



PLASTIC WASTE REDUCTION PROGRAM METHODOLOGIES: TECHNICAL REVIEWER TERMS OF REFERENCE

1 Background

Verra is a non-profit organization based in Washington D.C. that supports efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve livelihoods and protect ecosystems and the services they provide. We support climate action and sustainable development with standards and programs that credibly, transparently and robustly assess environmental and social impacts and enable funding for sustaining and scaling up these benefits.

Verra is part of the [3R Initiative](#), which aims to increase the value of plastic waste and bring attention and resources to new and scaled-up plastic collection and recycling activities by crediting projects that measurably increase the additional recovery and/or recycling of plastic waste above baseline rates. The Initiative will provide confidence that investments have been deployed in a manner which verifiably reduced plastic in the environment.

Projects looking to generate waste reduction credits will be assessed against the *Plastic Waste Reduction Standard (Plastic Standard)* under the Plastic Waste Reduction Program (Plastic Program). The *Plastic Standard* is being developed following an inclusive, multi-stakeholder process in the form of a technical advisory group, the Plastic Standard Development Committee (PSDC). The [Plastic Waste Reduction Standard: Terms of Reference](#) describes in detail the roles and responsibilities of Verra and the PSDC. The development of the Standard is also supported by a group of technical advisors with expertise in areas relevant to the development of the Standard.

Verra is also developing two methodologies, a recovery methodology and a recycling methodology, under the Plastic Program to enable the quantification of the recovery and recycling of plastic waste. These methodologies are being developed by two external consultant organizations.

Verra is now seeking technical reviewers to review the methodologies to ensure that the methodologies are relevant and include robust accounting procedures for plastic waste recovery and recycling projects across the world.

This document has five further sections and an appendix. Section 2 describes the Plastic Program. Section 3 sets out the scope of work for the reviewer(s), followed by the deliverables and timeline in sections 4 and 5 respectively. Section 6 provides details on the application process. An appendix gives information on the elements that are included in each methodology.

2 Plastic Program: Program Documents

The Plastic Program is operated by Verra and will establish and operationalize rules and requirements to enable the validation of plastic waste recovery and recycling projects, and the verification of recovered and/or recycled plastic waste. The Plastic Program will include the following main components:

- [Plastic Program Guide](#) – Provides the rules and requirements governing the Plastic Program, including the process for registering projects and issuing Plastic Credits, the Verra registry, the methodology approval process, and accreditation requirements for validation/verification bodies.
- [Plastic Standard](#) – Provides the requirements for developing projects and for the validation and verification of projects.
- [Plastic Waste Recovery and Recycling Methodologies](#) – Methodologies set out detailed procedures for quantifying the real plastic waste recovery and recycling benefits of a project, and provide guidance to help project developers determine project boundaries, set baselines, assess additionality and ultimately quantify the plastic waste that was recovered and/or recycled.
- [Templates and forms](#) – Templates and forms are provided to ensure that users of the Plastic Program have a consistent structure to work from when completing certain documents. These templates are required for the completion of project descriptions, monitoring reports, validation and verification reports, and more.

3 Scope of Work

3.1 Objective

Technical review of the methodologies will help ensure that the methodologies are relevant and include robust accounting procedures for plastic waste recovery and recycling projects across the world. The technical reviewer(s) will use their expertise to review the methodology(ies).

The recovery and recycling methodologies provide globally applicable methods for the quantification of recovered and recycled plastic waste respectively for the following project activities:

- Recovery methodology:
 - Informal collection of waste plastic (from the environment, landfill or other concentrated waste source), and
 - New or expanded infrastructure for waste collection.
- Recycling methodology:
 - New or expanded mechanical recycling infrastructure.

3.2 Responsibilities

The principal responsibility of the reviewer(s) is to evaluate the appropriateness of the key elements of the methodology(ies), including the methods to quantify the plastic waste recovery and/or recycling as a result of the project activity and the data and parameters used. The elements addressed in the methodology(ies) are listed in the appendix.

A single reviewer may review one or both methodologies. Remuneration will be determined accordingly.

For those reviewing both methodologies, the responsibility includes evaluating the alignment between the two methodologies to ensure compatibility in their structures for projects that have both recovery and recycling activities.

3.3 Expected qualifications

The reviewer is expected to have experience and expertise in a range of aspects related to plastic waste recovery and/or recycling based on the methodology(ies) they are applying to review. This includes, for example:

- Data collection to aggregate details on regional waste management conditions (preferably for plastic waste recovery and/or recycling projects)
- Project monitoring and accounting to quantify and/or verify the performance of a project
- Development and/or management of plastic waste recovery and/or recycling projects
- Understanding of best practices and current and potential future development of technologies and policies for plastic waste recovery and/or recycling activities
- Understanding of geographic and market variation for plastic waste recovery and/or recycling activities
- Understanding of market variation for virgin and recycled plastic markets around the world
- Understanding of key concepts and elements within a methodology (e.g., additionality, baseline setting, quantification)

Verra will aim to select reviewers reflecting a balance between stakeholder groups including academia, auditing bodies and consultancies.

3.4 Value of contract

The value of the contract for reviewing one methodology is USD 3,500. The value of the contract for reviewing both methodologies is USD 7,000.

4 Deliverable

The main deliverable for this assignment is a tracked changes version of the methodology(ies) with comments. This document shall include all the suggested changes and comments by the reviewer on the appropriateness of the key elements in the methodology(ies).

The reviewer will be expected to participate in two calls to support their review of the methodology(ies), including:

- An introductory call with the Verra team before reviewing the methodology(ies) to discuss the task and initial questions.
- A follow-up call with the Verra team and the methodology developer(s) after the review of the methodology(ies) to share general feedback and address follow-up questions on the suggested changes and comments.

5 Timeline

The review of the methodology(ies) will take place during the month of October 2020. The reviewer will be given two weeks after the introductory call to submit the document with tracked changes and comments. Verra will review the comments over the following two weeks before conducting the follow-up call with the reviewer.

6 Application Process

Applicants are invited to apply to be a technical reviewer for the plastic waste recovery methodology and/or the plastic waste recycling methodology under the Plastic Program until 13 September 2020.

An application form is available [here](#). Please send applications and a CV/resume to Program Officer Sneha Balasubramanian at SBalasubramanian@verra.org.

Appendix 1: Methodology Elements

The following elements will be addressed in the methodology(ies).

Element	Description
Summary description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a description of the methodology and its relationship to the <i>Plastic Standard</i>
Definitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a list of definitions relevant to the methodology
Applicability Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defines the project activities that are eligible to apply the methodology (e.g., geographic applicability, technology type and other conditions under which the methodology is or is not applicable).
Project Boundary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project boundary includes the source (e.g., environment, landfill, MRF) and end-of-life scenario (e.g., landfill, sale of recycled content) of plastic waste recovered or recycled that are relevant to the project and baseline scenarios. Describe the project boundary and the sources and end-of-life scenarios included or excluded from the project boundary. Includes a diagram or map depicting the physical locations of the various installations or management activities taking place in the project boundary as a part of the project activity, to demonstrate how they are connected to each other.
Baseline scenario	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The baseline scenario represents the plastic waste management activities that would most likely occur in the absence of the project activity. Establish criteria and procedures for identifying the most plausible baseline scenario or develop a list of the most plausible baseline scenario using a standardized method.
Additionality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A project activity is additional if it can be demonstrated that the activity results in recovered or recycled plastic waste that is in excess of what would be achieved under a 'business-as-usual' scenario and the activity would not have occurred in the absence of the incentive provided by the plastic crediting mechanism. Establish a procedure for the demonstration and assessment of additionality, preferably using a performance and/or activity method.
Quantification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish criteria and procedures for quantifying the volume of plastic waste recovered and/or recycled by the project activity compared to the baseline scenario (and potentially to record the volumes of different plastic types recovered and/or recycled by the project activity).
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe data and parameters available at validation and data and parameters monitored. Provide criteria and procedures for obtaining, recording, compiling and analyzing monitored data and parameters. Provide requirements for monitoring in accordance with the monitoring plan.