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Organic Waste Digestion Project Protocol V2.1

Protocol Summary

Project Definition

The diversion of eligible organic waste and/or agro-industrial wastewater away from anaerobic treatment and disposal systems to a biogas control system (BCS) with methane destruction.

The protocol accepts a wide range of technologies, including:

- ✦ Single digestion, co-digestion, centralized digesters, existing digesters that use excess capacity
- ✦ Methane destruction onsite (flare, engine, boiler, turbine, fuel cell)
- ✦ Methane transported offsite for destruction (pipeline injection, direct-use arrangements) or used as vehicle fuel

Project Eligibility Requirements

Location: Project and waste sources must be within the U.S. or U.S. tribal lands.

Start Date: The start date may be determined by the project developer and must be within six months from the date that an eligible waste stream included in the quantification of emission reductions is first loaded into the digester.

Performance Standard:

- ✦ A BCS must consistently, periodically or seasonally digest non-industrial food waste, food-soiled paper waste and/or agro-industrial wastewater
- ✦ Co-digestion of eligible organic waste together with manure is permitted if livestock operations meet the eligibility requirements as set forth in the Livestock Project Protocol

Legal Requirement Test: The project developer attests that the project exceeds any reductions that would have occurred as a result of compliance with federal, state or local regulations and must sign the Attestation of Voluntary Implementation. The Legal Requirement Test is applied to each eligible waste stream. All organic waste digestion (OWD) projects are subject to a review of the Legal Requirement Test for each reporting period.

Regulatory Compliance: Project must be in compliance with all federal, state and local regulations relevant to project activity. Project developer must sign the Attestation of Regulatory Compliance for each reporting period.

Crediting Period: Project is eligible to receive credits for 10 years from the operational start date or until the project activity is required by law. Project may apply for a second 10-year crediting period upon completion of the initial crediting period.

Reporting Schedule: Project accounting and verification must occur at least every 12 months but may be carried out more frequently.

Key Requirements

- ✦ Demonstration of anaerobic baseline conditions (for agro-industrial wastewater)
- ✦ Clear ownership of the greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions
- ✦ Project must not double register emission reductions with any other registry system
- ✦ Proper accounting and monitoring

Project Exclusions

- ✦ Waste streams that do not meet the definition of eligible waste per the performance standard, such as fat, oil, and grease (FOG) residues; municipal biosolids (sludge); and industrial food processing wastes
- ✦ Grocery store waste streams that were not previously landfilled for at least 36 months prior to the date of diversion to the project
- ✦ Waste streams mandated by law to be diverted or digested, unless the project is implemented in conjunction with a local waste diversion mandate
- ✦ Agro-industrial wastewaters produced at breweries, ethanol plants, pharmaceutical production facilities and pulp and paper plants



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Important Note: This is only a summary of the protocol. Please read the full protocol for a complete description of project requirements.