations can easily access the information most pertinent to their operations. The modules are accompanied by guidance documents on specific topics, such as renewable energy procurement and tracking emissions over time.

TCR members report their GHG emissions to the Carbon Footprint Registry using the Climate Registered Information System (CRIS), an online reporting platform that enables the calculation, reporting, and analysis of emissions data. The fourth version of CRIS ([www.cris4.org](http://www.cris4.org)) is currently in use, and an ambitious fifth version—with a focus on user-experience enhancements—is in development.

TCR's low-cost and high-value services—which include trainings, GHG reporting protocols, proprietary software, and a live help desk—provide organizations with the data they need to reduce emissions and become more energy efficient. TCR members use their emissions data in a multitude of ways, such as climate action planning; reporting to other initiatives, including CDP and the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI); and working to meet Science Based Targets.

"We feel confident in our measurement efforts year to year given TCR's use of a protocol aligned with international standards.

We also know that our measurements have stood up to the scrutiny of rigorous third-party verification. And finally, we like knowing that our report is transparent, posted for public view on TCR's website."



—Elysa Hammond, Director of Environmental Stewardship, Clif Bar and Company, a TCR member which has been reporting its emissions since 2010.



*The General Reporting Protocol v. 3.0 is composed of streamlined modules that guide organizations reporting to TCR's GHG registries.*



# THE WATER-ENERGY NEXUS REGISTRY

Moving, treating, and using water requires energy, and generating and delivering energy requires water. This connection between our water and energy systems is called the water-energy nexus, and cutting emissions in this space can be a key component in ambitious climate action plans. In California, about 2 percent of total energy consumption is related to the extraction, storage, conveyance, treatment and disposal of water, according to data from the California Department of Water Resources. Heating and cooling water for end-use accounts for around 10 percent of energy consumption.

In 2016, the California State Legislature passed Senate Bill 1425 to support the state's GHG reduction efforts. This bill required CalEPA to oversee the development of a voluntary registry for GHG emissions resulting from the water-energy nexus. TCR was chosen to develop and administer the Water-Energy Nexus Registry ([www.theclimaterestry.org/wenregistry](http://www.theclimaterestry.org/wenregistry)) on behalf of CalEPA. TCR worked with water and wastewater agencies and other stakeholders throughout 2018 and early 2019 to design the GHG protocols and program policies that govern the Water-Energy Nexus Registry.

The Water-Energy Nexus Registry officially launched in May 2019. It is open to organizations with operations in California at no cost to participate. Participating in 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.

TCR developed a number of tools and resources to support registry participants, including a new protocol and supporting guidance, performance metrics for water agencies, a customized version of CRIS, and training and on-demand assistance.

Since the Water-Energy Nexus Registry was launched, water agencies and other organizations including Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, East Bay Municipal Utility District, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Sonoma Water, Sierra Nevada and Stanford University, have joined as participants.

## *Water-Energy Nexus Registry Founders (left to right):*

*Jeremy Pathmanabhan (City of Los Angeles Sanitation & Environment), Nancy Sutley (Los Angeles Department of Water and Power), Dane Johnson (Irvine Ranch Water District), Kwabena Asante (GEI Consultants), Rosie Thompson (Metropolitan Water District of Southern California), Chandra Johannesson (East Bay Municipal Utility District), John Andrew (California Department of Water Resources) and Roshini Das (City of Sacramento Department of Utilities).*



*Chandra Johannesson (East Bay Municipal Utility District), John Andrew (California Department of Water Resources) and Roshini Das (City of Sacramento Department of Utilities).*

*“The implementation of energy efficiency and energy management initiatives has enabled Irvine Ranch Water District to achieve co-benefits of reduced power consumption, lowered Scope 2 emissions, and water service at the lowest possible cost to customers.”*

*—Dane Johnson,  
Water Resources Planner for IRWD*

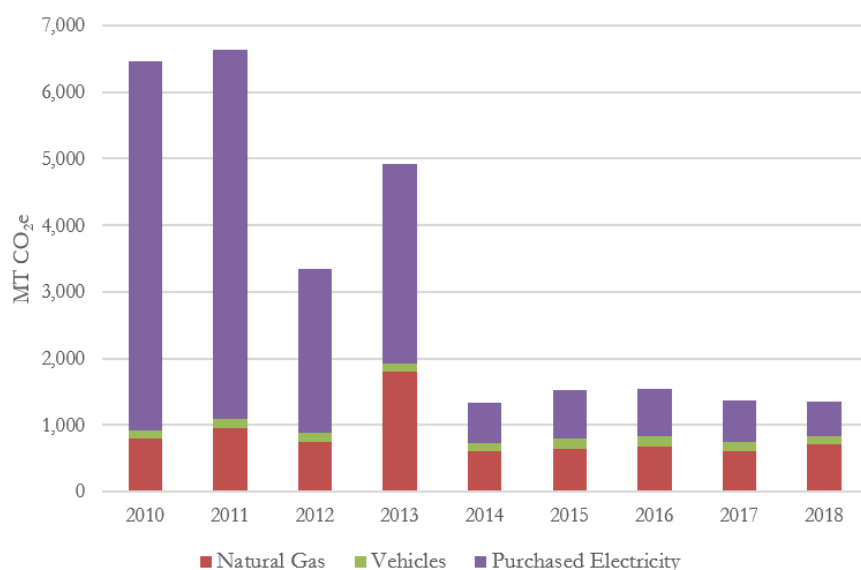


*The Water-Energy Nexus Registry Protocol guides participants that are reporting their GHG emissions to the registry.*

## CALIFORNIA STATE AGENCY REPORTING 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, state agencies are required to report their annual GHG emission totals to the State of California using TCR's resources and reporting platform. The 43 participants in the California State Agency Reporting Program ([www.climatechange.ca.gov/climate\\_action\\_team/reports/](http://www.climatechange.ca.gov/climate_action_team/reports/)) have reduced their emissions by an average of 50 percent from 2010 to 2018, according to their reports. One participant, the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS), reduced its emissions by almost 80 percent from 2010 to 2018.

### CALIFORNIA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM (CALPERS) EMISSIONS SUMMARY



## LOW CARBON FUEL STANDARD VERIFIER ACCREDITATION TRAINING

California Air Resources Board's Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) program ([ww3.arb.ca.gov/fuels/lcfs/lcfs.htm](http://ww3.arb.ca.gov/fuels/lcfs/lcfs.htm)) 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. TCR, in partnership with the Climate Action Reserve and Greenhouse Gas Management Institute (GHGMI), is using its expertise to lead the development of trainings for verification bodies that intend to conduct verifications for the program. The first trainings were conducted in November 2019, and more will be offered in 2020.

## CLIMATE IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER

TCR recently developed an Excel tool on behalf of the World Resources Institute (WRI) to help countries track their progress against a variety of climate targets. WRI is providing the Climate Implementation Tracker to countries so they can track their climate commitments on a national level, and to support their efforts to become more transparent if they decide to make the information public. The Climate Implementation Tracker can support implementation of the global commitments that 175 international parties (174 states and the European Union) made to address the climate crisis under the Paris Agreement.

# Showcasing and Supporting North American Subnational Climate Action

## ANNUAL UN CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES DELEGATION

Subnational and private sector leadership are critical toward our ability to curb the worst consequences of climate change. TCR and the Climate Action Reserve have hosted 12 bipartisan delegations of North American government officials, business leaders, academics and nonprofits to the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations, beginning with COP13 in Bali in 2007. Our joint delegation provides a platform for showcasing climate policies, and enables learning and exchange opportunities between our delegates and those from other countries and regions.

“Climate change leads to more drought, fires and floods, threatens our health and wellbeing, and poses huge risks to our economy. We want to show the rest of the world that we can reduce emissions, make our state more climate resilient, and make our economy more prosperous and equitable. We will continue to work with businesses and other governments to carry on the fight against climate change.”

—Mary Nichols, Chair, California Air Resources Board

Over the past decade, TCR has supported hundreds of delegates from TCR member organizations, TCR’s state board members, state legislatures, universities, non-profits, utilities, businesses and cities. Our past delegates have included Governor Jay Inslee (Washington), former Governor Jerry Brown (California), Governor Kate Brown (Oregon), former Governor Terry McAuliffe (Virginia), and former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger (California).

In December 2018, TCR and partners led 32 delegates to COP 24 in Katowice, Poland. Participants included Mary Nichols, Chair of the California Air Resources Board (CARB); Ben Grumbles, Secretary of the Environment (Maryland); Will Space, Senior Technical Advisor for Climate Programs (Massachusetts); Anukriti Hittle, Hawai’i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Coordinator; Tom Steyer, Founder, NextGen; and Senators Robert Wieckowski and Robert Hertzberg from California. As host of the delegation we:

- » Facilitated a pre-COP webinar for our delegation and the public, providing an overview of expectations and goals of COP 24 and the delegation.
- » Hosted a welcome reception for North American stakeholders as well as events featuring our delegates and partners that focused on advancing subnational ambition in North America.
- » Delivered a number of on-site briefings for our delegation, featuring guest speakers who provided insights on key COP 24 issues and themes.
- » Held an official UN press conference featuring diverse state representatives from our delegation.
- » Provided credentialing, travel and logistics support to delegates.

TCR and the Reserve will host a delegation at COP25 in Madrid, Spain in December 2019. Learn more about our delegation at [www.copdelegation.org](http://www.copdelegation.org).



Amy Holm, now Executive Director of TCR, moderates a panel about subnational climate action during COP24, featuring: California State Senator Robert Wieckowski; Anu Hittle, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Coordinator, State of Hawai’i; and Reed Schuler, Senior Policy Advisor to Governor Jay Inslee of Washington State.



# THE CLIMATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The Climate Leadership Conference ([www.climateleadershipconference.org](http://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.

The 2019 Climate Leadership Conference in Baltimore convened over 400 business, government and nonprofit leaders and featured many notable speakers, including Governor Larry Hogan (Maryland); U.S. Representative Paul Tonko (New York), Chris Crane, Exelon President & CEO; and sustainability thought leaders Jigar Shah and Katherine Hamilton, who co-host The Energy Gang podcast.

The ninth-annual Climate Leadership Conference will take place in Detroit from March 4-6, 2020. The location in Motor City sets the stage for compelling discussions about the future of the transportation sector. The conference will also put a spotlight on climate resilience, innovation, and trends—such as the race to become carbon neutral by achieving net-zero emissions. Featured speakers will include Ethan Zindler, Head of Americas at BloombergNEF; Elizabeth Willmott, Carbon Program Lead at Microsoft; Ingrid De Ryck, Vice President of Procurement and Sustainability for Anheuser-Busch; and renowned author Andrew Hoffman.

*Michelle Zilinskas, Senior Manager of Registry Services for TCR, presents program updates, including the Carbon Footprint Registry and GRP v. 3.0, during a TCR-led conference workshop.*



*At the 2019 Climate Leadership Conference, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan touts Maryland's environmental achievements and called for bi-partisan climate change solutions.*



*Ann McCabe, former interim Executive Director of TCR, moderates a panel on clean energy technology with Ryan Hardy, Manager of the Connected and Environmental Business Development for American Honda Motor Co., Inc. and Jeff Erikson, General Manager –Client Engagement for Global CCS Institute.*





# Recognizing and Incentivizing Excellence in GHG Reporting and Reductions

## THE CLIMATE LEADERSHIP AWARDS

The Climate Leadership Awards ([www.climateleadershipconference.org/awards](http://www.climateleadershipconference.org/awards)) is a national awards program that recognizes and incentivizes exemplary corporate, organizational, and individual leadership in response to climate change. The awards are presented annually at a special ceremony during the Climate Leadership Conference. Since 2012, the Climate Leadership Awards have recognized over 170 organizations from across the U.S.

In 2019, the awards recognized leaders such as PepsiCo, Mars Inc, Harvard University, Microsoft Corporation, and Nancy Sutley, Chief Sustainability Officer for the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power and winner of the Individual Leadership Award. Organizations in 19 sectors have won Climate Leadership Awards, with the consumer cyclical sector (includes retail, auto manufacturers, lodging facilities and more) notching the most wins.

### SECTOR BREAKDOWN SINCE 2012

Consumer	26.8%
Technology	13.9%
Government & Institutional	11.9%
Business & Finance	8.9%
Manufacturing	8.9%
Aerospace	6.9%
Transportation	5%
Education	3%
Healthcare	3%
Water & Wastewater	3%
Others	10%

“The Climate Leadership Awards is a valuable forum for building awareness of corporate climate action and celebrating the progress companies are making.”

—Ashley Allen, Senior Manager, Climate and Land for Mars Incorporated—2019 winner of an Organizational Leadership Award and Supply Chain Award

“American businesses are proving that bottom-up climate action isn’t just possible—it’s happening right now. From innovations in energy efficiency to bold commitments to cut carbon emissions, the Climate Leadership Award winners highlight the potential for bottom-up climate action to drive progress towards our national climate goals and create sustainable jobs for a sustainable future.”

—Antha Williams, Head of Environment Programs for Bloomberg Philanthropies, conference Headline Sponsor 2018 & 2019



Winners of 2019 Climate Leadership Awards at the 8th annual Climate Leadership Conference in Baltimore, Maryland.

## THE CLIMATE REGISTERED™ RECOGNITION PROGRAM

This year, TCR revamped the Climate Registered™ recognition program to provide more flexible recognition opportunities and new incentives. The program now 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.



Actions such as reporting and verifying an emissions inventory, setting a public GHG reduction goal, and reporting GHG-related performance metrics, can earn organizations a certificate or plaque, visibility in TCR's marketing platforms, and the opportunity to use a designated Climate Registered™ logo to communicate their leadership.

In 2019, the following members earned Climate Registered™ recognition:

### ALL STAR:

Xcel Energy, Northern States Power, Public Service Company of Colorado, Southwestern Public Service Company, California Department of Water Resources

### GOLD:

3Degrees  
American Licorice Co  
Aquarium of the Pacific  
Black & Veatch  
Blue Source, LLC  
California Public Employees Retirement System  
City of Woodland  
Clif Bar & Company  
Columbia University  
Copper Mountain Solar 1 LLC  
DAK Americas LLC  
Delta Air Lines

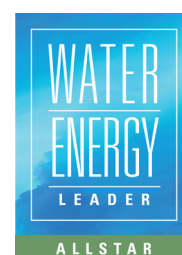
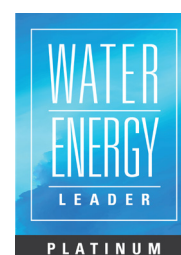
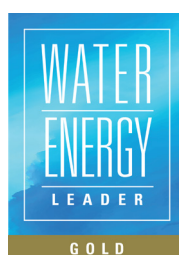
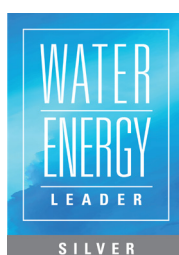
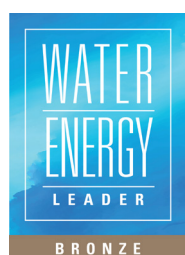
Denver Water  
Dignity Health (formerly Catholic Healthcare West prior to 2012)  
Driftwood Dairy  
Eastern Municipal Water District  
Environmental Science Associates  
Enwave Seattle (formerly Seattle Steam Company)  
Exelon  
Fetzer Vineyards  
Harrison Industries  
Heising-Simons Foundation  
Marin Sanitary Services  
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection  
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
Mithun  
New York Power Authority  
Nexant, Inc.  
Nuclear Energy Institute  
Pacific Gas and Electric Corporation

Port of Portland  
Qualcomm Inc  
Redhorse Corporation  
Rodney Strong Vineyards  
Sacramento Municipal Utility District  
San Diego Gas & Electric  
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Power Enterprise  
San Lorenzo Valley Water District  
Seattle City Light  
Sonoma Clean Power  
Sonoma Water  
South Bay Recycling  
South Bayside Waste Management Authority  
South San Francisco Scavenger Company Inc.  
Southern California Gas Co.  
Specialty Solid Waste and Recycling  
Stanford University  
Termoelectrica de Mexicali, S. de R.L. de C.V.

Terra Global Capital LLC  
The Cadmus Group, Inc  
The Climate Registry  
The David and Lucile Packard Foundation  
The Tower Companies  
Turlock Irrigation District  
United States Postal Service  
University of California, Davis  
University of California, Irvine  
University of California, Los Angeles  
University of California, Office of the President  
University of California, San Francisco  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
Waste Connections, Inc.  
West Basin Municipal Water District  
Yale University  
Zone 7 Water Agency  
New York State Metropolitan Transportation Authority

## THE 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.





# Looking Ahead

## DEVELOPING STANDARDS AND RESOURCES FOR CARBON NEUTRALITY

Carbon neutrality is built into the goals of the Paris Agreement, which aims to limit the increase in average global temperature to 1.5°C. As a result, cities, jurisdictions and businesses are increasingly working on plans to achieve net-zero emissions. At the Global Climate Action Summit in September 2018, over 100 jurisdictions (including the State of California) and over 70 cities set goals to become carbon neutral. However, organizations are using different methodologies and frameworks to set these goals.

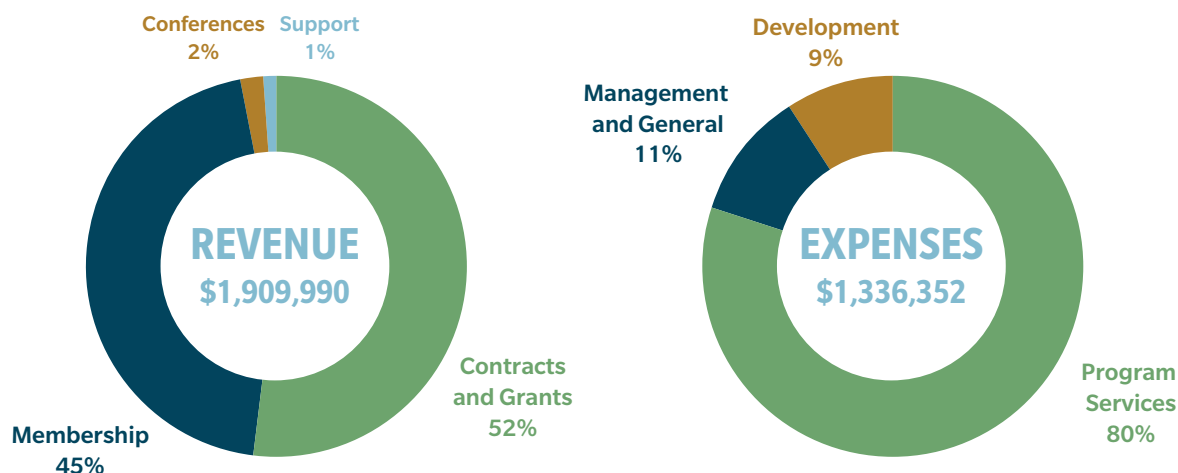
TCR is working on (a) incorporating carbon neutrality into our reporting program, and (b) developing innovative tools and approaches that will build capacity in setting, tracking, and achieving carbon neutrality goals.

## EMPOWERING SMALL BUSINESSES TO BE CLIMATE LEADERS

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

TCR recently updated the Draft GHG Reporting Guidance for Small Businesses and launched the Small Business and Local Governments Program, sponsored by Southern California Edison and SoCal Gas. Through this pilot project, cities and small businesses in Southern California will pilot the new guidance and accompanying tools and resources to build their knowledge about the GHG emissions from their operations and begin tracking their carbon footprints. TCR's goal is to provide a low-barrier but high-quality reporting option for small businesses, which will allow them to more easily measure their emissions and identify opportunities to reduce them.

## TCR Financials (FY19)





The Climate Registry

[www.theclimateregistry.org](http://www.theclimateregistry.org)

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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>