

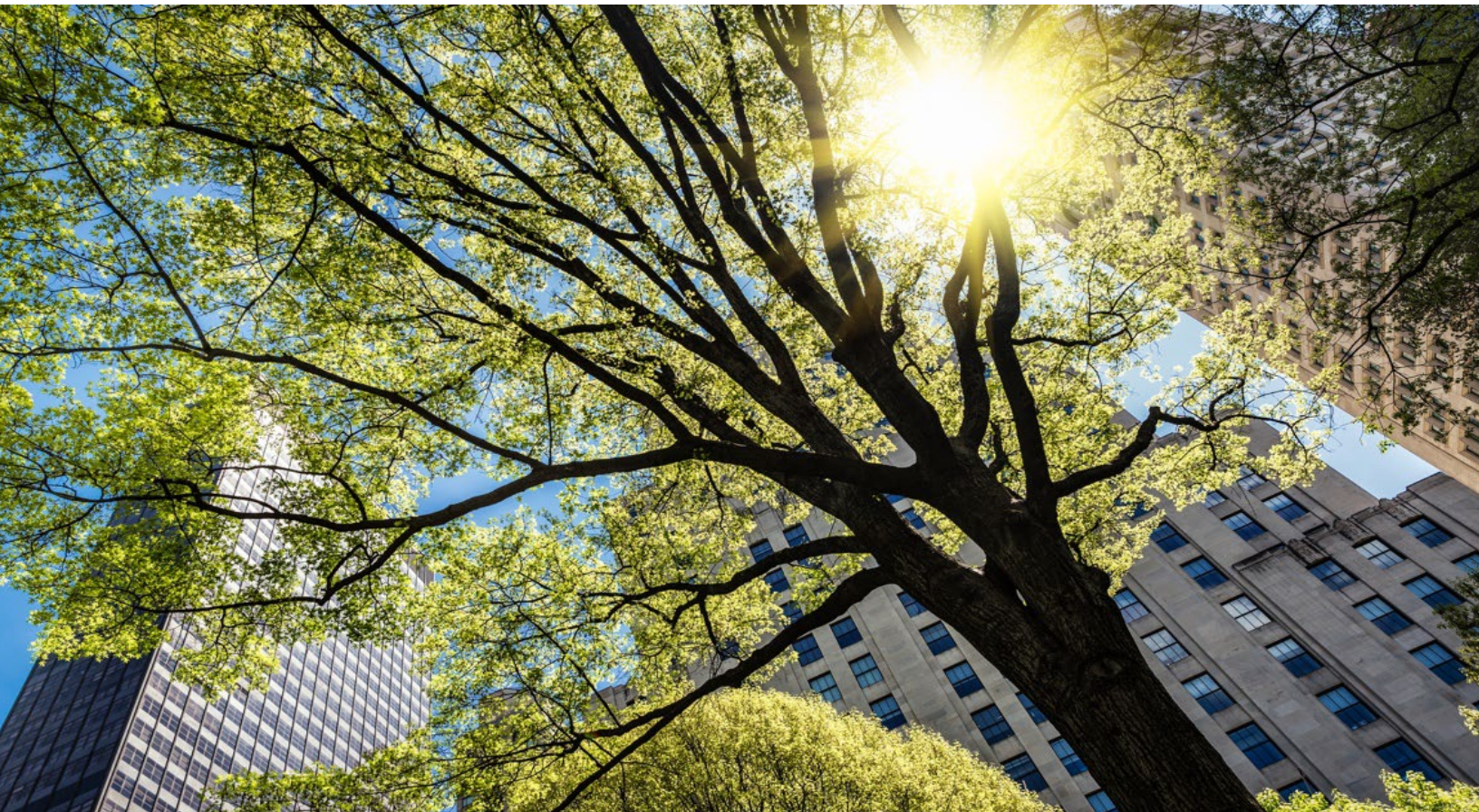


# CITY FOREST CREDITS

---

## Summary of Tree Planting Protocol Requirements: A Checklist for Potential Projects

Version 8 | September 6, 2020



# Summary of Tree Planting Protocol Requirements

## ✓ **Project Operator identified – Protocol Section 1.1**

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

## ✓ **Signed Implementation Agreement – Section 1.2**

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 or along the boundary of one of the following (Section 1.3):**

- "Urban Area" per Census Bureau maps; see <https://www.census.gov/geographies/reference-maps/2010/geo/2010-census-urban-areas.html>
- A planning area for a metropolitan planning agency or entity, such as the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
- An incorporated or unincorporated city or town
- Land owned, designated, and used by a municipal or quasi-municipal entity such as a utility for source water or water shed protection
- A transportation or utility right of way through one of above

## ✓ **Project Operator meets one of following (Section 2):**

- **Owns 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**  
Intended to cover street trees; ownership means maintenance and liability and is intended to allow only street trees that a city or Project Operator accepts responsibility for.
- **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. If the project is on private property, this written agreement must be recorded in the appropriate land records. We will supply a sample document for this.

## ✓ **Multiple properties maybe aggregated into one project – Section 8**

- Properties can be on public and private land and in different cities, and aggregated into one project, provided
  - they are within one county or part of the same program with a state-authorized agency or entity, and
  - that initial planting on all properties occurs within one 24-month period, and
  - that all properties comply with all protocol requirements

- ✓ **Project Operator commit to 25-year duration – Section 5**
- ✓ **Documentation – Section 6** (various forms supplied by City Forest Credits (the “Registry”) for application, project implementation agreement, project plan etc.)
- ✓ **Legally required trees not eligible – Section 4.1**

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

- ✓ **When credits are issued to Projects (Section 9):**
  - **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<sub>2</sub> stored at end of 25-year project duration**

See note below on credit issuance and other elements.

- ✓ **Project Operator commits to annual monitoring reports – Section 6**
- ✓ **Understand Reversals – Section 10**

If the final quantification shows more CO<sub>2</sub> than projected, the Registry will issue credits for that additional CO<sub>2</sub>. If the final quantification of CO<sub>2</sub> at the end of the project yields less CO<sub>2</sub> than was already issued in credits to a project, the project must forgo future credits or return credits already issued.

Project Operators will not be responsible for reversals due to acts of god, like fire or pest. Project Operators will be responsible for returning credits if they receive credits and then abandon a project or are grossly negligent and the CO<sub>2</sub> storage drops below the amount already awarded in credits.

- ✓ **Quantification – Section 12**

We have developed spreadsheets and methods for quantifying carbon stored and credited. The type of method depends on the project type. The three main project types are:

Single Tree plantings – trees are planted at least 10 feet apart and are tracked, with the goal of high survival rates

Riparian plantings – these projects do not need to be along a river or stream, but they involve planting trees more closely together, with high expected mortality and the goal of generating canopy and a forest ecosystem

Area Reforestation – these are larger areas that are being reforested, with the goal of creating a forest ecosystem

At the conclusion of a project, you will quantify your CO<sub>2</sub> using the method appropriate for your project type. We supply all quantification tools.

✓ **Verification by third-party verifiers, from quantification data submitted by project – Section 13**

Your project compliance and quantification must be verified by a third-party verifier approved by the Registry. Appendix C to the Planting Protocol provides guidance for verification.

In terms of data required to verify trees and growth, for the Single Tree Method, the Project Operator will provide imaging or geocoded photographs for a sample of project trees. The verification official will then confirm that the photographed species matches the data submitted as “recorded in the field” and is consistent with data from the original Project Plan.

For the other methods, the Project Operator will submit to the Registry imaging such as Google Earth showing canopy from the project. Projects can also submit the i-Tree Canopy file that they developed, including locations used to calculate canopy area within the project area.

**Note on Credit Issuance, Additionality, Permanence, and other issues – Section 4**

To remove any objections to these City Forest Carbon+ Planting Credits on grounds of additionality, forward or ex ante crediting, or permanence, we will, at the request of a buyer, retire with each City Forest Carbon+ Credit an ACR or Verra offset credit in the name of the buyer. The buyer thus receives a stacked value – an ACR or Verra offset plus the City Forest Carbon+ Credit representing CO<sub>2</sub> and quantified co-benefits per the City Forest Planting Protocol.

[info@cityforestcredits.org](mailto:info@cityforestcredits.org)

[www.cityforestcredits.org](http://www.cityforestcredits.org)

999 Third Ave #4600

Seattle, WA 98104

(206) 623-1823