

Regional Environmental Accounting

Aligning communities, policies & investment to achieve environmental goals

Regional environmental accounting systems connect on-the-ground actions to environmental and community goals. By linking incremental progress from individual projects directly to overarching environmental and community goals, regional environmental accounting systems drive accountability and motivate effective actions to improve the environment.

Are environmental regulations solving today's environmental challenges?

Traditional environmental regulations have successfully reduced industrial pollutants from entering rivers and slowed the pace of habitat destruction. However, traditional regulations define restrictions on specific actions, which creates an inward facing system where land managers and environmental advocates become locked in legal standoffs. Compliance becomes the goal and regulations become the end rather than the means to achieving aspirational environmental outcomes.

What are we getting for our investments in environmental restoration?

Lacking a consistent method to evaluate how individual projects relate to overarching environmental goals, publicly funded restoration programs often select projects that will satisfy local constituents and are unlikely to pose political risk. At the same time, public and non-profit restoration programs are unable to meaningfully report progress to decision-makers and local constituents.

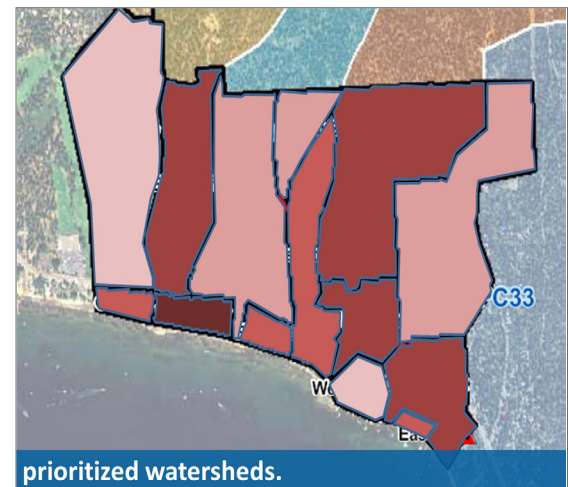
How can we target investments to the environmental assets we count on?

Without a consistent methodology and tracking system, there is no clear means for communities and businesses who benefit from nature's services to invest in the protection of the natural systems that they rely on to supply clean water, sequester carbon, support wildlife and increase agricultural productivity.

Enables prioritization of **what** to do...



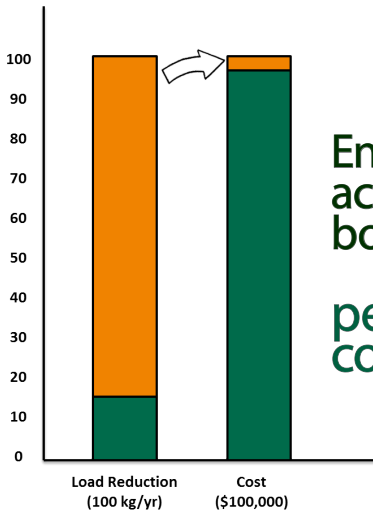
...and **where** to do it.



Environmental accounting links progress from specific actions to regional goals by defining incremental units of progress

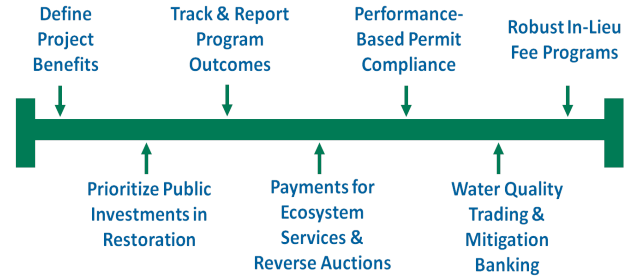
- Rally community and financial supporters around a common and meaningful goal
- Target public and private investments to projects that will result in the greatest benefits over time
- Enable regulated entities to prioritize actions that most effectively and efficiently achieve environmental outcomes
- Reduce the time and cost of compliance by consistently reporting progress toward achieving targets to regulators, community members and funders alike

How Does Environmental Accounting Work?



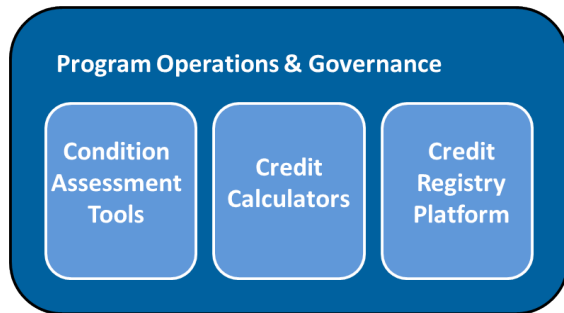
Environmental accounting increases both performance & cost effectiveness...

...and enables an array of innovative, performance-based policies & investment strategies.



Environmental Accounting Tools & Protocols

Environmental accounting programs enable people who want environmental services (credit users) to come together with people who can produce those services through restoration and conservation (credit producers). Credit users determine credits needed and the appropriate policies or investment approach to acquiring credits. Credit producers select a project site, calculate potential credits, assess actual environmental achievement and register credits generated. Through an accessible registry platform, credit users and producers are able to interact by tracking, reporting and trading credits.



Existing tools enable a wide range of ecosystem services ranging from the provision of clean air and water to community flood and fire protection to increasing biodiversity and climate resiliency. For example, Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) make ideal starting points for establishing water quality accounting systems in watersheds.

Learn More

Environmental Incentives is working to make regional environmental accounting systems a standard for any regional conservation or restoration efforts investing more than \$1 million over a period of 3 or more years. Contact us to determine how we can help you efficiently align goals, policies and action in your watershed.

A few successful examples...

Mokelumne Watershed Environmental Benefits Program

Provides land managers incentives to ensure long-term watershed sustainability

Environmental Benefits: Water Quantity, Forest Health, Habitat

Participants: US Forest Service, private landowners, government funders, water utilities

Partners: The Nature Conservancy, Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Environmental Defense Fund, Sustainable Conservation

Program Type: Voluntary Public & Private Investment

Lake Clarity Crediting Program for Lake Tahoe

Motivates effective action to improve lake clarity

Environmental Benefits: Lake Clarity, Water Quality, Stormwater Runoff Reduction

Participants: Municipal Jurisdictions, Departments of Transportation, CA Water Quality Control Board, NV Division of Environmental Protection

Program Type: Regulatory & Public Investment

Contact Jeremy Sokulsky, PE, MBA at jsokulsky@enviroincentives.com or by phone at (530) 541-2980 to learn more. www.enviroincentives.com