

## Meeting Minutes - Leakage Emissions Initiative Outreach and Education

**Date:** April 15, 2025

**Attendees:** Steve Cavanaugh, Ahmadi, Mehdi, Alexandru Aldea, Amit Sharma, Amy McNulty, Andrew McCarthy, Ashok,, Dewi, Drew Blackwell, , Uri Gutterman, Hazem Fakhouri, Lameck Dube, Marco Fantozzi, Rachel Davis, Stuart Hamilton

### Key Discussion Points:

- **Final Report of Initial Initiative:** Steve Cavanaugh announced the completion and availability of the final report on [www.leigroup.org](http://www.leigroup.org). The website will remain active for resources and new case studies. The report detailed the initiative's goals of calculating carbon associated with leakage, the developed methodology, and its significant adoption, including formal acceptance by AWWA. Case studies demonstrating the methodology's application were highlighted. The focus is now shifting from development to broader outreach.
- **Transition to Outreach and Education:** The group will now concentrate on promoting the established methodology. Members are encouraged to actively share the report, white paper, and case studies with individuals and organizations unfamiliar with this work, particularly emphasizing its relevance to national carbon reduction targets.
- **Carbon Calculation:** Steve Cavanaugh presented the integration of the IWA/AWWA carbon water balance into the AWWA's Free Water Audit Software Screenshots illustrated how carbon metrics are now included alongside traditional water audit data. Beta testing is imminent, with a potential public release by the ACE conference.
- **Verification Efforts (Gold Standard & Vera):** Andrew McCarthy provided an update on pursuing carbon offset verification. Discussions with Gold Standard concluded without a fit. Initial assessments suggest Vera may also not be suitable, potentially due to perceived project scale or market concerns. The strategy is now pivoting towards directly engaging governmental bodies to highlight the carbon reduction benefits of leakage projects for potential direct funding, which also acknowledges water conservation.
- **European Example (Ireland):** Stuart Hamilton shared a relevant development from Ireland, where the government's carbon neutrality targets and potential fines are driving interest in recognizing carbon savings from leakage reduction initiatives, potentially allowing utilities to offset costs. - <https://www.agriland.ie/farming-news/ireland-facing-eu-fines-of-up-to-e26-billion-if-climate-targets-missed/>
- **Progress on New Carbon Initiative:** Stuart Hamilton detailed the progress of the new initiative, which aims to quantify the carbon footprint of specific leakage reduction activities (repairs, monitoring, etc.). A collaborative effort with WRC is

underway to create a tool (likely a spreadsheet) for this purpose, allowing users to input activity details and calculate associated carbon costs. The ultimate goal is to provide data that informs decisions towards more carbon-efficient leakage management strategies, considering both short-term and long-term impacts.

- **Strategic Transition Discussion:** The meeting addressed the transition to an outreach and education model. Continued promotion of the existing methodology and the development of further case studies remain key. The potential for a significant endorsement through World Bank verification of carbon savings from funded projects was discussed as a promising avenue.
- **Call for Case Studies:** Attendees were urged to contribute project case studies demonstrating the application and benefits of the carbon calculation methodology. Marco shared the positive reception of their Italian case study and ongoing efforts to develop more.
- **Frequency of Follow-Up Meetings:** The group discussed and agreed on a target frequency of quarterly check-in meetings to maintain communication and share updates on outreach and the new carbon initiative. Attendance will be voluntary.
- **Relevant Conference Information:**
  - North American Water Loss Conference (NAWL):
    - Location: Louisville, Kentucky, USA
    - Dates: December 2nd - 4th, 2025
    - Link: <https://www.awwa.org/event/north-american-water-loss/#overview>
  - Global Leakage Summit:
    - Dates: May 7th - 8th, 2025
    - Link: <https://globalleakage.cventevents.com/event/Summit2024/home>
- **Future Engagement:** Attendees are encouraged to participate in the planned quarterly check-in meetings and consider attending the mentioned water loss conferences.
- **Q&A:** Amy McNulty raised a question about applying carbon credits retroactively. The response clarified that the current focus is on prospective projects, although historical data in case studies is valuable for demonstrating potential. Alex suggested emphasizing the energy savings associated with leakage reduction as an additional benefit.

#### **Key Action Items:**

- All attendees to actively promote the IWA methodology and available resources (report, white paper, case studies).

- Monitor and share any updates regarding potential World Bank verification of carbon savings.
- Andrew McCarthy to continue exploring options and gathering feedback from Vera.
- Attendees to identify and develop further case studies showcasing the carbon benefits of leakage reduction projects.
- Explore opportunities to engage with multinational corporations and country sustainability managers on potential funding and carbon accounting.
- Participate in the quarterly check-in meetings.
- Consider attending the North American Water Loss Conference (December 2-4, 2025, Louisville) and the Global Leakage Summit (May 7-8, 2025).