

1 Plastic Waste Reduction Program  
2 Definitions

3 First Draft  
4 15 July 2020  
5 V0.1  
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# 1 INTRODUCTION

2 This document provides the definitions for terms used in the Plastic Waste Reduction Program  
3 (Plastic Program) documents. Note that defined terms in the Plastic Program documents are used  
4 without capital first letters. Section 3 lists acronyms used in the Plastic Program documents.

5 This document will be updated from time to time and readers shall ensure that they are using the  
6 most current version of the document.

## 7 2 DEFINITIONS

### 8 **Accession representation**

9 The deed issued by a project proponent and an acceding entity made in respect of an acceding  
10 entity joining a project as project proponent; prepared using the *Plastic Program Deed of*  
11 *Accession Template*

### 12 **Authorized representative**

13 An entity authorized by the project to communicate with and provide instructions to the Verra  
14 registry on its behalf, with such an authorization granted through a communications agreement  
15 signed by both/all parties and submitted to the Verra registry

### 16 **Cancellation**

17 The permanent removal of a Plastic Credit from circulation in the Verra registry for purposes other  
18 than retirement (e.g., compensating for excess Plastic Credit issuance)

### 19 **Chemical recycling**

20 The conversion to monomer or production of new raw materials by changing the chemical  
21 structure of plastic waste through cracking, gasification or depolymerization, excluding energy  
22 recovery and incineration ([ISO 15270:2008\(en\) Plastics — Guidelines for the recovery and](#)  
23 [recycling of plastics waste](#))

### 24 **Circular economy**

25 An economy that is restorative and regenerative by design, where economic activity builds and  
26 rebuilds overall system health. A circular economy relies on three principles: designing out waste  
27 and pollution; keeping products and materials in use; and regenerating natural systems.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Ellen MacArthur Foundation (2017). *Learning Path: The Circular Economy in Detail*. Available at:  
<https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/explore/the-circular-economy-in-detail>.

1    **Collection**

2    The logistical process of moving plastic waste from its source (e.g., point of use and/or disposal) to  
3    the point of treatment or landfill (modified from [ISO 472:2013\(en\) Plastics — Vocabulary](#) by the  
4    addition of source examples and change of end point)

5    **Commercially sensitive information**

6    Trade secrets, financial, commercial, scientific, technical or other information whose disclosure  
7    could reasonably be expected to result in a material financial loss or gain, prejudice the outcome  
8    of contractual or other negotiations or otherwise damage or enrich the person or entity to which  
9    the information relates

10   **Communications agreement**

11   The agreement by which the project authorizes a third party to communicate with and provide  
12   instructions to the Verra registry on its behalf, the form and scope of which shall be determined  
13   solely by the Verra registry and signatories to the agreement

14   **Composite material**

15   A solid product consisting of two or more layers of, for instance, plastic film or sheet, normal or  
16   syntactic cellular plastic, metal, or layers of paper or cardboard, with or without adhesive  
17   interlayers (modified from [ISO 472:2013\(en\) Plastics — Vocabulary](#) by the addition of ‘material’  
18   and substitution of relevant examples) (including multi-material packaging, i.e., that which consists  
19   of multiple material types that cannot currently be easily and mechanically separated<sup>2</sup>)

20   **Controlled incineration**

21   The combustion (burning) of waste materials at a high temperature in the presence of oxygen,  
22   where the process meets applicable and proposed emission limits and other environmental  
23   regulatory constraints<sup>3</sup>

24   **Crediting period**

25   The time period for which plastic waste recovered and/or recycled by the project is eligible for  
26   issuance as Plastic Credits. The *Plastic Waste Reduction Standard (Plastic Standard)* sets out  
27   rules for the length of the crediting period and its renewal.

28   **Crediting period start date**

29   The date on which the first monitoring period commences

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<sup>2</sup> World Economic Forum, Ellen MacArthur Foundation and McKinsey & Company (2016). *The New Plastics Economy — Rethinking the future of plastics*. Available at: <http://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/publications>.

<sup>3</sup> National Research Council (US) Committee on Health Effects of Waste Incineration (2000). *Waste Incineration & Public Health*. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK233627/>.

- 1 **End of life**
- 2 Life cycle stage of a product (including packaging) when a proper waste management is applied  
3 for discarded end-user products (including packaging and post-industrial waste) (modified from  
4 [ISO 17422:2018\(en\) Plastics — Environmental aspects — General guidelines for their inclusion in](#)  
5 [standards](#) by including packaging and post-industrial waste)
- 6 **Effective consultation**
- 7 A process by which the project proponent uses socially and culturally appropriate methods to  
8 enable transparent sharing of information with stakeholders and their meaningful participation in  
9 decision-making, dispute resolution and/or other subjects of consultation
- 10 **Grouped project**
- 11 A project to which additional instances of the project activity, which meet pre-established eligibility  
12 criteria, may be added subsequent to project validation
- 13 **Implementing partner**
- 14 An individual or organization operating the project in partnership with the project proponent
- 15 **Issuance representation**
- 16 The unilateral representation issued by the project proponent at each Plastic Credit issuance  
17 request, made in respect of the plastic waste recovered and/or recycled by the project, and which  
18 is prepared using the *Plastic Program Issuance Deed of Representation Template*
- 19 **Listing**
- 20 The initial posting of the project and its documentation on the Verra project database
- 21 **Listing representation**
- 22 The unilateral representation issued by the project proponent at the time of the project listing  
23 request, made in respect of the project, and which is prepared using the *Plastic Program Listing*  
24 *Representation Template*
- 25 **Materiality**
- 26 The concept applied to determine if errors, omissions and misstatements in information could  
27 affect the assertion of recovered or recycled plastic waste and influence decisions resulting from it
- 28 **Mechanical recycling**
- 29 The processing of plastic waste into secondary raw material or products, without significantly  
30 changing the chemical structure of the material ([ISO 15270:2008\(en\) Plastics — Guidelines for the](#)  
31 [recovery and recycling of plastics waste](#))

- 1 **Methodology**
- 2 A specific set of criteria and procedures, which apply to specific project activities, for identifying  
3 the project boundary, determining the baseline scenario, demonstrating additionality, quantifying  
4 net plastic waste recovery and/or recycling, and specifying the monitoring procedures
- 5 **Methodology approval process**
- 6 The process by which new methodology elements are approved under the Plastic Program
- 7 **Methodology element**
- 8 A methodology, methodology revision, module or tool (including additionality tools, performance  
9 benchmarks and technology benchmarks)
- 10 **Methodology element developer**
- 11 An entity that develops a methodology element
- 12 **Methodology revision**
- 13 A revision to the criteria and procedures of an existing methodology
- 14 **Module**
- 15 A component of a methodology that can be applied to perform a specific methodological task
- 16 **Monitoring report**
- 17 The document that records data to allow the assessment of the plastic waste recovered or  
18 recycled by a project during a given time period in accordance with the monitoring plan set out in  
19 the project description, and which is prepared using the *Plastic Program Monitoring Report*  
20 *Template*
- 21 **Official translation**
- 22 A translation by a member of a member body of the International Federation of Translators
- 23 **Packaging**
- 24 Product to be used for the containment, protection, handling, delivery, storage, transport and  
25 presentation of goods, from raw materials to processed goods, from the producer to the user or  
26 consumer, including processor, assembler or other intermediary ([ISO 21067-1:2016\(en\)](#)  
27 [Packaging — Vocabulary — Part 1: General terms](#))
- 28 **Partial release representation**
- 29 The deed issued by the project proponents and the Verra registry, made in respect of a project  
30 proponent leaving a project, and which is prepared using the *Plastic Program Deed of Partial*  
31 *Release Template*

1 **Performance benchmark**

2 A benchmark against which the performance of an individual project is assessed for the purpose of  
3 determining additionality and/or the crediting baseline

4 **Plastic**

5 A material which contains as an essential ingredient a high polymer and which, at some stage in  
6 its processing into finished products, can be shaped by flow ([ISO 472:2013\(en\) Plastics -  
7 Vocabulary](#)). Section 2.1 of the *Plastic Standard* lists out the types of plastics and materials  
8 containing plastic that are eligible under the Plastic Program.

9 **Plastic Credits**

10 A credit issued by, and held in the Verra registry representing the right of the account holder in  
11 whose account the credit is recorded to claim the achievement of recovered or recycled plastic  
12 waste in an amount of one (1) kilogram (kg) of plastic that has been verified by a  
13 validation/verification body in accordance with the Plastic Program rules. There are two types of  
14 Plastic Credits, Waste Recovery Credits and Recycling Credits. Recordation of a Plastic Credit in  
15 the account of the holder at the Verra registry is prima facie evidence of that holder's entitlement  
16 to that Plastic Credit.

17 **Plastic Credit issuance levy**

18 The fee charged by Verra at the time of Plastic Credit issuance to cover the administration costs of  
19 the Plastic Program

20 **Plastic Waste Reduction Program (Plastic Program)**

21 The program operated by Verra which establishes rules and requirements that operationalize the  
22 *Plastic Standard* to enable the validation of plastic waste recovery and recycling projects, and the  
23 verification of the impacts of those activities

24 **Plastic Program rules**

25 The rules and requirements set out in the *Plastic Program Guide*, the *Plastic Standard* and other  
26 Plastic Program documents; such rules and requirements may be updated from time to time

27 **Project activity**

28 The specific set of technologies, measures and/or outcomes, specified in a methodology applied to  
29 the project, that alter the conditions identified in the baseline scenario and which result in plastic  
30 waste recovery and/or recycling

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1 **Project activity instance (instance)**

2 A particular set of implemented technologies and/or measures that constitute the minimum unit of  
3 activity necessary to comply with the criteria and procedures applicable to the project activity  
4 under the methodology applied to the project

5 **Project description**

6 The document that describes the project's plastic waste recovery or recycling activities and which  
7 is prepared using the *Plastic Program Project Description Template*

8 **Project documents**

9 The documents required to register the project and/or issue Plastic Credits, as set out in the  
10 Plastic Program document *Plastic Program Guide*

11 **Project ownership**

12 The legal right to control and operate the project activities

13 **Project proponent**

14 The individual or organization that has overall control and responsibility for the project, or an  
15 individual or organization that together with others, each of which is also a project proponent, has  
16 overall control or responsibility for the project. The entity(ies) that can demonstrate project  
17 ownership in respect of the project.

18 **Project proponent representation**

19 A unilateral deed of representation issued by the project proponent(s) and/or individuals or  
20 organizations accorded certain rights in respect of a project

21 **Project start date**

22 The date on which the project began recovering and/or recycling plastic waste

23 **Proof of right**

24 The document(s) demonstrating the entity's right to any and all plastic waste recovered and/or  
25 recycled by the project during the crediting period or verification period. Distinct from project  
26 ownership.

27 **Recovery**

28 The diversion of plastic waste out of the environment by collecting it from nature, landfill, material  
29 recovery facility, households/businesses or other sources

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1 **Recycling**

2 Reprocessing, by means of a manufacturing process, of a used plastic or packaging material into  
3 a product, a component incorporated into a product, or a secondary (recycled) raw material;  
4 excluding energy recovery and the use of the product as a fuel ([ISO 18604:2013\(en\) Packaging](#)  
5 [and the environment — Material recycling](#))

6 **Recycling Credit (RCC)**

7 A credit issued by, and held in the Verra registry representing the right of the account holder in  
8 whose account the credit is recorded to claim the achievement of recycled plastic waste in an  
9 amount of one (1) kilogram (kg) of plastic that has been verified by a validation/verification body as  
10 recycled in accordance with the Plastic Program rules. Recordation of a Recycling Credit in the  
11 account of the holder at the Verra registry is prima facie evidence of that holder's entitlement to  
12 that Recycling Credit.

13 **Reduction (plastic waste reduction)**

14 A decrease in the amount of plastic waste generated by an entity by changing the design,  
15 manufacture (including packaging), purchase or use of products containing plastic<sup>4</sup>

16 **Regulatory surplus**

17 Where actions exceed requirements set forth in any law, statute or other regulatory frameworks  
18 governing implementation or output

19 **Reuse**

20 Reintroduction of the same product for the same purpose and in its original form, following minimal  
21 maintenance and cosmetic cleaning<sup>5</sup>

22 **Registration representation**

23 The unilateral representation issued by the project proponent at the time of the project registration  
24 request, made in respect of the project, and that is prepared using the *Plastic Program*  
25 *Registration Deed of Representation Template*

26 **Retirement**

27 The permanent removal of a Plastic Credit from circulation in the Verra registry

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<sup>4</sup> United States Environmental Protection Agency (2016). *Waste Prevention*. Available at:  
<https://archive.epa.gov/epawaste/conservesmm/wastewise/web/html/prevent.html>.

<sup>5</sup> Ellen MacArthur Foundation and ANSYS Granta (2019). *Circularity Indicators: An Approach to Measuring Circularity*. Available at: <https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/assets/downloads/Circularity-Indicators-Methodology.pdf>.



1 **Source**

2 Location from which plastic packaging, composite material containing plastic or plastic raw  
3 material may be emitted or released (for the purposes of the Plastic Program, sources include, but  
4 are not limited to, the environment, landfills, material recovery facilities or households/businesses)

5 **Stakeholder**

6 Any person or entity who can potentially be affected by the project. In identification of  
7 stakeholders, it is permitted to consider significance of user populations and how deeply affected  
8 they may be by the project such that distant or intermittent user groups who will be affected in very  
9 limited ways by the project need not be defined as stakeholders.

10 *Note – any reference in Plastic Program documents to project stakeholders is limited to this group*  
11 *of potentially affected stakeholders. Project stakeholders do not include those people, or entities in*  
12 *the activities of the project but that will not be materially affected by those activities (interested*  
13 *stakeholders).*

14 **Stakeholder group**

15 Groups whose members derive similar income, livelihood, well-being and/or cultural values from  
16 the project and whose values are different from those of other groups; such as Indigenous  
17 Peoples, women, youth or other social, cultural and economic groups. Every individual stakeholder  
18 must belong to at least one stakeholder group, and may belong to more than one.

19 **Validation**

20 Validation is the independent assessment of a project's design by a validation/verification body.  
21 The objectives of validation are to evaluate 1) the conformance of the submitted project  
22 description to Plastic Program rules and the applied methodology; 2) project design, planning  
23 information and documentation, including the project description, baseline, monitoring and  
24 reporting procedures, and quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) procedures; and 3) reported  
25 calculations (e.g., ex-ante estimates and uncertainty estimates).

26 **Validation report**

27 The written report of validation prepared by the validation/verification body in accordance with the  
28 Plastic Program rules and which is prepared using the *Plastic Program Validation Report Template*

29 **Validation representation**

30 The deed issued by the validation/verification body, referencing the validation report to which it  
31 relates, containing a unilateral representation that it has validated the project's compliance with the  
32 applicable Plastic Program rules, and which is prepared using the *Plastic Program Validation Deed*  
33 *of Representation Template*

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1 **Validation/verification body (VVB)**

2 An organization approved by Verra to act as a validation/verification body in respect of providing  
3 validation and/or verification services in accordance with the Plastic Program rules

4 **Verification**

5 Verification is the periodic ex-post independent assessment by a validation/verification body,  
6 conducted in accordance with the Plastic Program rules, of the plastic waste recovered and/or  
7 recycled by the project during the monitoring period

8 **Verification period**

9 The time period specified in a verification report during which the recovered and/or recycled plastic  
10 waste has been verified in accordance with Plastic Program rules by a validation/verification body

11 **Verra registry**

12 The platform that records all projects (listed and registered) and Plastic Credits issued under the  
13 Plastic Program. Provides public access to all project and Plastic Credit information, and provides  
14 project proponents with the ability to list and register projects and issue, hold and retire Plastic  
15 Credits.

16 **Verification report**

17 The written report of the verification prepared by the validation/verification body in accordance with  
18 Plastic Program rules and which is prepared using the *Plastic Program Verification Report*  
19 *Template*

20 **Verification representation**

21 The deed issued by the validation/verification body, referencing the verification report to which it  
22 relates, containing unilateral representation that it has verified the relevant recovered and/or  
23 recycled plastic waste in accordance with the applicable Plastic Program rules, and which is  
24 prepared using the *Plastic Program Verification Deed of Representation Template*

25 **Verra website**

26 The Verra website: [www.terra.org](http://www.terra.org)

27 **Vintage**

28 The set of plastic waste recovered and/or recycled by a project during a single vintage period

29 **Vintage period**

30 The time period for which a particular set of plastic waste recovered and/or recycled by a project is  
31 verified, which may be any subset of a verification period

32

1 **Waste**

2 Post-use material not in the process of being recycled or recycled

3 **Waste Recovery Credit (WRC)**

4 A credit issued by, and held in the Verra registry representing the right of the account holder in  
5 whose account the credit is recorded to claim the achievement of recovered plastic waste in an  
6 amount of one (1) kilogram (kg) of plastic that has been verified by a validation/verification body as  
7 recovered in accordance with the Plastic Program rules. Recordation of a Waste Recovery Credit  
8 in the account of the holder at the Verra registry is prima facie evidence of that holder's entitlement  
9 to that Waste Recovery Credit.

10 **3 ACRONYMS**

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| <b>3RI</b>   | 3R (Reduce, Recover, Recycle) Initiative  |
| <b>ABS</b>   | acrylonitrile butadiene styrene           |
| <b>EPS</b>   | expanded polystyrene                      |
| <b>GHG</b>   | greenhouse gas                            |
| <b>HDPE</b>  | high-density polyethylene                 |
| <b>Kg</b>    | kilogram                                  |
| <b>LDPE</b>  | low-density polyethylene                  |
| <b>MRF</b>   | material recovery facility                |
| <b>PET</b>   | polyethylene terephthalate                |
| <b>PP</b>    | polypropylene                             |
| <b>PS</b>    | polystyrene                               |
| <b>PSAWG</b> | Plastic Standard Assessment Working Group |
| <b>PSDC</b>  | Plastic Standard Development Committee    |
| <b>PVC</b>   | polyvinyl chloride                        |
| <b>RCC</b>   | Recycling Credit                          |
| <b>VVB</b>   | validation/verification body              |