

Cover Letter

FROM: Mike Mattera, Director of Corporate Sustainability and ESG Officer at Akamai Technologies;
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RE: Akamai Technologies & Sustainability Roundtable, Inc. Submittal for SBTi
Call for Evidence on the Effectiveness of EACs in Climate Targets

Akamai Technologies has partnered with its sustainability advisor Sustainability Roundtable, Inc. (SR Inc), along with data partners RESurety and Quantum Energy, Inc., to offer evidence into the carbon abatement, life cycle avoided emissions and particulate matter, and corresponding public health and ecosystem benefits of utility-scale renewable energy that validates the effectiveness of EACs in corporate climate targets. The evidence presented is focused on what SR Inc has labeled “Purchaser-Caused” EACs (PC-EACs), which are EACs obtained from long-term contractual commitments that enable the financing of new renewable energy capacity, and are therefore distinct from EACs purchased from existing renewable energy generation.

Drawing on data from RESurety’s Locational Marginal Emissions (LME) tool and Quantum’s TotalView Energy Platform, Akamai and SR Inc offer an impact analysis of the Azure Sky Wind project in the ERCOT electric grid in Texas. Akamai, along with MilliporeSigma, Uber, and Synopsys, participated in a 111MW buyer aggregated VPPA procurement led by SR Inc to help finance Azure Sky. In addition, offtakers Akamai, MilliporeSigma, Uber, and Synopsys were able to go to market together, in a single RFP- and reverse auction-based procurement and contract negotiation process, at the scale required to obtain buyer-favorable and financially acceptable business terms to minimize risk for the offtakers.

The RESurety LME tool quantifies the hourly avoided carbon emissions and the Quantum TotalView Energy Platform quantifies the public health and ecosystem impacts of the avoided life cycle emissions from Akamai’s 18MW commitment to the Azure Sky wind farm in Texas. The RESurety LME case study calculates avoided emissions equivalent to approximately 25,000 metric tonnes of CO₂ from Akamai’s 18 MW commitment in the first 16 months of Azure Sky’s operation (COD was May 13, 2022). In addition, Quantum’s TotalView Energy Platform calculates \$10.3M in annual public health and ecosystem benefits from Akamai’s 18 MW commitment to Azure Sky. The TotalView Energy Platform calculates this figure by analyzing the grid-level changes in generation due to the electricity produced by the 18 MW wind farm, and the avoided emissions to air, soil, marine, and freshwater, which are mapped to epidemiological damage pathways to assess public health and ecosystem impacts.

This case study demonstrates how the PC-EACs associated with Akamai’s 18 MW commitment in their Azure Sky Wind VPPA were effective in delivering measurable emission reductions along with quantifiable public health and ecosystem impacts. While this case study centers the evidence available on Akamai’s 18 MW, the results can be extrapolated to the PC-EACs generated from all 111 MW of new, incremental wind energy enabled by the Akamai, MilliporeSigma, Synopsys, and Uber corporate VPPA commitments. Additionally, the evidence demonstrates that the availability of PC-EACs in climate markets can promote accelerated utility-scale renewables development in turn delivering the resulting carbon abatement, health, and wildlife benefits. Further differentiating PC-EACs by quantifying Avoided Emissions and Impacts, which will vary by technology and location, will provide more accurate and certifiable data on the impacts of PC-EACs.