

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Independent Expert Review of VCS Methodology VM0050 *Energy Efficiency and Fuel-Switch Measures in Cooking Devices, v2.0 Draft (M0387)*

9 July 2026

1 INTRODUCTION

Verra is a global leader helping to tackle the world’s most intractable environmental and social challenges. As a mission-driven nonprofit organization, Verra is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving livelihoods, and protecting natural resources by working with the private and public sectors. We support climate action and sustainable development with standards programs and tools that credibly, transparently, and robustly assess environmental and social impacts and enable funding for sustaining and scaling up projects that verifiably deliver these benefits.

The [Verified Carbon Standard \(VCS\) Program](#) is our flagship program. It allows vetted projects to turn their greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions and carbon dioxide removals into tradable carbon credits called Verified Carbon Units (VCUs).

An integral component of the VCS Program is the [VCS Methodology Development and Review Process, v5.1 \(MDRP\)](#), which outlines procedures and rules for the development of new or revised VCS methodologies, modules, and tools. A key element of the rigorous process includes review by a group of independent experts to ensure the methodology or revision aligns with current scientific knowledge, research, and best practices. Independent experts review the technical rigor, accuracy, and consistency of the draft methodology as per Section 3.5 of the *MDRP, v5.1*.

2 SCOPE OF WORK

Verra is accepting proposals for an independent expert review of the first revision (version 2.0) to [VM0050 methodology titled “Energy Efficiency and Fuel-Switch Measures in Cooking Devices, v1.0](#) (methodology development ID #M0387).The following updates are part of the proposed methodology revision:

- Inclusion of a MoFuSS—DS (modeling fuelwood savings scenarios—default scenarios) tool as an option for the determination of fractional of non-renewable biomass (f_{NRB}) values
- Removal of *CDM TOOL30* as an option for the determination of f_{NRB}
- Inclusion of corrections and clarifications published on 3 February 2025

- Inclusion of the Hawthorne effect in the quantification procedure for the determination of emission reductions
- Expansion of the scope to the use of heat retention devices and inclusion of related requirements and procedures (Appendix 6)
- Additional guidance on the design and maintenance of control households
- Inclusion of requirements and best practices for installing and implementing Stove Usage Monitors (SUMs), carrying out Kitchen Performance Tests (KPTs), and Controlled Cooking Tests (CCTs) as per the CLEAR methodology
- Alignment with the current best practices and latest scientific understanding related to cookstove projects, where needed
- Editorial improvements and corrections (including alignment with the latest methodology template and the VCS Program rules/requirements)

Verra is therefore requesting proposals for independent expert reviews (including academic experts, consultants, and validation/verification bodies [VVBs]) of the above-listed documents.

The requirements for the independent expert review are set out in Sections 3.3.2 and 3.5.1–3.5.4 of the *MDRP, v5.1*.

The following aspects of the revision must be assessed:

- Scientific rigor: Assessment of whether the proposed major revision reflects the most recent scientific knowledge of GHG emission reductions from (improved) cooking devices, which includes Heat Retention Devices (HRTs)
- Technical robustness and consistency to ensure accurate/conservative outcomes:
 - Relevancy and completeness of GHG sources included in the project boundary
 - Appropriateness of equations for quantifying baseline emissions, project emissions, leakage emissions, and GHG emission reductions, specifically concerning the determination of f_{NRB} and the incorporation of the Hawthorne effect
 - Validity of all assumptions and data sources
 - Appropriateness and technical soundness of the monitoring approach, including guidance on SUMs usage and conducting KPTs, CCTs, and Water Boiling Tests (WBTs)
- Any stakeholder comment that requires input from the expert, as identified by Verra

Minor improvements introduced in this revision, such as editorial changes, general clarifications, and additional guidance, are excluded from the scope of the expert review.

Principal tasks and responsibilities will include at least the following:

- 1) **Review documents and issue draft Independent Expert Report.** Independent experts review the draft revision documents and submit a draft Independent Expert Report issuing findings to Verra, using the *VCS Independent Expert Report Template*, as per Section 3.5.1 in the *MDRP*, v5.1.
- 2) **Iterate with Verra to resolve independent expert findings** as per Section 3.5.3 in the *MDRP*, v5.1. Verra may arrange a meeting or series of meetings to discuss findings and how they may be clarified or resolved within the draft revision documents. Where findings identify major risks that cannot be addressed within a reasonable timeframe, the methodology is put on hold or rejected by Verra (see Section 3.5.4 in the *MDRP*, v5.1).
- 3) **Issue Independent Expert Report.** Independent experts issue to Verra a final, signed version of the Independent Expert Report, using the *VCS Independent Expert Report Template*, as per Section 3.5.3 in the *MDRP*, v5.1.

The expected time commitment in number of working days:

Draft revision document	Review document and issue draft of Independent Expert Report	Iterate with Verra to resolve findings	Issue Independent Expert Report	Total
Red-lined version of the draft VM0050, v2.0	2	1.5	0.5	4

3 CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

Verra will use the following criteria for evaluating proposals:

- 1) Relevant expertise in the subject matter, including the following:
 - Depth of knowledge in clean cooking/improved cookstove technologies, including heat retention devices, in areas such as fuel/energy use monitoring (using KPTs, SUMs, etc.), ex -ante / ex post data and underlying assumptions, GHG sources/sinks, emission reduction avenues, and performance testing (which includes device efficiency and durability testing)
 - Strong knowledge of f_{NRB} quantification procedures, including models/tools such as the MoFuSS and the past and current versions of the CDM f_{NRB} tool
 - Experience with GHG accounting for distributed devices in clean cooking, water filtration, and energy access domains under standards such as Verra, CDM, or Gold Standard
 - Record of scientific publications, reports, and project experience
- 2) Experience with VCS project development, GHG accounting, or VCS methodology development, demonstrated by relevant experience
- 3) Cost, including making sure that the proposed level of effort is consistent with the outcomes

- 4) Availability to comply with the proposed timeline
- 5) Ability to perform an independent review, without risk of bias that could impact the integrity of the methodology
- 6) No conflict of interest (related to the VM0050 methodology, associated projects, or the VCS Program in general) is preferable but not mandatory
- 7) Prior experience as an independent reviewer, validator/verifier, or methodology expert is preferable but not mandatory
- 8) Knowledge of the ICVCM’s core principles, assessment requirements, and procedures is preferable but not mandatory

4 MILESTONES, DELIVERABLES, AND TIMELINE

The independent expert review is expected to start in parallel with the public consultation.

The main deliverables and expected timeline resulting from this assignment are as follows:

Deliverable	Timeline
1) Review documents and issue draft Independent Expert Report	Two weeks from the date of signing of the contract
2) Iterate with Verra to resolve findings	Six weeks from the date of signing of the contract
3) Issue Independent Expert Report	Eight weeks from the date of signing of the contract

5 RESPONSES TO THE RFP

Respondents are requested to submit their proposals as follows:

- Completed Proposal Response Template, provided in Annex 1 and also available as a Word document, that indicates the respondent’s qualifications, experience, rate, and ability to conduct the review
- Completed Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form, provided in Annex 2 and also available as a Word document, that indicates the respondent’s ability to perform an independent review without risk of bias
- Separately appended resumes/CVs (not to exceed two pages each)

All application materials submitted to Verra will be kept confidential.

Proposals must be submitted by email to methodologies@verra.org, with the methodology development ID #M0387 in the subject line, by close of business on 31 July 2026. Verra will likely ask the top candidates clarifying questions about their proposal. Verra plans to finalize selection of the consultant by 28 August 2026 with the work to begin as soon as possible after then.

Legal Nature of RFP

This RFP is an invitation for proposals, and Verra is under no legal obligation to accept any proposal nor proceed with the RFP. Verra reserves the right to amend the requirements at any time.

Annex 1 – Proposal Response Template

Evaluation Criteria	Response
<p>#1: Relevant expertise in the subject matter, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depth of knowledge in clean cooking/improved cookstove technologies, including heat retention devices, in areas such as fuel/energy use monitoring (using KPTs, SUMs, etc.), ex ante / ex post data and underlying assumptions, GHG sources/sinks, emission reduction avenues, and performance testing (which includes device efficiency and durability testing) • Strong knowledge of f_{NRB} quantification procedures, including models/tools such as the MoFuSS and the past and current versions of the CDM f_{NRB} tool • Experience with GHG accounting for distributed devices in clean cooking, water filtration, and energy access domains under standards such as Verra, CDM, or Gold Standard <p>Please list relevant scientific publications, reports, and project experience.</p>	
<p>#2: Experience with VCS project development, GHG accounting, or VCS methodology development. Please list relevant experience.</p>	
<p>#3: Cost proposal. Provide both daily rate and total cost in USD.</p>	
<p>#4: Availability to comply with the proposed timeline.</p>	
<p>#5: Ability to perform an independent review, without risk of bias that could impact the integrity of the methodology.</p>	<p>Please complete (sign and PDF) the Conflict of Disclosure Form provided in Annex 2.</p>
<p>#7: Prior experience as an independent reviewer, validator/verifier, or methodology expert.</p>	
<p>#8: Knowledge of the ICVCM's core principles, assessment requirements, and procedures.</p>	

Annex 2 – Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Methodology Reviewers

Name: (of collaborator)	Position/Role: (of collaborator)
Organization: (of collaborator)	Methodology / Tool / Module: <u>M0387 - Revision to VM0050 Energy Efficiency and Fuel-Switch Measures in Cookstoves</u>

Instructions

Conflict of Interest (“COI”):

A COI is a situation in which a personal interest interferes with or is perceived to interfere with your ability to carry out your responsibilities in an impartial, unbiased, and objective manner. There are three categories of COIs: potential, perceived, or actual. Each category could potentially pose risks for Verra, your relationship with our organization, the integrity of the consultancy and the resulting methodology, and your personal and professional reputation.

In undertaking your review responsibilities, you have an ongoing duty to be transparent and are required to disclose any potential, perceived, or actual conflicts of interest within five (5) business days of being aware of the situation. When in doubt, please make a disclosure.

Disclosure

1. Do you have any affiliations with or involvement in any organization or entity that develops projects under the proposed methodology? Yes (Verra will contact you regarding next steps) No
2. Do you have interests, financial,* personal, † or otherwise, related to project development (interests that concern the broader support of climate mitigation are not required to be disclosed). Yes (Verra will contact you regarding next steps) No

If you answered “Yes” to #1 or #2, or if you have a situation that is different from them, please provide details in the space below. Please include names of organizations, activities, and relevant relationships.

*Financial interests arise when the reviewer or their immediate relative has been or is currently engaged in discussions to have, directly or indirectly, through business or investment, an ownership or investment interest in any project development.

† Personal interests arise when the reviewer or their immediate relative obtains an advantage, profit, right, or share or may benefit in any manner from the project development.

I have declared all relevant interests on this form and will continue to raise relevant interests as and when they arise.

Signature

Date