



Summary of Changes from City Forest Credits Afforestation and Reforestation Protocol Version 11 to Version 12

The following table summarizes the substantial changes to the City Forest Credits Afforestation and Reforestation Protocol, from Version 11 published February 24, 2023, to Version 12, published for public comment March 5, 2024, through April 5, 2024.

Subject	Section	Revision
Location Eligibility	1.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification limiting urban area eligibility within large metropolitan planning organizations to locations within a 10-mile buffer of Census-designated Urban Areas • Clarification that eligibility under criteria 1.4E and 1.4F is limited to projects within the boundary of said criteria • Clarification that contiguously connected parcels may be either coterminous with, or within 400 feet of, the qualifying criteria from 1.4A to 1.4D
Legal Requirements Test	1.8	Addition of language clarifying that replacement trees planted in place of removed trees for specific reasons are eligible
Invasive Species	1.9	Clarification that clearing of invasive species for replanting is allowed.
Project Durability	2.2	Clarification that the Registry encourages and expects projects to renew for another 26 years following the first 26-year crediting period, as the trees will never be harvested, nor monetized for carbon.
Performance Standard Baseline	4	Update that to use this baseline, Project Operators will need to provide data establishing local canopy change data at the relevant geographic scale.
Additionality	4	Added language that project trees are planted for the long-term benefits of the trees, and requiring Project Operators to demonstrate that the project is not “common practice,” and that carbon finance is required for a successful project.
No Net Harm – Pesticides/Toxins, Food Source Impairment	5.3	Clarification that net harm includes the use of pesticides or toxins banned by the US government, as well as the impairment of local community food sources.
Verification	12.2, Appendix B	Addition of references to City Forest Credits Standard Section 5.2 and Appendix C, updating the Registry VVB

		accreditation requirements to be consistent with Article 6.4 of the UNCCC Paris Agreement.
Tree Spacing Requirement	Appendix A, Sec. 1	Revision to the Single Tree & Clustered planting design spacing requirements; trees must be at least 16.5 ft. apart.
Cluster & Area Reforestation Baseline Requirements	Appendix A, 2.2	Clarification that to establish a baseline canopy level, a baseline i-Tree canopy report of the site, and for cluster, tree type and count within each planting zone, is required
Cluster Projects	Appendix A, Sec. 2.2	Update to the "uncertainty deduction" for Cluster projects. The initial, top-line deduction is 30% to account conservatively for uncertainty among projects, unless the Project Operator provides data justifying a different deduction
Area Reforestation	Appendix A, Section 2.3.2	Clarification that credits are granted based on where the project is, relative to growth toward full stocking. Performance is measured, and credits awarded by actual achievement.