

Plastic Recovery and Recycling Project Accounting Standard

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CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	3
1.1	Version	3
1.2	Language	4
2	PLASTIC ACCOUNTING PROGRAM SPECIFIC ISSUES	4
2.1	Scope of Plastic Accounting Program	4
2.2	Principles.....	5
2.3	Timing of Crediting	5
3	PROJECT REQUIREMENTS	6
3.1	General Requirements	6
3.2	Project Documentation	7
3.3	Project Design	8
3.4	Ownership	12
3.5	Project Start Date	13
3.6	Project Crediting Period.....	14
3.7	Project Location.....	15
3.8	Project Boundary	16
3.9	Baseline Scenario.....	16
3.10	Additionality	17
3.11	Quantification of Recovered and Recycled Plastic Waste	18
3.12	Monitoring.....	18
3.13	Safeguards	19

3.14	Records and Information	22
4	ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS	23
	APPENDIX 1 PROGRAM DEFINITIONS	24
	APPENDIX 2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	27

1 INTRODUCTION

2 The *Plastic Recovery and Recycling Project Accounting Standard (Plastic Standard)* provides a
3 global standard for plastic waste recovery and recycling projects. The *Plastic Standard* is
4 operationalized by the Plastic Recovery and Recycling Project Accounting Program (Plastic
5 Accounting Program) to enable the validation of plastic recovery and recycling projects, and the
6 verification of recovered and/or recycled plastic waste. The three principal documents of the
7 program are the *Plastic Recovery and Recycling Project Accounting Program Guide (Plastic
8 Accounting Program Guide)* (to be developed), the *Plastic Standard* and the *Plastic Recovery and
9 Recycling Project Accounting Methodology Requirements (Plastic Accounting Methodology
10 Requirements)* (to be developed). The *Plastic Accounting Program Guide* describes the rules and
11 requirements governing the Plastic Accounting Program and further describes the constituent parts
12 of the program such as the project registration process, the Verra registry system, the methodology
13 approval process and the accreditation requirements for validation/verification bodies. The *Plastic
14 Standard* provides the requirements for developing projects, as well as the requirements for the
15 validation, monitoring and verification of projects that recover and/or recycle plastic waste. The
16 *Plastic Accounting Methodology Requirements* document provides the rules and requirements for
17 developing new plastic recovery and recycling methodologies.

18 The *Plastic Standard* can also be used by plastic waste recovery and/or recycling projects that
19 intend only on accounting for the results of their recovery and/or recycling activities, and are not
20 interested in issuing plastic recovery units or plastic recycling units (plastic units). Projects using
21 the *Plastic Standard* solely for accounting purposes are not eligible to issue plastic units. Therefore,
22 requirements pertaining to the issuance of plastic units and eligibility requirements for crediting are
23 not applicable to such projects and are noted as such.

24 The *Plastic Standard* has been developed with the support of the 3R Initiative (3RI) (see Appendix
25 2 for the full list of acknowledgements).

Note to readers – All documents cited as “to be developed” are subsequently referred to throughout this draft as documents that are already developed to avoid edits to language in future drafts. The documents are currently under development and will be part of the Plastic Accounting Program launch in 2021.

26 1.1 Version

27 All information about version control under the Plastic Accounting Program is contained in the
28 *Plastic Accounting Program Guide*.

1 This document will be updated from time-to-time and readers shall ensure that they are using the
2 most current version of the document. Where external documents are referenced and such
3 documents are updated, the most recent version of the document shall be used.

4 1.2 Language

5 The operating language of the Plastic Accounting Program is English. The Plastic Accounting
6 Program documents may be translated into other languages to facilitate local use. However, the
7 English versions of the documents, and the interpretation of the same, shall take precedence over
8 any other language translations.

9 The project description, validation report, monitoring report, verification report and all other
10 documentation (including all and any appendices) required under the Plastic Accounting Program
11 shall be written in English. For projects located in countries for which English is not a widely used
12 language among project stakeholders¹, the project proponent shall develop at least a summary of
13 the project description and/or monitoring report in a relevant local or regional language.

14 2 PLASTIC ACCOUNTING PROGRAM 15 SPECIFIC ISSUES

16 2.1 Scope of Plastic Accounting Program

17 2.1.1 The scope of the Plastic Accounting Program includes:

- 18 1) The seven types of plastic²: Polyethylene Terephthalate (PETE or PET), High-Density
19 Polyethylene (HDPE), Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC), Low-Density Polyethylene (LDPE),
20 Polypropylene (PP), Polystyrene or Styrofoam (PS) and Other Plastics (O).
- 21 2) Composite materials containing the plastic types listed above.
- 22 3) Project activities supported by a methodology approved under the Plastic Accounting
23 Program through the methodology approval process.

24 The scope of the Plastic Accounting Program does not currently include project activities
25 that undertake the reduction or reuse of plastic waste. The program may be expanded to
26 include the reduction and/or reuse of plastic waste in the future. Plastic waste sorting can

¹ Throughout the Plastic Accounting Program, unless otherwise specified, the term 'stakeholder' means those stakeholders in the geographic vicinity of the project who could potentially be affected by project activities. Other potentially interested stakeholders—e.g., local or international NGOs—are identified as such.

² Source: <https://plastics.americanchemistry.com/Plastic-Resin-Codes-PDF/>

1 be considered as part of a recovery or a recycling project depending on its position in the
2 value chain, and plastic units shall be issued accordingly.

3 The scope of the Plastic Accounting Program excludes projects that can reasonably be
4 assumed to have generated plastic waste primarily for the purpose of its subsequent
5 recovery and/or recycling.

Question: Are there materials or plastic types that should or should not be included in the scope of the Plastic Accounting Program?

6 2.2 Principles

7 2.2.1 The application of principles is fundamental in ensuring that plastic waste-related
8 information is a true and fair account. The principles below shall provide the basis for, and
9 shall guide the application of, the Plastic Accounting Program rules and requirements.

10 *Principles taken from ISO 14064-2:2006, clause 4.*

11 **Relevance:** Select the plastic waste sources, end-of-life options, data and methodologies
12 appropriate to the needs of the intended user.

13 **Completeness:** Include all relevant plastic types. Include all relevant information to
14 support criteria and procedures.

15 **Consistency:** Enable meaningful comparisons in plastic waste-related information.

16 **Accuracy:** Reduce bias and uncertainties as far as practical.

17 **Transparency:** Disclose sufficient and appropriate plastic waste-related information to
18 allow intended users to make decisions with reasonable confidence.

19 **Conservativeness:** Use conservative assumptions, values and procedures to ensure that
20 net plastic waste recovery and recycling are not overestimated.

21 *Note – Accuracy should be pursued as far as possible, but the hypothetical nature of*
22 *baselines, the high cost of monitoring of some types of plastic waste recovery and*
23 *recycling and other limitations make accuracy difficult to attain in many cases. In these*
24 *cases, conservativeness may serve as a moderator to accuracy in order to maintain the*
25 *credibility of plastic waste recovery and recycling quantification.*

26 2.3 Timing of Crediting

27 2.3.1 Plastic units shall not be issued under the Plastic Accounting Program for plastic waste
28 recovery or recycling that has not been verified.

3 PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

This section sets out the rules and requirements for projects under the Plastic Accounting Program.

In order to complete the Plastic Accounting Program certification process, projects must demonstrate how they meet the rules and requirements set out below³. Projects must also demonstrate how they have applied an eligible methodology in full. Projects demonstrate their compliance with the Plastic Accounting Program rules and the applied methodology through the validation and verification processes, which are defined in Section 4 below. Once projects complete the validation and verification processes, they become eligible to request registration and plastic unit issuance. Note that the full process for requesting project registration and plastic unit issuance is set out in the Plastic Accounting Program document *Registration and Issuance Process* (to be developed).

3.1 General Requirements

Concept

Establishing a consistent and standardized certification process is critical to ensuring the integrity of plastic waste recovery and recycling projects. Accordingly, certain high-level requirements must be met by all projects, as set out below.

Requirements

3.1.1 Projects shall meet all applicable rules and requirements set out under the Plastic Accounting Program, including this document. Projects shall be guided by the Principles set out in Section 2.2.1.

3.1.2 Projects shall apply methodologies eligible under the Plastic Accounting Program. Methodologies shall be applied in full, including the full application of any tools or modules referred to by a methodology. The list of methodologies and their validity periods is available on the Verra website.

3.1.3 Projects and the implementation of project activities shall not lead to the violation of any applicable law, regardless of whether or not the law is enforced.

3.1.4 Where Verra issues new requirements relating to projects, registered projects do not need to adhere to the new requirements for the remainder of their project crediting periods (i.e., such projects remain eligible to issue plastic units through to the end of their project

³ Certain sections are not applicable to projects using the Standard solely for accounting purposes, and are marked as such.

1 crediting period without revalidation against the new requirements). The new requirements
2 shall be adhered to at project crediting period renewal, as set out in Section 3.6.3.

3 3.2 Project Documentation

4 *Concept*

5 In order to complete the project validation process, project proponents shall prepare a project
6 description, which describes the project's plastic waste recovery and/or recycling activities. In
7 order to complete the project verification process, project proponents shall prepare a monitoring
8 report, which describes the data and information related to the monitoring of plastic waste
9 recovery and/or recycling.

10 *Requirements*

11 *Project Description*

12 3.2.1 The project proponent shall use the *Plastic Accounting Project Description Template* (to be
13 developed) available on the Verra website. The project proponent shall adhere to all
14 instructional text within the template.

15 3.2.2 All information in the project description shall be presumed to be available for public
16 review, though commercially sensitive information may be protected, as set out in the
17 Plastic Accounting Program document *Registration and Issuance Process*, where it can be
18 demonstrated that such information is commercially sensitive. The validation/verification
19 body shall check that any information designated by the project proponent as commercially
20 sensitive meets the Plastic Accounting Program definition of commercially sensitive
21 information. Information in the project description related to the determination of the
22 baseline scenario, demonstration of additionality and estimation and monitoring of plastic
23 waste recovery and recycling shall not be considered to be commercially sensitive and
24 shall be provided in the public versions of the project description.

25 *Monitoring Report*

26 3.2.3 The project proponent shall use the *Plastic Accounting Monitoring Report Template* (to be
27 developed) available on the Verra website and adhere to all instructional text within the
28 template.

29 3.2.4 The monitoring period of the monitoring report shall be a distinct time period that does not
30 overlap with previous monitoring periods. Projects shall not be eligible for crediting of
31 plastic waste recovered or recycled by the project in previous monitoring periods. In
32 addition, monitoring periods shall be contiguous with no time gaps between monitoring
33 periods.

1 3.3 Project Design

2 *Concept*

3 The Plastic Accounting Program allows for different approaches to project design. Projects may be
4 designed as a single installation of an activity. Projects may also be designed to include more than
5 one project activity, such as a project that includes both plastic waste recovery from landfill and
6 mechanical recycling components. In addition, projects may be designed to include more than one
7 project activity instance, such as a waste picker project that distributes new collection equipment
8 to a number of different communities. Finally, projects may be designed as grouped projects,
9 which are projects structured to allow the expansion of a project activity subsequent to project
10 validation.

11 *Note – Project activity and project activity instance both have the specific meanings that are set*
12 *out in the Plastic Accounting Program document Program Definitions (definitions are included*
13 *within this draft document until the Program Definitions document is developed).*

14 *Requirements*

15 *Multiple Project Activities*

16 3.3.1 Projects may include multiple project activities where the methodology applied to the
17 project allows more than one project activity and/or where projects apply more than one
18 methodology.

19 3.3.2 Where more than one methodology has been applied to a project with multiple project
20 activities, the following applies:

- 21 1) Each project activity shall be specified separately in the project description, referencing
22 the relevant methodology.
- 23 2) All criteria and procedures set out in the applied methodologies in relation to
24 applicability conditions, demonstration of additionality, determination of the baseline
25 scenario and plastic waste recovery and recycling quantification shall be applied
26 separately to each project activity, noting the following:
 - 27 a) A single set of criteria and procedures for the demonstration of additionality may be
28 applied where the applied methodologies reference the same additionality
29 procedures, and where separate demonstration of additionality for each project
30 activity is not feasible.

31 For example, separate demonstration of additionality may not be feasible in project
32 activities that are implemented at a single facility and therefore represent a single
33 investment. The onus is upon the project proponent to demonstrate to the
34 validation/verification body that separate demonstration of additionality is not
35 feasible, failing which separate demonstration of additionality shall be provided.

1 Where a methodology specifies requirements for demonstrating additionality in
2 addition to those specified in the referenced additionality procedures, such
3 requirements shall be adhered to.

- 4 b) The criteria and procedures for identifying the baseline scenario may be combined
5 where the relevant methodologies or the referenced additionality procedures
6 specify criteria and procedures for combining baseline scenarios.
- 7 3) The criteria and procedures relating to all other aspects of the methodologies may be
8 combined.

9 *Note – Where a single methodology is applicable to more than one project activity and*
10 *where the methodology does not provide clear procedures for the application of more than*
11 *one project activity, the above requirements shall be adhered to.*

12 Multiple Instances of Project Activities

13 3.3.3 Inclusion of further project activity instances subsequent to initial validation of a non-
14 grouped project (i.e., a project that is not structured to allow the expansion of a project
15 activity subsequent to validation) is not permitted (see Sections 3.3.6 – 3.3.14 for
16 information on grouped projects).

17 3.3.4 The baseline determination and additionality demonstration for all project activity instances
18 shall be combined (e.g., the baseline and additionality of multiple mechanical recycling
19 installations shall be determined and demonstrated in combination rather than individually).

20 3.3.5 Where a project includes multiple project activity instances from multiple project activities,
21 the project activity instances from each project activity shall be assessed in accordance
22 with Sections 3.3.1 – 3.3.2.

23 Grouped Projects

24 Baseline Scenario and Additionality

25 3.3.6 Grouped projects shall have one or more clearly defined geographic areas within which
26 project activity instances may be developed. Such geographic areas shall be defined using
27 geodetic polygons as set out in Section 3.7 below.

28 3.3.7 Determination of the baseline scenario and demonstration of additionality are based upon
29 the initial project activity instances. The initial project activity instances are those that are
30 included in the project description at validation and shall include all project activity
31 instances currently implemented on the issue date of the project description. The initial
32 project activity instances may also include any planned instances of the project activity that
33 have been planned and developed to a sufficient level of detail to enable their assessment
34 at validation. Geographic areas with no initial project activity instances shall not be
35 included in the project unless it can be demonstrated that such areas are subject to the
36 same (or at least as conservative) baseline scenario and rationale for the demonstration of

1 additionality as a geographic area that does include initial project activity instances.

2 3.3.8 As with non-grouped projects, grouped projects may incorporate multiple project activities
3 (see Section 3.3.1 – 3.3.2 for more information on multiple project activities). Where a
4 grouped project includes multiple project activities, the project description shall indicate
5 which project activities may occur in each geographic area.

6 3.3.9 The baseline scenario for a project activity shall be determined for each designated
7 geographic area, in accordance with the methodology applied to the project. Where a
8 single baseline scenario cannot be determined for a project activity over the entirety of a
9 geographic area, the geographic area shall be redefined or divided such that a single
10 baseline scenario can be determined for the revised geographic area or areas.

11 3.3.10 The additionality of the initial project activity instances shall be demonstrated for each
12 designated geographic area, in accordance with the methodology applied to the project.
13 Where the additionality of the initial project activity instances within a particular geographic
14 area cannot be demonstrated for the entirety of that geographic area, the geographic area
15 shall be redefined or divided such that the additionality of the instances occurring in the
16 revised geographic area or areas can be demonstrated.

17 3.3.11 Where factors relevant to the determination of the baseline scenario or demonstration of
18 additionality require assessment across a given area, the area shall be, at a minimum, the
19 grouped project geographic area. Examples of such factors include common practice;
20 laws, statutes, regulatory frameworks or policies relevant to demonstration of regulatory
21 surplus⁴; and historical recovery and recycling rates.

22 Eligibility Criteria

23 3.3.12 Grouped projects shall include one or more sets of eligibility criteria for the inclusion of new
24 project activity instances. At least one set of eligibility criteria for the inclusion of new
25 project activity instances shall be provided for each combination of project activity and
26 geographic area specified in the project description. A set of eligibility criteria shall ensure
27 that new project activity instances:

- 28 1) Meet the applicability conditions set out in the methodology applied to the project.
- 29 2) Use the technologies or measures specified in the project description.
- 30 3) Apply the technologies or measures in the same manner as specified in the project
31 description.
- 32 4) Are subject to the baseline scenario determined in the project description for the
33 specified project activity and geographic area.

⁴ Demonstration of regulatory surplus requires demonstration that the project is not mandated by any law, statute or other regulatory framework.

- 1 5) Have characteristics with respect to additionality that are consistent with the initial
2 instances for the specified project activity and geographic area. For example, the new
3 project activity instances have financial, technical and/or other parameters (such as the
4 size/scale of the instances) consistent with the initial instances, or face the same
5 investment, technological and/or other barriers as the initial instances.

6 *Note – Where grouped projects include multiple baseline scenarios or demonstrations of*
7 *additionality, such projects will require at least one set of eligibility criteria for each*
8 *combination of baseline scenario and demonstration of additionality specified in the project*
9 *description.*

10 Inclusion of New Project Activity Instances

11 3.3.13 Grouped projects allow for the inclusion of new project activity instances subsequent to the
12 initial validation of the project. New project activity instances shall:

- 13 1) Occur within one of the designated geographic areas specified in the project
14 description.
- 15 2) Comply with at least one complete set of eligibility criteria for the inclusion of new
16 project activity instances. Partial compliance with multiple sets of eligibility criteria is
17 insufficient.
- 18 3) Be included in the monitoring report with sufficient technical, financial, geographic and
19 other relevant information to demonstrate compliance with the applicable set of
20 eligibility criteria and enable sampling by the validation/verification body.
- 21 4) Be validated at the time of verification against the applicable set of eligibility criteria.
- 22 5) Have evidence of project ownership, in respect of each project activity instance, held
23 by the project proponent from the respective start date of each project activity instance
24 (i.e., the date upon which the project activity instance began recovering and/or
25 recycling plastic waste).
- 26 6) Have a start date that is the same as or later than the grouped project start date.
- 27 7) Be eligible for crediting from the start date of the instance through to the end of the
28 project crediting period (only). Note that where a new project activity instance starts in
29 a previous verification period, no credit may be claimed for plastic waste recovered or
30 recycled by the project during a previous verification period (as set out in Section 3.2.4)
31 and new instances are eligible for crediting from the start of the next verification period.

32 Where inclusion of a new project activity instance necessitates the addition of a new project
33 proponent to the project, such instances shall be included in the grouped project within two years
34 of the project activity instance start date. The procedure for adding new project proponents is set
35 out in the Plastic Accounting Program document *Registration and Issuance Process*.

36

1 Project Description for Grouped Projects

2 3.3.14 A grouped project shall be described in a single project description, which shall contain the
3 following (in addition to the content required for non-grouped projects):

- 4 1) A delineation of the geographic area(s) within which all project activity instances shall
5 occur. Such area(s) shall be defined by geodetic polygons as set out in Section 3.7
6 below.
- 7 2) One or more determinations of the baseline for the project activity in accordance with
8 the requirements of the methodology applied to the project.
- 9 3) One or more demonstrations of additionality for the project activity in accordance with
10 the requirements of the methodology applied to the project.
- 11 4) One or more sets of eligibility criteria for the inclusion of new project activity instances
12 at subsequent verification events.
- 13 5) A description of the central plastic waste information system and controls associated
14 with the project and its monitoring.

15 *Note – Where the project includes more than one project activity, the above requirements*
16 *shall be addressed separately for each project activity, except for the delineation of*
17 *geographic areas and the description of the central plastic waste information system and*
18 *controls, which shall be addressed for the project as a whole.*

19 3.4 Ownership

20 *Concept*

21 Project proponents shall demonstrate that they have the legal right to control and operate the
22 project activities.

23 *Requirements*

24 3.4.1 The project description shall be accompanied by one or more of the following types of
25 evidence establishing project ownership accorded to the project proponent(s) as the case
26 may be:

- 27 1) Project ownership arising or granted under statute, regulation or decree by a
28 competent authority.
- 29 2) Project ownership arising under law.
- 30 3) Project ownership arising by virtue of a statutory, property or contractual right in the
31 plant, equipment or process that recovers or recycles plastic waste (where the project
32 proponent has not been divested of such project ownership).

- 1 4) Project ownership arising by virtue of a statutory, property or contractual right in the
2 land or management process that performs plastic waste recovery or recycling (where
3 the project proponent has not been divested of such project ownership).
- 4 5) An enforceable and irrevocable agreement with the holder of the statutory, property or
5 contractual right in the plant, equipment or process that recovers or recycles plastic
6 waste which vests project ownership in the project proponent.
- 7 6) An enforceable and irrevocable agreement with the holder of the statutory, property or
8 contractual right in the land or management process that performs plastic waste
9 recovery or recycling which vests project ownership in the project proponent.
- 10 7) Project ownership arising from the implementation or enforcement of laws, statutes or
11 regulatory frameworks that require activities be undertaken or incentivize activities that
12 recover or recycle plastic waste.
- 13 8) Project ownership and right to operate arising by virtue of agreement with the relevant
14 government entity to perform the project activity and/or to operate on the land.
- 15 9) Where the types of evidence listed above are not appropriate, project ownership and
16 right to operate arising by virtue of other means of demonstrating proof of ownership
17 and/or right to operate. These include, among others, contractual agreements and
18 alliance of project actors with an organization that can demonstrate proof of ownership
19 (as listed above) on behalf of the project actors. The project proponent shall
20 demonstrate that the nature of the proof of ownership used is commonplace to the
21 location of the project activity or the project activity type.

22 3.5 Project Start Date

23 *Concept*

24 The project start date is the date on which the project began recovering or recycling plastic waste.
25 Projects shall complete validation within a specific timeframe from the project start date, as set out
26 in Sections 3.5.3 and 3.5.4 below.

27 *Note – The requirements in this section do not apply to projects that intend to use the Standard*
28 *solely for accounting purposes, and not to issue plastic units.*

29 *Requirements*

30 3.5.1 The project start date shall be on or after 1 January 2016.

31 3.5.2 For projects with a project start date between 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2018, the
32 project proponent shall provide evidence that the project was undertaken in order to
33 recover or recycle plastic waste and that the project could not be sustained in the absence
34 of revenues from the sale of resulting plastic units.

1 3.5.3 Projects with a project start date on or before 31 December 2021 shall complete validation
2 by 31 December 2023.

3 3.5.4 Projects with a project start date on or after 1 January 2022 shall complete validation within
4 two years of the project start date. Additional time is granted for projects to complete
5 validation where they are applying a new plastic waste recovery or recycling methodology.
6 Specifically, projects using a new plastic waste recovery or recycling methodology and
7 completing validation within two years of the approval of the methodology by Verra may
8 complete validation within four years of the project start date.

9
10 **Question:** Do you think the proposed project start date of 1 January 2016 is appropriate
and practical (keeping in mind the validation deadline requirements 3.5.3 and 3.5.4)?

11 3.6 Project Crediting Period

12 *Concept*

13 The project crediting period is the time period for which plastic waste recovered or recycled by the
14 project is eligible for issuance as plastic units. Project crediting periods shall be renewed
15 periodically in order to ensure that changes to a project's baseline scenario and regulatory surplus
16 are taken into consideration throughout the lifetime of the project.

17 *Note – The requirements in this section do not apply to projects that intend to use the Standard*
18 *solely for accounting purposes, and not to issue plastic units.*

19 *Requirements*

20 *Project Crediting Period Length*

21 3.6.1 The project crediting period shall be either seven years, twice renewable for a total of 21
22 years, or ten years fixed.

23 *Renewal of Project Crediting Period*

24 3.6.2 Where projects fail to renew the project crediting period, the project crediting period shall
25 end and the project shall be ineligible for further crediting.

26 3.6.3 The following shall apply with respect to the renewal of the project crediting period under
27 the Plastic Accounting Program:

28 1) A full reassessment of additionality is not required when renewing the project crediting
29 period. However, regulatory surplus shall be demonstrated in accordance with the
30 requirements set out in the Plastic Accounting Program rules and the project
31 description shall be updated accordingly.

Note to readers – Verra will undertake regular reviews of the additionality of each project activity type to determine whether they remain eligible under the Plastic Accounting Program. The details of this process will be provided in the Plastic Accounting Program Guide.

- 1 2) The validity of the original baseline scenario shall be demonstrated, or where invalid a
2 new baseline scenario shall be determined, when renewing the project crediting period,
3 as follows:
- 4 a) The validity of the original baseline scenario shall be assessed. Such assessment
5 shall include an evaluation of the impact of new relevant national and/or sectoral
6 policies and circumstances on the validity of the baseline scenario. This shall also
7 include the market penetration level, financial feasibility and revenue stream of the
8 project activity type in the region.
- 9 b) Where it is determined that the original baseline scenario is no longer valid, the
10 current baseline scenario shall be established in accordance with the Plastic
11 Accounting Program rules.
- 12 3) The updated project description shall be validated in accordance with the Plastic
13 Accounting Program rules. In addition, the project shall be validated against the
14 (current) scope of the *Plastic Standard*. Such a validation report shall be issued after
15 the end of the (previous) project crediting period but within two years after the end of
16 the (previous) project crediting period.

Questions:

1. Do you think the proposed crediting period options are reasonable?
2. Is there an activity for which a crediting period of seven years, twice renewable for a total of 21 years, or ten years fixed would not be appropriate?

3.7 Project Location

Concept

The project location shall be provided in order to accurately describe project characteristics and to demonstrate a project's conformance with other requirements, such as project ownership and regulatory compliance.

Requirements

3.7.1 Project location shall be specified in the project description as follows:

- 1) Project location shall be specified by a single geodetic coordinate.

- 1 2) Where there are multiple project activity instances (see Sections 3.3.3 – 3.3.5 for more
2 information on multiple instances of project activities), project location shall be
3 specified according to the following:
- 4 a) Where it is reasonable to do so, a geodetic coordinate shall be provided for each
5 instance and provided in a KML file; or
- 6 b) Where there are a large number of project activity instances (e.g., waste collection
7 sites for recovered plastic waste), at least one geodetic coordinate shall be
8 provided, together with sufficient additional geographic information (with respect to
9 the location of the instances) to enable sampling by the validation/verification body.
- 10 3) Project location for grouped projects shall be specified using geodetic polygons to
11 delineate the project’s geographic area or areas (see Section 3.3.6 for further
12 information on geographic areas for grouped projects) and provided in a KML file.

13 3.8 Project Boundary

14 *Concept*

15 The project boundary includes the source (e.g., environment, landfill, MRF) and end-of-life
16 scenario (e.g., landfill, sale of recycled content) of the plastic waste recovered or recycled that are
17 relevant to the project and baseline scenarios. The relevant sources and end-of-life scenarios that
18 shall be included or excluded, or are optional, are set out in the methodology(s) applied by the
19 project.

20 *Requirement*

21 3.8.1 The project boundary shall be described (using diagrams, as required), and sources and
22 end-of-life scenarios of recovered or recycled plastic waste shall be identified and
23 assessed in accordance with the methodology applied to the project. If applicable, the
24 project shall justify not selecting any relevant source or end-of-life scenario.

25 3.9 Baseline Scenario

26 *Concept*

27 The baseline scenario represents the plastic waste management activities that would most likely
28 occur in the absence of the project activity. The baseline scenario shall be determined so that an
29 accurate comparison can be made between the plastic waste management that would have
30 occurred under the baseline scenario and the plastic waste recovery and/or recycling that were
31 achieved by project activities.
32

1 **Requirements**

2 3.9.1 The baseline scenario for the project shall be determined in accordance with the
3 requirements set out in the methodology applied to the project, and the choice of baseline
4 scenario shall be justified.

5 3.9.2 Equivalence in type and level of activity of products or services provided by the project and
6 the baseline scenario shall be demonstrated and, where appropriate, any significant
7 differences between the project and the baseline scenario shall be explained.

8 3.9.3 In developing the baseline scenario, assumptions, values and procedures shall be selected
9 that help ensure that net plastic waste recovered and recycled is not overestimated.

10 **3.10 Additionality**

11 **Concept**

12 A project activity is additional if it can be demonstrated that the activity results in recovered or
13 recycled plastic waste that is in excess of what would be achieved under a 'business-as-usual'⁵
14 scenario and the activity would not have occurred in the absence of the incentive provided by the
15 plastic crediting mechanism. Additionality is an important characteristic of plastic units because it
16 indicates that they represent a net environmental benefit and a real reduction of plastic waste in
17 the environment.

18 *Note – The requirements in this section do not apply to projects that intend to use the Standard*
19 *solely for accounting purposes, and not to issue plastic units.*

20 **Requirement**

21 3.10.1 Additionality shall be demonstrated and assessed in accordance with the requirements set
22 out in the methodology applied to the project.

Question: Should plastic units used for offset purposes represent an increase in plastic waste recovered or recycled over that which would have occurred in a 'business-as-usual' scenario?

23

24

⁵ Business-as-usual is defined as a scenario for future patterns of activity which assumes that there will be no significant change in people's attitudes and priorities, or no major changes in technology, economics, or policies, so that normal circumstances can be expected to continue unchanged ([source](#)).

1 3.11 Quantification of Recovered and Recycled Plastic Waste

2 *Concept*

3 Plastic waste recovered and/or recycled by projects is the basis for the volume of plastic units that
4 can be issued. Recovered and recycled plastic waste shall be quantified in accordance with the
5 applied methodology(s).

6 *Note – This section can also be used solely for the quantification of plastic waste recovery and/or*
7 *recycling, and not for the issuance of plastic units.*

8 *Requirements*

9 3.11.1 The total volume of plastic waste recovered and recycled by the project shall be quantified.

10 3.11.2 Where feasible, the volume of recovered and/or recycled plastic waste shall be estimated
11 for each plastic type relevant for the project and the baseline scenarios.

12 3.11.3 Kilograms shall be used as the unit of measure.

Note to readers – Projects that meet all the requisite Plastic Accounting Program rules and requirements will be eligible to issue plastic units to represent plastic waste recovered and/or recycled, based on the specific project activities. Further details on the unit types will be provided in the Plastic Accounting Program Guide. Unintended losses in recovered or recycled plastic waste, such as materials that do not make it to the intended end-of-life scenario, will be accounted for in the methodology as a deduction in the amount of recovered and/or recycled plastic waste eligible to be issued as plastic units.

13 3.12 Monitoring

14 *Concept*

15 The impacts of project activities on relevant plastic waste sources and end-of-life scenarios shall
16 be monitored in order to determine the net plastic waste recovery or recycling benefit. Projects
17 shall be monitored in accordance with the applied methodology(s).

18 *Requirements*

19 *Data and Parameters*

20 3.12.1 Data and parameters used for the quantification of plastic waste recovery and/or recycling
21 shall be provided in accordance with the methodology.

22 3.12.2 Quality management procedures to manage data and information shall be applied and
23 established. Where applicable, procedures to account for uncertainty in data and
24 parameters shall be applied in accordance with the requirements set out in the
25 methodology.

1 **Monitoring Plan**

2 3.12.3 The project proponent shall establish a plastic waste management information system for
3 obtaining, recording, compiling and analyzing data and information important for
4 quantifying and reporting plastic waste recovery and/or recycling relevant for the project
5 and baseline scenario.

6 3.12.4 A monitoring plan for the project that includes roles and responsibilities shall be
7 established.

8 3.12.5 Where measurement and monitoring equipment is used, the project proponent shall ensure
9 the equipment is calibrated according to the equipment's specifications and/or relevant
10 national or international standards.

11 **3.13 Safeguards**

12 *Concept*

13 Project activities should not negatively impact the natural environment or local communities.
14 Project proponents shall identify and address any negative social and environmental impacts of
15 project activities, and shall engage with stakeholders during the project development and
16 implementation process.

17 *Requirements*

18 *Do No Harm*

19 3.13.1 The project proponent shall identify potential intended or unintended negative social and
20 environmental impacts, and shall take steps to mitigate them. Additional certification
21 standards may be applied to demonstrate positive social and environmental impacts.

22 *Note to readers – Plastic units may be labeled with additional standards and*
23 *certifications on the Verra registry where both the Plastic Accounting Program and*
24 *another standard are applied. The Verra website provides the list of standards that are*
accepted as plastic unit labels and the procedure for obtaining such plastic unit labels.

25 3.13.2 The project proponent shall identify and take steps to mitigate the following negative social
26 impacts:

- 27 1) Potential health impacts as a result of project activities in the project boundary.
28 Preventative measures shall be put in place to reduce these health impacts on the
29 project actors and community. Among other things, preventative measures include
30 pollution prevention, provision of ergonomically appropriate equipment for the project
31 activity and avoided exposure to toxic substances.

- 1 2) Forced labor⁶ and indentured labor in the implementation of the project activity.
2 Projects shall protect against human rights abuse, per the *UN Guiding Principles on*
3 *Business and Human Rights*. There shall be no forced labor in the implementation of
4 the project activity. All project actors shall earn at least a regionally-determined living
5 wage⁷.
- 6 3) Child labor⁸ in the implementation of the project activity.
- 7 4) Potential hazards and safety risks associated with the implementation of the project
8 activity. Projects shall implement relevant safety measures including, among other
9 things, education and training on safe working practices, adequate gear, such as
10 Personal Protective Equipment when applicable, emergency protocols and protection
11 from locally relevant threats.
- 12 5) Net job loss as a result of the project activity. Projects shall ensure net job creation as
13 a result of the project activity.
- 14 3.13.3 Projects shall apply the same requirements for health, wage, livelihoods, working
15 conditions, job security and legal rights for all project actors. This shall be irrespective of
16 project actors' gender and/or their affiliation with locally- and internationally-defined
17 marginalized and vulnerable groups.
- 18 3.13.4 The project proponent shall identify and take steps to mitigate the following negative
19 environmental impacts:
- 20 1) Excessive consumption of energy. Demonstrate that measures have been taken to
21 ensure reasonable consumption of energy, based on project activity type. Measures to
22 manage consumption of energy include, among others, installation of energy meters,
23 use of energy efficient air filters and lighting (e.g., LED over fluorescent) and on-site
24 combined heat and power.
- 25 2) Unchecked and/or excessive greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Where applicable to
26 the project activity type, monitor GHG emissions as a result of project activities in the
27 project boundary. Demonstrate measures taken to ensure a minimal to zero increase in
28 GHG emissions. Sources of greenhouse gas emissions in the project boundary
29 include, among others, energy consumption, transportation and land-use change.
30 Measures to manage GHG emissions (with varying relevance for different project
31 activity types) include, among others, maximum compression of plastic waste for

⁶ All work or service which is exacted from any person under the threat of a penalty and for which the person has not offered himself or herself voluntarily ([source](#)).

⁷ A living wage should be sufficient to meet the basic needs of personnel and provide some discretionary income. It must at least meet legal or industry minimum standards or collective bargaining agreements ([source](#)).

⁸ Work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development ([source](#)).

- 1 increased transportation efficiency, replacement of fossil fuel with renewable energy
2 sources and fuel switching.
- 3 3) Impacts on air quality as a result of the project activity in the project boundary.
4 Measures for mitigation include, among others, technology or proper operational
5 controls for air pollution, no open burning, controlled incineration and properly
6 managed landfills.
- 7 4) Impacts on water quantity and quality as a result of the project activity in the project
8 boundary. Measures for mitigation include, among others, a water risk assessment to
9 serve as a baseline, monitoring of water consumption, efficient water usage, adequate
10 water treatment and management of effluents before release into the environment.
- 11 5) Impacts on soil quality as a result of the project activity in the project boundary.
12 Measures for mitigation include, among others, adequate treatment of effluents before
13 release into the environment and properly managed landfills.
- 14 6) Potential impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem health as a result of the project
15 activity in the project boundary. Measures for mitigation and specific checks include,
16 among others, no habitat conversion and proximity to protected areas.

17 Stakeholder Consultation

- 18 3.13.5 The project proponent shall identify all stakeholders, engage them directly or through
19 legitimate representatives and enable them to contribute meaningfully to project design.
- 20 3.13.6 The project proponent shall conduct a stakeholder consultation prior to validation as a way
21 to inform the design of the project and maximize participation from stakeholders. Such
22 consultations allow stakeholders to evaluate impacts, raise concerns about potential
23 negative impacts and provide input on the project design.
- 24 3.13.7 The project proponent shall establish mechanisms for ongoing communication with
25 stakeholders to allow them to raise concerns about potential negative impacts during
26 project implementation.
- 27 3.13.8 The project proponent shall take due account of all and any input received during the
28 stakeholder consultation and through ongoing communications, which means it will need to
29 either update the project design or justify why updates are not appropriate. The project
30 proponent shall demonstrate to the validation/verification body what action it has taken in
31 respect of the stakeholder consultation as part of validation, and in respect of ongoing
32 communications as part of each subsequent verification.

33 Public Comment Period

- 34 3.13.9 All projects are subject to a 30-day public comment period at the beginning of each
35 assessment that will be hosted on the Verra website. The date on which the project is
36 listed on the project pipeline marks the beginning of the project's first 30-day public

1 comment period (see the Plastic Accounting Program document *Registration and Issuance*
2 *Process* for more information on the plastic waste recovery and recycling project pipeline).

3 3.13.10 Projects shall remain on the project pipeline for the entirety of their 30-day public comment
4 period so that the public and stakeholders are aware of the upcoming assessment and can
5 provide feedback on project performance.

6 3.13.11 Any comments shall be submitted to Verra at secretariat@verra.org and respondents shall
7 provide their name, organization, country and email address. At the end of the public
8 comment period, Verra provides all and any comments received to the project proponent.

9 3.13.12 The project proponent shall take due account of any and all comments received during the
10 consultation, which means it will need to either update the project design or demonstrate
11 the insignificance or irrelevance of the comment. It shall demonstrate to the
12 validation/verification body what action it has taken and shall address all comments
13 received during this period prior to their project's certification.

14 3.14 Records and Information

15 *Concept*

16 The project proponent shall make relevant information available to the validation/verification body
17 during each validation and verification and retain documents and records related to the project for
18 future reference.

19 *Requirements*

20 *Records Relating to the Project*

21 3.14.1 The project proponent shall ensure that all documents and records are kept in a secure
22 and retrievable manner for at least two years after the end of the project crediting period.

23 *Information for the Validation/Verification Body*

24 3.14.2 For validation, the project proponent shall make available to the validation/verification body
25 the project description, evidence of project ownership and any requested supporting
26 documentation needed to support statements and data in the project description and
27 evidence of project ownership.

28 3.14.3 For verification, the project proponent shall make available to the validation/verification
29 body the project description, validation report, monitoring report applicable to the
30 monitoring period and any requested supporting documentation needed to evidence
31 statements and data in the monitoring report.

1 4 ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

2 The assessment process for projects under the Plastic Accounting Program involves two steps:
3 validation and verification. Validation is the independent assessment of the project by a
4 validation/verification body that determines whether the project complies with the *Plastic Standard*.
5 Verification is the periodic ex-post independent assessment by a validation/verification body,
6 conducted in accordance with the Plastic Accounting Program rules, of the plastic waste recovered
7 and/or recycled by the project during the monitoring period.

8 A validation audit will cover the requirements in this document related to the project's design. A
9 verification audit will assess those requirements related to the project's ongoing implementation
10 and the monitored results of project activities. Some requirements will be assessed only at
11 validation, others only at verification. Some requirements will be assessed at both validation and
12 verification, such as a project's ongoing stakeholder communication.

Note to readers – Verra is in the process of developing the Plastic Accounting Program assessment process in collaboration with technical experts. The final version of this document will identify specifically which requirements are to be assessed at validation, verification or both. Verra aims to have auditors accredited under the Plastic Accounting Program at the time of its launch.

APPENDIX 1 PROGRAM DEFINITIONS

Collection

The transfer of plastic waste from the point of use and disposal to the point of treatment or landfill. This includes the curbside collection of recyclable materials

Commercially Sensitive Information

See “Sensitive Information”

Composite Material

A composite material is made by combining two or more materials to combine unique properties and meet the requirements of a particular application ([source](#))

Grouped Project

A project to which additional instances of the project activity, which meet pre-established eligibility criteria, may be added subsequent to project validation

Methodology

A specific set of criteria and procedures, which apply to specific project activities, for identifying the project boundary, determining the baseline scenario, demonstrating additionality, quantifying plastic waste recovery and/or recycling, and specifying the monitoring procedures

Methodology Approval Process

The process by which new methodology elements are approved under the Plastic Accounting Program

Monitoring Report

The document that records data to allow the assessment of the plastic waste recovered or recycled by the project during a given time period in accordance with the monitoring plan set out in the project description, and which is prepared using the *Plastic Accounting Monitoring Report Template*

Plastic Recovery Unit and Plastic Recycling Unit (plastic unit)

A unit issued by, and held in the Verra registry representing the right of the account holder in whose account the unit is recorded to claim the achievement of recovered or recycled plastic waste in an amount of one (1) kilogram (kg) of plastic that has been verified by a validation/verification body in accordance with the Plastic Accounting Program rules. Recordation

of a plastic unit in the account of the holder at the Verra registry is prima facie evidence of that holder's entitlement to that plastic unit.

Plastic Waste

Any plastic materials that are unused and rejected as worthless or unwanted. The plastic types included under the Project Standard can be found in Section 2.1.1.

Project Activity

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

Project Activity Instance (Instance)

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

Project Crediting Period

The time period for which plastic waste recovered and/or recycled by the project is eligible for issuance as plastic units, the rules with respect to the length of such time period and renewal of the project crediting period being set out in the *Plastic Standard*.

Project Crediting Period Start Date

The date on which the first monitoring period commences

Project Description

The document that describes the project's plastic waste recovery or recycling activities using the *Plastic Accounting Project Description Template*

Project Documents

The documents required to register the project and/or issue plastic units, as set out in the Plastic Accounting Program document *Registration and Issuance Process*

Project Ownership

The legal right to control and operate the project activities

Project Proponent

The individual or organization that has overall control and responsibility for the project, or an individual or organization that together with others, each of which is also a project proponent, has

overall control or responsibility for the project. The entity(s) that can demonstrate project ownership in respect of the project.

Plastic Recovery and Recycling Project Accounting Program (Plastic Accounting Program)

The plastic waste program operated by Verra which establishes rules and requirements that operationalize the *Plastic Standard* to enable the validation of plastic waste recovery and recycling projects, and the verification of recovered and/or recycled plastic waste

Plastic Recovery and Recycling Project Accounting Program (Plastic Accounting Program) Rules

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

Project Start Date

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

Recovery

The successful diversion of plastic materials out of the environment to landfill disposal or recycling, collection and reuse systems. These activities can include controlled/regulated incineration with energy capture.

Recycling

The successful collection, separation, processing, marketing and ultimate use of plastic waste material that otherwise would have been disposed or incinerated for energy capture

Sensitive Information

Trade secrets, financial, commercial, scientific, technical or other information whose disclosure could reasonably be expected to result in a material financial loss or gain, prejudice the outcome of contractual or other negotiations or otherwise damage or enrich the person or entity to which the information relates. Also referred to as “Commercially Sensitive Information”.

Validation/Verification Body (VVB)

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

Verra Registry

The platform that records all projects (listed and registered) and plastic units issued under the Plastic Accounting Program. Provides public access to all project and plastic unit information, and

provides project proponents with the ability to list and register projects and issue, hold and retire plastic units.

Verra Website

The Verra website: www.verra.org and <https://verra.org/project/plastic-accounting-program/>

APPENDIX 2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Plastic Standard Development Committee ([PSDC](#))

Daniela Albuquerque, BVRio

Patrick Burgi, South Pole

Jim Cannon, Verra Board and Sustainable Fisheries Partnership

Lindsay Christianson, Plastic Bank

Joi Danielson, SYSTEMIQ

Rachel Goldstein, Mars

Alix Grabowski, WWF

Richard Helling, Dow

Mark Kenber, Verra Board

Vivien Luk, WORK

Christie Pollet-Young, SCS

Cesar Sanches, ValGroup

Lakmini Senadheera, Sustainable Future Group

Komal Sinha, rePurpose

Kendall Starkman, Lonely Whale