



CARBON PRESERVATION PROJECT FACT SHEET

REQUIREMENTS

Project Operator

Preservation projects require a 40 year commitment. One entity needs to take responsibility for the project duration. This role is called the Project Operator. Multiple entities may collaborate on a project but one entity will be the main point of contact and sign a contract with CFC.

Location

Project location must be in or along the boundary of one of the following:

- Urban area per U.S. Census Bureau maps
- Incorporated or unincorporated city or town
- Municipally-owned watershed zones
- Transportation or utility rights of way

Site Ownership

Project Operator must meet one of the following:

- Own the land (and any carbon credits) upon which project trees are growing
- Has an easement for right of way and accepts "ownership" of project trees
- Has a written agreement with landowner to receive carbon credits. Recorded in appropriate land records.

Site Considerations

Projects must show:

- Trees now preserved by new easement or protected zoning status
- Trees were not preserved by easement or protected zoning status before
- Prior to preservation, project area was in a zoning designation that allowed at least one non-forest use
- Prior to preservation, project area met one of the following:
 - Surrounded on at least 50% of its perimeter by developed or improved uses
 - Sold or assessed at greater than \$10,000 per acre within three years of preservation
 - Would have had a fair market value after conversion to a developed or improved use greater than the fair market value prior to preservation

Documentation

- Project application
- Project design document - includes carbon and co-benefit quantification
- Ownership and tree protection documents
- Project Implementation Agreement - contract with CFC

Quantification

Use spreadsheet tools developed by CFC to quantify carbon dioxide and co-benefits for rainfall interception, air pollution, and energy savings.

Estimate biomass stock present and adjust for uncertainty in the estimate to calculate the accounting stock. This can be calculated using USFS General Technical Report tables, using an i-Tree tool with samples, or by on-site inventory.

Complete the remaining steps to calculate avoided biomass emissions, avoided soil carbon emissions, and adjustments for development and emissions that would be displaced by the preservation of the project area (leakage deductions). More details are available in the protocol.

Verification

Completed by third-party verifiers. They will review all documentation and quantification.

Monitoring

Commit to monitoring reports every three years. If any project area appears to be losing carbon stock, the report must estimate the percent and state the estimated amount of loss. The report shall also estimate the number of acres of significant soil disturbance that has occurred since the previous report.

PROJECT SELECTION AND DESIGN

Recommendations

- Greater than 20 acres, or aggregated from small parcels
- Forest land that is not already owned by Project Operator, but will be acquired as a preserve or natural area
- Single owner of lands, or Project Operator has authority from multiple owners

CREDIT ISSUANCE TIMING, ADDITIONALITY, AND PERMANENCE

Credits are issued to projects as follows:

- For projects greater than 200 acres, credits are issued in equal amounts in the five years
- For projects greater than 50 but less than 200 acres, credits are issued in the equivalent of 50 acres per year
- For projects less than 50 acres, all credits are issued after third-party verification

Credits can be pre-sold to buyers. Then, when the project receives credits, the Project Operator tells CFC to transfer those credits to the buyers.

REVERSALS

Project Operators will not be responsible for reversals due to acts of god, like fire or pest. If tree loss is due to fire, pests, or other acts of god, the Registry covers the reversed credits from its reversal buffer pool of credits held back from all projects.

If the project area loses credited carbon stock, the Project Operator must return or compensate for those credits if the tree loss is due to intentional acts or gross negligence of Project Operator.