Summary of Tree Planting Protocol Requirements:

A Checklist for Potential Projects

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Urban Forest Carbon Registry

Summary of Tree Planting Protocol Requirements

This is a checklist of requirements that urban forest planting projects have to follow to be eligible for carbon credits.

We will be following this with Tool-Kits that describe how the protocol works, how credits are earned and awarded, how credits are sold, and the costs and benefits of doing an urban forest carbon project.

Requirements for UF Tree Planting Projects

✓ **Project Operator identified**

This is the person or entity who takes responsibility for the project.

✓ **Signed Implementation Agreement**

This is the agreement between the Project Operator and the Registry for an urban forest carbon project; we'll be producing a sample of this soon.

✓ **Project must be in one of the following:**

- o **"Urban Area" per Census Bureau maps; see https://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/maps/2010ua.html**
- o **An incorporated or unincorporated city or town**
- o **Designated watershed or source water zone overlapping one of above**
  Must be a zone designated by a governmental body, not just a scientifically or hydrologically described watershed.
- o **A transportation or utility right of way through one of above**

✓ **Project Operator meets one of following:**

- o **Owns the land (and any carbon credits) upon which project trees are growing**
- o **Has an easement for right of way and accepts "ownership" of project trees**
  Intended to cover street trees; ownership means maintenance and liability and is intended to allow only street trees that a city or person accepts responsibility for.
- o **Has a written agreement with landowner to receive carbon credits**
  If the Project Operator does not own the land, he or she must have a written agreement with the owner to receive the carbon credits; we will supply a sample document for this.

✓ **Projects commit to 25-year duration**

- ✓ **Documentation (see App. A to Planting Protocol)**

- ✓ **Project commences on submitting application to Registry**

- ✓ **Legally required trees <u>not</u> eligible**

    Project trees cannot be trees that are required by law or ordinance to be planted.

- ✓ **Projects can choose Forward Credits or Progress Credits:**
    - o **Forward credits:**
        - ▪ **10% of projected credits issued after planting**
        - ▪ **40% of projected credits issued after Year 3**
        - ▪ **30% of projected credits issued after Year 5**
        - ▪ **Remainder of credits issued upon quantification of CO_2 stored at end of 25-year project duration**
    - o **Progress credits (quantify at any time after 10 years and seek credits; and/or quantify at end of 25 years and seek credits)**

    We have developed spreadsheets that walk you through data collection and quantification. See Quantification below.

- ✓ **Understand Reversals**

    If a project receives credits prior to the end of the project duration, and the final quantification of CO_2 at the end of the project yields less CO_2 than was credited to a project, the project must return those unearned credits.

- ✓ **Quantification:**

    We have developed spreadsheets for all sixteen climate zones that contain all necessary steps and instructions to quantify CO_2 and credits. One spreadsheet for Forward Credits, one for quantification using the Single Tree Method (for scattered plantings), and one for quantification using the Canopy Method (for contiguous plantings). See App. B to Planting Protocol.

- ✓ **Verification by Registry, from quantification data submitted by project See App. C to Planting Protocol**

Tool-kits and FAQs for potential projects will follow.