



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) & Answers

About the Water-Energy Nexus Registry

What is the Water-Energy Nexus Registry?

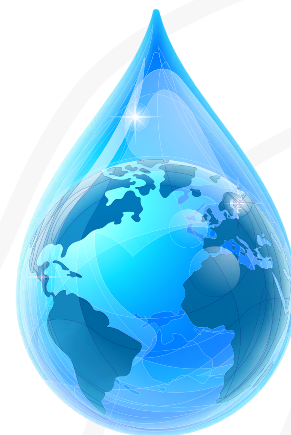
The Water-Energy Nexus (WEN) Registry is a voluntary greenhouse gas (GHG) reporting program that allows participants to measure, track, and mitigate the GHG emissions associated with California's water system. It is especially relevant and beneficial to water agencies, local governments, and sectors with large water footprints, such as higher education and the food and beverage, hospitality, and health care industries.

What kind of data is reported to the Water-Energy Nexus Registry?

Participants can measure, track and report their carbon footprints, as well as report volumes of water associated with the annual extraction, consumption, delivery, storage, and/or treatment of water. By reporting to the WEN Registry, participants can generate water-related performance metrics (e.g., metric tons GHG/AF of water), help identify opportunities for GHG emission reductions, and track the impact of those actions over time. Participants will report their data in the Climate Registry Information System (CRIS), The Climate Registry's proprietary greenhouse gas calculation and reporting software.

Why do we need a GHG registry for the water-energy nexus?

California has established a statewide GHG reduction target of 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. In the state's 2022 Climate Change Scoping Plan, the water sector is identified as a key partner in achieving statewide reduction goals. While the state recognizes that most of the energy associated with managing our water occurs during its consumption, it also takes a significant amount of energy to get water to our taps or to move it away after it goes down our drains. This energy consumption contributes to California's carbon footprint. The WEN Registry will provide water suppliers, distributors, wastewater managers and end-users with the information they need to do their part in voluntarily advancing the state's climate goals and supporting local climate resiliency.



What is The Climate Registry's role in the Water-Energy Nexus Registry?

California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) awarded the contract to administer the WEN Registry to The Climate Registry (TCR). TCR has developed the WEN Registry protocols in consultation with stakeholders statewide, as well as the reporting software, trainings, and Water-Energy Leader™ recognition program.

Joining the Registry

Who is joining the Water-Energy Nexus Registry?

The WEN Registry is a voluntary program, open to all organizations with operations in California, including water suppliers, distributors, end users, wastewater managers and organizations with large water footprints. Please contact wen@theclimateregistry.org for information on how to join.

How much does it cost?

The WEN Registry is a free program for organizations with operations in California through March 2025.





WATER-ENERGY NEXUS REGISTRY

What are the benefits of joining?

- Free GHG guidance, training, and calculation tools empower your organization to measure entity-wide emissions baselines and track reductions over time
- Production of high-quality GHG data consistent with international best practice
- A planning tool to help you identify efficiencies and GHG reduction opportunities, and prioritize capital investments and expenditures
- Opportunities to tell your unique story to stakeholders and be recognized as a Water-Energy Leader

When does the Water-Energy Nexus Registry open?

The WEN Registry is now accepting new participants. After joining, participants will gain access to orientation materials and trainings that will help them track their emissions and maximize the benefits of being a participant in the WEN Registry.



If we join, what is expected of our organization?

The WEN Registry is a voluntary reporting program with no minimum requirements. Participants will have access to a toolbox of resources that will help them measure and track their GHG emissions and water data. Organizations can choose to undergo third-party verification in order to publicly disclose their emissions inventory and/or performance metrics.

What if my organization is already a member of The Climate Registry?

Current TCR members with operations in California are invited to join the WEN Registry! You will gain access to new calculation tools and resources as part of your membership with TCR. Data reporting for the WEN Registry and TCR's existing Carbon Footprint Registry will be streamlined through CRIS. Please contact wen@theclimateregistry.org for more information.

Reporting and Recognition

Will GHG inventory data reported to the Water-Energy Nexus Registry be publicly disclosed?

Only GHG inventory data that has undergone third party verification – an optional step for participants – will be made available to the public through the CRIS platform. No emissions or water data reported to the WEN Registry will be made publicly available without a participant's consent.

How can our organization be recognized as a Water-Energy Leader?

Participants in the WEN Registry have the opportunity to be recognized for their actions in the Water-Energy Leader recognition program. Interested participants can apply for our 5 program recognition tiers. Your organization can be recognized as a Water-Energy Leader (Bronze) once a representative completes two trainings. Taking additional steps – such as reporting GHG emissions in a self-defined boundary or throughout your operations, verifying your emissions inventory, and achieving a GHG reduction goal – means you move up the Water-Energy Leader ladder and receive even more recognition.

