



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Water Energy Nexus

1. Where can I find the Water-Energy Calculator?

The Water-Energy Calculator can be found at www.pge.com/hydromap along with other resources for using the tool and selecting the appropriate inputs. The Water-Energy Calculator Procedure for Calculated processes is available on the Guidance Document Library (<http://pgweb/guidance/Pages/CustomerCare.aspx>).

2. What does on-site vs. embedded energy mean?

On-site Energy (or “direct energy”) refers to the energy that a customer uses at their facility. When they implement an energy efficiency measure or project, they save on-site energy which is reflected on their energy bill. This is the energy that energy efficiency programs traditionally target. Energy that a customer uses at their facility to pump water from one place to another or energy used to heat the water at their facility are considered on-site or direct.

Embedded energy refers to energy that goes towards supplying water to a customer, including energy to treat and distribute water and collect and treat wastewater, upstream and downstream of a customer’s facility. Therefore, if a measure saves water, there is embedded energy saved from that water savings. Water savings will be seen on a customer’s water bill; however, embedded energy savings will not be seen on a customer’s energy bill.

3. If I have a project with a water efficiency measure, do I submit my project through Energy Insight?

Yes. The process for tracking embedded energy is no different than the process for a traditional energy efficiency project. Additional water-related fields have been added to Energy Insight. The same documentation is required for embedded energy projects and you must follow the procedures document, custom rulebook, and custom statewide manual. Eligibility rules still apply.

4. What measure do I use for water/embedded energy projects?

WEE10. There are two ways in which WEE10 can be applied to a project in EI and they correspond to the following scenarios: 1) water AND energy are saved from a measure, or 2) ONLY water is saved from a measure (NOTE: a water-only measure is acceptable provided that the project has a bundle of measures, at least one of which must have on-site energy savings). In the first case, enter WEE10 in the WS Measure Code field of the Water Savings section of the associated on-site energy savings measure detail page. In the second case, in which only water is saved by the measure, and therefore no associated direct energy measure exists, add measure WEE10 to the project as a new measure. The second case can only be applied if the project has at least one other traditional energy efficiency measure that saves on-site energy (i.e. a water-only measure must be part of a bundled offering).

5. Can I submit a water-only project?

No. Water-only projects with zero on-site energy savings are not allowed. Any project that has a water-only measure must be bundled with a measure that has on-site energy savings. There will be no incentives paid on embedded energy savings; therefore, any water-only measures must be bundled with at least one on-site energy saving measure. See question 6 below.



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6. Will PG&E pay an incentive on embedded energy?

No. PG&E will not pay an incentive on additional embedded energy. For this reason, embedded energy must be claimed in addition to on-site energy savings for measures which save both water and energy. Embedded energy for a water-only saving measure may be claimed provided that the measure is part of a bundle of measures being offered to the customer, some of which must be on-site energy savings. The incentive for the on-site savings portion will be the only incentive to the customer.

7. Do we need to account for negative impacts of embedded energy (i.e. increased water use from energy efficiency measures)?

During this testing phase we do not need to account for negative impacts. However, it is important to be aware of projects with negative impacts. When evaluating projects we should be accounting for the full energy impact including embedded energy so this might be necessary in the future. It is a risk we are monitoring.

8. Why are there no kW savings in the Water-Energy Calculator?

There are no embedded kW savings calculated by the Water-Energy Calculator. The entire water process can take many hours to a full day to take place. Therefore, it is difficult to account for when the energy is embedded in the water and to calculate the peak energy demand.

9. What are other IOUs doing on Water Energy Nexus?

Other IOUs are also working to comply with the Water Energy Nexus proceeding. Some are claiming savings while others are only reporting at this time. Some, like PG&E, are more focused on the operational claiming of savings and ensuring processes are in place before evaluating programs whereas others are beginning with evaluating new water partnership programs.

10. At the state level, are there goals for Water Energy Nexus?

As directed by Executive Order B-37-16, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and four other state agencies (including the CPUC and CEC) developed a long-term framework to make water conservation a California way of life. As part of the framework, each urban retail water supplier shall develop urban water use targets. Legislation has been proposed, but not yet passed, for water conservation standards and reporting. It is the intent of the proposed legislation that the urban water use targets cumulatively result in a 20% reduction from the daily per capita water use by December 31, 2020 – a target laid out by the 20x2020 Water Conservation Plan. More information can be found on the DWR website (<http://www.water.ca.gov/wateruseefficiency/conservation/>).

The Water-Energy Calculator allows PG&E and the other IOUs to be able to contribute towards these state goals.