



### **New Policy Concerning the Earliest Eligible Start Date for Offset Projects**

The Climate Action Reserve has adopted a new policy concerning the earliest eligible start date for offset projects. The policy is intended to accommodate “early actors” for a period of time following the adoption of new protocols, but to otherwise restrict eligibility to new projects. The policy is as follows:

1. For qualifying projects that have not previously been listed or registered on a greenhouse gas registry or program:
  - a. For a period of 12 months following the adoption by the Reserve Board of any new protocol, the Reserve will accept projects for listing with start dates (as defined in the protocol) that are no more than 24 months earlier than the date of the Reserve protocol’s adoption.
  - b. After the 12-month period following the date of the Reserve protocol’s adoption, the Reserve will accept projects for listing with start dates (as defined in the protocol) that are no more than 6 months prior to the date on which they are submitted. A project submitted within 6 months of its start date is considered a “new” project.
2. For qualifying projects that have previously been listed or registered on a greenhouse gas registry or program:
  - a. Projects with a start date (as defined in a relevant Reserve protocol) on or after January 1, 2001 but more than 24 months earlier than the date of adoption of a relevant new Reserve protocol – and which were listed or registered with another registry or program at least 24 months earlier than the date of adoption of the new Reserve protocol – may apply for transfer to the Reserve.
  - b. Projects with start dates (as defined in a relevant Reserve protocol) that are no more than 24 months before and no more than 12 months after the date of adoption of a relevant new Reserve protocol – and that were listed or registered with another registry or program no more than 12 months after the date of adoption of the new Reserve protocol – may apply for transfer to the Reserve.
  - c. Projects with start dates (as defined in a relevant Reserve protocol) that are more than 12 months after the date of adoption of a relevant new Reserve protocol, and that were listed or registered with another registry or program within 6 months of the project start date, may apply for transfer to the Reserve.

For example, the Reserve’s *Organic Waste Digestion Protocol* was adopted on October 7, 2009. Under the Reserve’s new policy, projects whose start dates were on or after October 7, 2007 may be submitted to the Reserve for listing until October 7, 2010. After October 7, 2010, projects will only be accepted if they are submitted to the Reserve within 6 months of their start date.

The Reserve considers a protocol to be “new” if it:

- Covers an entirely new project type not covered by any of the Reserve’s existing protocols;

- Creates a wholly new category of eligible projects under an existing protocol (in which case only the new project category would qualify for a 12-month period of “early actor” eligibility); or
- Significantly expands the geographic coverage of the protocol (in which case only projects in newly covered geographic areas would qualify for a 12-month period of “early actor” eligibility).

If a new version of a protocol is adopted (e.g., updating from Version 1.0 to Version 2.0), this does not necessarily mean it will be considered a “new” protocol.

### Application to Existing Protocols

The Reserve’s existing protocols contain different provisions related to start dates. The new policy will apply to existing protocols in the following manner:

- **Landfill Project Protocol (U.S. version) – No Change.** The Reserve’s Landfill Project Protocol Version 2.0 was adopted on November 17, 2008. Version 2.0 contains explicit language indicating that project developers have until November 17, 2009 (12 months following the protocol’s adoption) to submit projects with start dates as early as January 1, 2001. After November 17, 2009, only new projects (i.e., those submitted within six months of their start dates) may be submitted.
- **Livestock Project Protocol (U.S. version) – Only New Projects after March 1, 2010.** The Reserve’s Livestock Project Protocol Version 2.1 (U.S.) currently allows projects whose start dates are after January 1, 2001 to be submitted. The protocol will be amended to retain this provision until February 28, 2010. On March 1, 2010 and thereafter, only new livestock projects may be submitted.
- **Urban Forestry Project Protocol – Only New Projects after March 1, 2010.** The Reserve’s Urban Forestry Protocol Version 1.0 currently allows projects whose start dates are after January 1, 2001 to be submitted. The protocol will be amended to retain this provision until February 28, 2010. On March 1, 2010 and thereafter, only new urban forestry projects may be submitted.
- **Forest Project Protocol Version 3.0 – Only New Projects After March 1, 2010.** Version 3.0 of the Forest Project Protocol allows pre-existing projects (going back to January 1, 2001) to be submitted for a period of 12 months following the publication by the Reserve of “common practice” metrics for the region in which a project is located. For consistency and simplification, the protocol will be amended to allow any project to be submitted whose start date is after January 1, 2001, until February 28, 2010. On March 1, 2010 and thereafter, only new projects may be submitted.
- **Mexico Versions of the Landfill and Livestock Project Protocols – No Change.** Until June 30, 2010, the Mexico versions of the Landfill and Livestock Project Protocols allow projects to be submitted whose start dates are after August 15, 2008 (the date that a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between California and Mexico’s six Border States calling on the Reserve to develop protocols for use in Mexico). On July 1, 2010 and thereafter, only new projects may be submitted. These provisions will be retained.