

Agenda/Brief Meeting Minutes 20th December 2022

Introduction

Steve Cavanaugh opened the meeting with a greeting and preview of the agenda topics. The meeting is recorded and viewable on the Meetings Recap page at www.LEIgroup.org/recaps

IWA LEI Presentation: Institute of Water – Steve Cavanaugh – Cavanaugh & Associates

Recap of December 13 presentation with the Institute of Water. In this presentation the two factors:

1. Utility's specific energy intensity,
2. The carbon intensity of the supplied power,

were defined and demonstrated in the calculation of the "Carbon Balance" for a midwestern US Utility.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oKi3wTIN9YI>

Discussion:

Steve gave an overview of his presentation to the group to set the table for a discussion on the carbon balance and the two factor methodology.

California Emissions – Frank Loge – UC Davis

Frank speaks on his experiences in California to measure and reduce carbon emissions from California Water Utilities.

Discussion:

Frank discussed his background and efforts to define the carbon intensity of water utilities in California. Frank's presentation will be available on the resources page at www.LEIgroup.org/resources.

There are different methods of estimating energy intensity. The ultimate method that you use is driven by the agency that you are seeking investment. Ultimately the method doesn't matter as long as it is accepted by the investing entity.

In 2015 California utilities were mandated to save water by 25%. Total GHG savings totaled 521,000 MT CO₂e. Water conservation led to more energy savings than all of the other energy efficiency programs in the state combined.

The amount of carbon saved on a cost per ton basis is relatively low compared to other carbon emissions saving measures.

Energy intensity varies greatly across individual utilities. It is important to estimate intensity on a geographic scale since the elevation can greatly affect the intensity for a single utility.

Funding agencies are resistant to paying for expanded geographic areas. It is more likely to be funded if it is a smaller, specific area. It is important to listen to the methodology preferred by the funding agency.

Carbon Balance Open Discussion

The group reviewed and debate the proposed initial methodology for calculating Carbon associated with Leakage.

Discussion:

We need better resolution as we move forward. We also need to understand our goal. We will need to make some assumptions due to limitations of what can be tracked and measured in certain countries.

World Bank and Green Climate Fund. We need to consider these funding agencies and what their goals are for Carbon reduction and relationship to Leakage Reduction projects. The averages of carbon intensity for a country will be important for them if that is the best data available.

Starting with simplicity and expanding complexity as we progress would be the better path forward to establishing this initial carbon balance.

Start small with carbon intensity of the source and the energy usage/ intensity of the energy for the utility itself.

We have enough information to move to a first draft statement and methodology (Version 1.0). That should be our next step.

Summary and Next Meeting Speaker/Topics

1. Draft Position Statement- A initial draft for an official position for the Leakage Emissions Initiative.
2. Create a Carbon Balance with an example calculation.

Next meeting – January 17th, 2023 – 10am EST

Attendance:

Alexis de Kerchove
Andrew McCarthy
Andrew Wallace
Andy Blackhall

Bambos Charalambos
Berry Drijsen
Dave Johnson
Dave Johnston
Drew Blackwell
Frank Loge
Jo Parker
Joseph Butterfield
Justine Leadbetter
Maureen Hodgins
Mikal Wilmott
Mordecai Feldman
Simon Wick
Steve Cavanaugh
Stuart Trow