



CARBON PLANTING PROJECT FACT SHEET

REQUIREMENTS

Project Operator

Planting projects require a 25-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
- Metropolitan planning agency or council
- Municipally-owned watershed zone
- Transportation or utility right 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.

Documentation

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

Quantification

Use tools developed by CFC to complete spreadsheets to quantify carbon dioxide and co-benefits for rainfall interception, air pollution, and energy savings. Submit imaging or geo-coded photos of a sample showing live project trees in years 4 and 6 of project.

PROJECT SELECTION AND DESIGN

Verification

Completed by third-party verifiers. Depending on planting method, will review documentation, quantification, and imaging or geo-coded photos.

Monitoring

Commit to annual monitoring reports.

Aggregation

- Trees can be planted on multiple sites in one project, but need to be within one county or part of the same program with a state authorized agency or entity
- Planting can be on public or private land
- Planting needs to occur within 36 months

Planting Method Types

Canopy

- Greater than 10 acres
- Closely planted, high expected mortality, lower maintenance cost than single street trees
- Best if located on public-owned property, sites can be aggregated. Difficult with many private landowners
- Often riparian projects, but they do not need to be along a river or stream

Area Reforestation

- Greater than 5 acres or more than 2,000 trees
- Best if located on public-owned property, sites can be aggregated
- This is a reforestation of larger areas, such as former agricultural sites with the goal of creating a forest ecosystem
- This method is under development

Single Tree

- More than 500, preferably 1,000 trees
- Parks, street, or linear plantings
- Best if on public-owned property and owner already monitors tree health
- Trees planted at least 10 feet apart and are tracked, with the goal of high survival rates

Legally required trees are not eligible

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

CREDIT ISSUANCE

Credits are issued to projects as follows:

- 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 CO₂ stored at end of 25-year project duration.

REVERSALS

We hold back 20% of credits until the final quantification at year 25. The held-back 20% of credits will not be released until the final quantification at the end of the project confirms that project trees have stored the projected amount of CO₂.

If the final quantification shows more CO₂ than projected, we will issue credits for that additional CO₂. If the final quantification of CO₂ at the end of the project yields less CO₂ 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 (significant tree loss) 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 CO₂ storage drops below the amount already awarded in credits.

For more information, contact us at info@cityforestcredits.org or visit cityforestcredits.org