



CLIMATE
ACTION
RESERVE

U.S. Landfill Project Protocol V5.0

Protocol Summary

Project Definition

The installation of a system for capturing and destroying methane gas emitted from a landfill. The installation must exceed any regulatory requirement. Expansion of an existing project may be eligible as a new project as long as the gas cannot migrate between projects.

The protocol accepts a wide range of technologies, including:

- ✦ Methane destruction onsite (enclosed flare, open flare, electricity generation, thermal energy production)
- ✦ Methane transported offsite for destruction (direct-use or pipeline injection)
- ✦ Methane used as vehicle fuel (onsite or offsite)

Project Eligibility Requirements

Location: Project must be within the U.S. or its territories.

Start Date: Any project submitted no more than twelve months after becoming operational. Operational start date may be determined by the project developer but may be no more than 90 days after methane is first destroyed by a project destruction device.

Legal Requirement Test: The project exceeds any reductions that would have occurred as a result of compliance with federal, state or local regulations. The project developer must sign the Attestation of Voluntary Implementation for each reporting period.

Regulatory Compliance: The project must be in material compliance with all federal, state and local laws or regulations. Project developer must sign the Attestation of Regulatory Compliance for each reporting period.

Other Eligibility Requirements:

- ✦ Clear ownership of the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions
- ✦ Project must not be registered with any other registry for the same vintages of reductions
- ✦ Proper accounting and monitoring

Crediting Period: Projects are eligible to receive credits for 10 years from start date or until failure of the Legal Requirement Test. Project may apply for a second 10-year crediting period.

Reporting and Verification Schedule: Project reporting occurs at least annually and project verification must occur at least every two years with a flexible site visit schedule. Verification may always be carried out more frequently.

Limits on Credit Stacking: Projects that receive mitigation credits for upgrading landfill gas into high-Btu fuels will not be eligible to receive offset credits for the same period of time.

Performance Standard: Practice-Change Threshold

- ✦ For landfills that are currently venting (not combusting) gas, the installation of a combustion device is eligible
- ✦ For landfills previously using a destruction device that would not qualify under this protocol (e.g., passive flares), only gas beyond the pre-project collection and destruction system is considered additional
- ✦ If the landfill is currently destroying methane using a destruction device that would otherwise qualify under this protocol, but for some other reason is not eligible, a separate new destruction device must be installed
- ✦ Only the landfill gas destroyed beyond the maximum capacity of the baseline destruction device is considered additional
- ✦ Landfills with a pre-existing destruction device that install a new gas collection system on a physically-distinct cell(s), where neither gas collection nor destruction has previously occurred, are eligible

Project Exclusions

- ✦ Any collection and destruction device installed to meet regulatory requirements
- ✦ Landfills classified as bioreactors
- ✦ Displacement of fossil fuel use associated with production of electric power for the grid or injection of gas
- ✦ RNG/CNG/LNG projects receiving high-Btu gas incentives
- ✦ Project expansions where gas migrates to the pre-existing project