

Renewables webinar questions 16 April 2018

Q: Market based seems like the better choice. In what instances would you want to use location based calculations?

A: While the market-based calculation is the best reflection of the ways in which your campus is actively working to reduce emissions through participation in voluntary renewables markets, the location-based calculation is the best representation of the actual impact of electricity consumption in your region. The guidance says you should do both calculations, and should include both totals in any reports that you put out to folks (e.g. published GHG inventory updates on your website, etc.) That said, participation in specific programs might only require you to report one; for example, signatories to the Climate or Carbon Commitments are expected to provide their Market-based totals when they are populating their Annual Progress Evaluations in the Second Nature Reporting Platform. In terms of setting goals, it's up to the institution to choose what makes the most sense for them...but if the goal in reporting is partially to highlight or incentivize leadership/participation in programs and efforts to "green" the electric supply, then MB does indeed make sense.

Q: If we switch from eGrid to market for basing our Scope 2 emissions, how will this impact past output numbers? In particular, how will we be able to compare past eGrid output numbers with new market numbers?

A: Past numbers aren't likely to be highly impacted...though of course the impact will depend on the specifics of your situation. In general, you do want to make sure that you are using the same methodology for your baseline year. For years 2014 or prior, if were not buying RECs or other renewable energy products and don't have a supplier-specific EF available, the result of a market-based calculation will be exactly the same as the location-based calculation.

Q: For us it would be very useful to have both the market-based GHG emissions data and the location-based GHG emissions data reported on the same report instead of having to switch the desired output type on the data page and then look at the reports. Based on my reading of the WRI Scope 2 guidance the Corporate Standard required we report both the Market-based and Location-based emissions and this is why having both reports on the same page would really help us. Is this something you would consider. Thank you

A: Yes, we are working on whether/how we can easily provide both totals in one report. For now, the easiest thing is to use the Data Management tab to toggle back and forth between the two totals. Or, if you are a Tier 1 subscribe, you could export the results for the two different methodologies and then you would have them side by side. *Update:* The option to designate Market-Based or Location-Based will be on the top of the Results page (not Data Management.)

Q: What version of eGRID does SIMAP use?

A: The 2017 version of SIMAP (the current default) uses E-Grid data up through E-Grid 2014 (which has measured/reported values through 2014). The most recent version of E-Grid (2016), which came out in Feb, will be incorporated into our next version update, slated to happen during summer 2018.

Q: Does the data management page have the option to select the location based right now?

A: Not yet, they will be live by end of this week. *Update:* The option to designate Market-Based or Location-Based will be on the top of the Results page (not Data Management.)

Q: Can you please, re-explain why the off-site PPA has to be reported in the utility consumption form as well? I understand why it is reported in the renewable energy but am confused why it goes into the utility consumption form.

A: Well, we should clarify that you need to enter it on the Renewable Energy form IF you retain the RECs/green attributes as part of the PPA. If the partner/developer you're working is keeping the rights to the RECs, you would only enter it as Consumption.

If you go back to the graphic that explains the Market-based totals, you see that in order to do the calculation we need to know two things: we need to take your actual consumption, and then we need to subtract the "green attributes" from any renewable generation (represented by the "RECs" in the graphic.) So, we ask you to enter these two things separately to ensure clarity/accuracy. If the partner/developer you're working is keeping the rights to the RECs, you would only enter it as Consumption.

Q: If you buying unbundles RECS, do you still need to enter the utility consumption?

A: No, don't enter your RECs as an addition to your utility consumption. Make sure that whatever you enter under Utility Consumption reflects the actual energy that your campus purchases to power itself.