



Urban Forest Management Protocol V1.1

Protocol Summary

Project Definition

A planned set of urban forest management activities to permanently increase and/or conserve carbon storage on land within urban areas, owned by any legal entity.

Project Eligibility Requirements

Location: Project must be

- Within the U.S. or its territories or on U.S. tribal lands
- Within Urban Areas (including Urban Clusters) and Places (including Incorporated Places and Census-Designated Places)
- On land free of commercial timber harvesting for 10 years prior to project commencement (or at any time during the project)
- At least 25 acres

Project Start Date: The date urban forest management activities are initiated. Project operators may use project submittal as the start date.

Crediting Period: Projects are eligible to receive credits for 25 years, at which point the crediting period may be renewed.

Performance Standard: Better than “business as usual.” Historic trends in project area carbon stocks must be projected into the future to establish a baseline (accounting for legal constraints) and credits may be generated for carbon stock increases above this level.

Legal Requirement Test: Projects must achieve GHG reductions or removals above and beyond any required by legally binding mandates.

Regulatory Compliance: Project must be in compliance with all applicable laws related to project activity. Project developers must sign the Attestation of Regulatory Compliance for each reporting period.

Required Categories for Reporting

- Carbon storage in standing live and dead trees
- Canopy cover estimates (derived remotely, from an application like iTree)
- Ratio estimators (Reserve-approved default values available)
- Environmental and social co-benefits – projects where public/tribal entities participate in project activities must address and qualify environmental and social safeguards within their Project Design Document (co-benefits are optional for reporting by other entities)

Reporting and Verification Requirements

- Annual reporting
- Full verifications every 5 years – optional interim desktop verifications (credits issued once verified)
- Site visits are optional for projects using default ratio estimators

Other Requirements

- Project documentation includes a Project Design Document, Project Implementation Agreement, annual monitoring report, and project attestations
- Project monitoring entails: updating the project’s forest carbon inventory and monitoring report – including data on carbon stocks, describing maintenance/planting activities, disclosing any removals/disturbances, and calculating net GHG reductions and removals and expected buffer pool contribution
- Minimum time commitment of 100 years following the last year of credit issuance
- Projects must register reductions with only one registry