



CLIMATE
ACTION
RESERVE

Program Manual Update Summary

Public Comment Webinar

September 19, 2019

Program Manual Update Process

- Draft version of the Program Manual released on September 3, 2019
 - Following the public comment period, we will make final edits and publish a new Program Manual this fall
 - Details on public comment period will be at the end of the webinar
- This version will replace the current Program Manual version released September 1, 2015
 - Also incorporates some policy memos, which will be identified throughout the webinar

Major Changes by Section

- Section 2.4.4 – Project Crediting Period
 - Clarified that a non-forest project may end its crediting period early
 - Clarified the timing for renewing a crediting period
 - Project submittal forms must be submitted *no sooner than 6 months before* the end of the project's current crediting period
 - Crediting periods may be renewed after the current crediting period has ended, consistent with the language in the Landfill Project Protocol v5.0

Major Changes by Section

- Section 2.6.6 – Immediate Crediting for Future Avoided Emissions
 - Clarified the difference between the Reserve’s ex-post offset crediting program, and its Climate Forward program, which recognizes and credits future streams of emission reductions

Major Changes by Section

- Section 2.8 - Ensuring Permanence of GHG Reductions
 - Updated to reflect the option of “Tonne-Year Accounting” being implemented in certain protocols

Major Changes by Section

- Section 3.3.2.1 – Types of Accounts
 - Addition of Project Owner (limited), which is designed to be used by aggregate or cooperative participants in cases where the Project Owner is not carrying out project development activities
 - This account type has limited ability to conduct transfer of CRTs, and does not have privileges for retiring CRTs

Major Changes by Section

- Sections 3.4.3 – Initial Verification and Registration, 3.4.4 – Subsequent Verification, and 3.4.5 – Zero-Credit Reporting Period (ZCRP)
 - Clarified that nitrogen management projects are like forest and urban forest projects, in that they are not eligible for a ZCRP
 - For cases where ZCRPs are allowed, added that ZCRPs may span multiple crediting periods (i.e., if a verification deadline has been missed, a ZCRP may cover time through the end of the first crediting period, and into the beginning of the renewed crediting period)
 - Clarifies that there is no limit to the amount of time a ZCRP may cover
 - Clarifies a project may have consecutive ZCRPs

Major Changes by Section

- Section 3.4.7 – Verification Deadline Extension Request (previously Section 3.4.4 – Registration Extension Request)
 - Extensions are no longer just applicable to the initial reporting period, so long as the site visit has taken place (or project has provided project documentation to the verifiers, if a site visit is not taking place) and the account has no outstanding invoices
 - Clarified length of extension by project type (incorporating new project types):
 - Forest, grassland, and urban forest projects are eligible to apply for a 12 month extension
 - Livestock, landfill, and nitrogen management are eligible to apply for a 6 month extension
 - All other project types are eligible for a 30 day extension

New Additions to the Program Manual

- Section 2.6.1 – Global Warming Potentials for Quantifying GHG Reductions
 - Replaces the “Global Warming Potential (GWP)” policy memo released May 1, 2018
 - States that the Reserve is currently using the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) values, and may move to AR5 in the future

New Additions to the Program Manual

- Section 2.9 Avoiding Double Counting of Emission Reductions
 - Details the safeguards built into the Reserve's program to avoid double counting:
 - Screening protocols for project types with low risk of double counting
 - Determining additionality and eligible SSRs during protocol development
 - Reserve staff reviewing other registries for evidence of a project being listed in multiple programs (at the submittal and registration stages)
 - Attestation of Title submitted each time a project is registered
 - Serialized CRTs
 - Additional details will be added to this section at a future date to address the risk of double-counting under the Paris Agreement and CORSIA, once more details are known regarding implementation of those programs

New Additions to the Program Manual

- Section 3.5 – Stakeholder Input for Individual Projects; Section 3.5.1 – Local Stakeholder Consultations; Section 3.5.2 – Feedback and Grievance Process
 - Clarifies the involvement of stakeholder interactions in our protocol development process
 - Provides contact information for stakeholders to provide general or specific project feedback, inquiries, or grievances (reserve@climateactionreserve.org, (213) 891-1444, or any of the protocol-specific contacts listed on our website)
 - Describes how the Reserve will handle grievances related to over-issuance, ownership disputes, or negative social or environmental impacts

New Additions to the Program Manual

- Section 3.6.6.2 – The California Compliance Offset Program
 - A sub-section of Section 3.6.6 – Transferring Credits from the Reserve
 - Clarifies the process through which Registry Offset Credits (ROCs) are issued by the Reserve through our role as an approved Offset Project Registry (OPR) under the CA Compliance Offset Program
 - Provides details for how these credits can be cancelled and re-issued as ARB Offset Credits (ARBOCs) in CITSS, and how this is noted publicly in our registry

New Additions to the Program Manual

- Section 3.10 – Relationships to Other GHG Programs
 - Includes a sub-section for our interactions with other voluntary carbon offset programs (for example, Verra’s VCS program)
 - Provides details for avoiding double counting for instances in which a project seeks to enroll simultaneously in multiple programs for different SSRs
 - Details our role as an OPR under California’s Compliance Offset Program
 - Details our interactions with the Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) program, and how we will work with the CA Air Resources Board when a Reserve offset project is seeking LCFS credits
 - Details our involvement in the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) (e.g. that we have applied for our offset program to be approved for use)
 - Notes that the Reserve’s voluntary offset program has been endorsed by Green-e Climate (a program operated by the Center for Resource Solutions)

Public Comment Process

- Draft version of the Program Manual released on September 3, 2019
 - Public comment period will run until Friday, October 4, 2019
 - Anyone can submit written comments to reserve@climateactionreserve.org
- The new Program Manual will be effective the date of its release
 - This will be announced, and there will be another webinar detailing the final list of changes

Questions?

Any questions or comments?

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