

Detailed Meeting Summary: Leakage Emissions Initiative Group

Date: September 10, 2024

Main Focus: Transitioning the Leakage Emissions Initiative (LEI) into a working group and planning for future outreach and education efforts.

Follow-Up Items from Previous Meeting:

- **Case Study Template Refinement:**
 - Alan W. and Mary Ann D. are leading efforts to enhance the case study template.
 - A working group will meet on October 1st to discuss refinements and add more rigor and consistency.
 - The goal is to make case studies more impactful for funding agencies without hindering the submission of new case studies.
- **Terminology:**
 - Andrew Wallace – previous email: highlighted the need for consistent terminology regarding units (tons, metric tons, etc.) in case studies and other materials.

Transition to the Working Group:

- **Timeline:**
 - The LEI will officially conclude on December 31, 2024, with a final report published by March 31, 2025.
 - The LEI will transition into a Leakage Emissions Working Group to maintain momentum on outreach and education efforts.
- **Knowledge Transfer:**
 - Insights, resources, and progress will be transferred from the LEI to the new Carbon Efficiency Rating Methodology initiative led by Andy Blackhall.
- **Maintaining Outreach and Education:**
 - The group brainstormed ways to continue raising awareness and promoting case studies even as the initiative winds down.
 - Potential collaborations with the new initiative were discussed to amplify outreach efforts.
 - Specific opportunities mentioned included:
 - Incorporating the carbon impact of water loss into every presentation and project discussion.
 - Organizing a larger IWA webcast to educate a broader audience about the LEI, its methodology, and its impact.
 - Targeting outreach efforts to specific countries or regions where there is high potential for impact, such as the EU with its new leakage regulations.
 - Collaborating with other IWA specialist groups to reach a wider audience and gain support.
 - Leveraging existing leakage reduction projects and data to create hypothetical case studies demonstrating the potential carbon emission reductions.
 - Utilizing data from organizations like the World Bank and IDB to document energy savings and carbon emission savings from non-revenue water projects.
- **Member Engagement:**

- The group discussed encouraging current members to participate in the new initiative and continue their contributions.
- Potential incentives or benefits for active participation in the new group were explored.

New Initiative (Carbon Efficiency Rating Methodology):

- **Overview:**

- The new initiative will focus on identifying and categorizing every process in the water sector based on its carbon intensity.
- Activities will be assigned a carbon efficiency rating (from A to G) to encourage utilities to adopt low-carbon practices.
- The initiative aims to influence funding agencies like the IDB and World Bank to prioritize projects with low carbon intensity.

- **Next Steps:**

- A web page will be created to provide information and updates on the new initiative.
- Working groups and task forces will be formed to tackle specific aspects of the initiative.
- The group emphasized the importance of collaboration and input from various stakeholders in the water sector.

Conclusion:

The meeting successfully outlined the transition plan for the LEI and generated enthusiasm for the upcoming Carbon Efficiency Rating Methodology initiative. The group's commitment to continuing outreach and education efforts underscores the importance of addressing the carbon impact of water loss in the broader context of climate change mitigation.

Action Items:

- **Case Study Template Refinement:**

- Working group meeting on October 1st at 10:00 AM EST – Details to follow from Alan Wyatt/Mary Ann.

- **Outreach and Education:**

- Continue incorporating carbon impact into presentations and discussions.
- Organize a larger IWA webcast.
- Explore collaborations with other IWA specialist groups.
- Develop hypothetical case studies and leverage existing project data.

- **New Initiative:**

- Await communication from Andy Blackhall regarding the initiative and opportunities for involvement.
- Provide feedback on the Word document outlining the initiative.

- **Attendees**

- Mary Ann Dickinson
- Dewi Rogers
- Alan Wyatt
- Adrien Leleu
- Mehdi Ahmadi
- Alberto Gambardella
- Alexandru Aldea

- Amit Sharma
- Andrew McCarthy
- Bruno Dura'
- Drew Blackwell
- Marion Liemberger
- Marta Lozano
- Steve Cavanaugh
- Stuart Hamilton
- Michael Thomas
- Tory Wagoner
- Will Jernigan