



CFI Methodology: Environmental Plantings of Native Species

The Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI) allows farmers and other land managers to earn carbon credits by storing carbon or reducing greenhouse gas emissions on the land. Participants can earn carbon credits by setting up a project under an approved CFI methodology, which sets out the rules for the activity.

This fact sheet outlines the methodology for *Quantifying Carbon Sequestration by Permanent Environmental Plantings of Native Tree Species using the CFI Reforestation Modelling Tool*.

Who could benefit from this methodology?

This methodology could be used by landholders who want to establish environmental plantings. For example, landholders may want to establish plantings to provide shelter for stock, minimise erosion, reduce salinity, improve water quality or provide habitat for wildlife.

How does it work?

Projects under this methodology involve two main steps:

1. Establishing an environmental planting by seeding or planting native species on cleared land
2. Permanently maintaining the planting.

The CFI permanence rules are flexible and recognise the realities of Australia's natural environment and climatic conditions. Owners of environmental planting projects will not be penalised for losing carbon through no fault of their own – because of bushfire, drought, pests or disease.

In most cases, vegetation and other carbon stores will recover naturally after these events. If not, landowners must take reasonable action to re-establish carbon stores.

The permanence rules allow landholders to cancel their projects and remove carbon stores at any time by handing back the same number of credits that were issued for the project. Credits could be purchased at the prevailing market price or taken from another project, if a project owner has more than one.

The CFI permanence requirements mean that environmental planting projects should only be considered in areas where they will deliver benefits for natural resource management or agricultural productivity. The permanence provisions discourage tree planting on land that has better or more profitable agricultural uses.



Specific Requirements

Eligibility

For a project to be eligible under this methodology, the following requirements must be met:

- The native forest must consist of Australian species that are native to the local area and may be a mix of tree and understorey species or one single species, where a monoculture occurs naturally in the region.
- A permanent planting must be established on land that has been clear or partially clear of forest for the five years prior to tree planting or seeding. The planting must also be established through direct planting – this methodology does not cover natural forest regeneration.
- The area of planting must have the potential to attain a crown cover of at least 20 per cent, at a height of at least two metres.
- The project must not involve harvesting of wood products. You can remove a maximum of 10 per cent of debris per year for personal use, for example for firewood.
- Grazing of livestock in the project area must be prevented for the first three years after planting or seeding, or at any time if it would stop the regeneration of trees.
- In high-rainfall areas (>800mm), the use of 'ripping and mounding' to establish plantings must be limited to no more than 10 per cent of each carbon estimation area within the project area.

Monitoring, Reporting and Auditing

Participants must use the CFI Reforestation Modelling Tool to calculate carbon emissions. They may also use the CFI Mapping Tool to monitor and report on geospatial information in line with the *Spatial Mapping Guidelines*. These tools are available for free and, together with the mapping guidelines, are available at: www.climatechange.gov.au/cfi.

Keeping project records is important as these will be used to calculate the abatement that has been achieved by the project.

Projects must be audited by a registered greenhouse and energy (NGERS) auditor. A list of registered auditors is available on the Clean Energy Regulator website: www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au.

Further Information

The Methodology Determination is available at www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2012L01340

Project applications to use this Methodology Determination may be made to the Clean Energy Regulator at www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au.

To find out about other opportunities under the Carbon Farming Initiative, visit www.climatechange.gov.au/cfi.

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