

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

DEVELOPMENT OF A VCS METHODOLOGY FOR THE DISPLACEMENT OF VIRGIN PETROLEUM-BASED PLASTIC PRODUCTION

20 July 2022

INTRODUCTION

Verra is a global leader helping to tackle the world’s most intractable environmental and social challenges. As a mission-driven non-profit organization, Verra is committed to helping reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve livelihoods, and protect natural resources across the private and public sectors. We support climate action and sustainable development with standards, tools, and programs that credibly, transparently, and robustly assess environmental and social impacts and enable funding for sustaining and scaling up projects that verifiably deliver these benefits. We work in any arena where we see a need for clear standards, a role for market-based mechanisms and an opportunity to generate significant environmental and social value.

PROJECT BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE

The VCS [*VM0040 Methodology for Greenhouse Gas Capture and Utilization in Plastic Materials, v1.0*](#) covers project activities that convert carbon dioxide and/or methane, which would have otherwise been emitted into the atmosphere, into a useful plastic material for sale into the plastics market.

The VCS methodology under development, [*Methodology for the Use of Alternative Materials that Displace the Production of Plastic*](#), proposes to cover project activities that manufacture plastic substitutes from alternative materials.

Verra has received several requests to broaden the applicability of plastics-related methodologies. All current proposals share (at least in part) the common activity of displacing virgin petroleum-based plastic production in the baseline scenario. Current proposals include:

- A revision to VM0040 to adjust the emission reduction calculations;
- Inclusion of renewable feedstocks for producing plastic materials; and
- Inclusion of plastic recycling technologies which would allow projects using Verra’s Plastic Program to quantify both the emission reductions and increase in plastic waste recycling resulting from recycling activities.

Therefore, Verra seeks proposals from a qualified consultant or consulting team to consolidate the existing methodologies into a single methodology or methodology framework and align key elements such as baseline, GHG quantification, and monitoring procedures and requirements. Further, additional approaches for the new activities will be developed and included to broaden the scope.

Verra will fund and manage the development and assessment process for the methodology, including costs for the validation/verification body (VVB).

SCOPE OF WORK

In order to achieve the objective of developing a comprehensive plastics GHG accounting methodology, the consultant will be expected to carry out the tasks described below, and follow the steps outlined in the [VCS Methodology Approval Process](#). The consultant will be expected to have regular calls with Verra to exchange views and discuss draft products, as necessary. Principal tasks and responsibilities will include the following:

- **TASK 1: Prepare the draft methodology and manage the preliminary review process**

The consultant will develop the draft methodology and submit to Verra. The draft methodology will include:

- a) A consolidation of VM0040 and the latest version of the [Methodology for the Use of Alternative Materials that Displace the Production of Plastic](#);
- b) Applicability conditions that allow for the variety of technologies identified in three concept notes submitted to Verra;
- c) A standard approach for all key methodology components (i.e., project boundary, baseline, additionality, quantification, and monitoring) that incorporates the variety of technologies identified in three concept notes submitted to Verra;
- d) A discount factor to account for upstream displacement emission reductions that are not 1:1, with the description and the information that justifies the approach used and the proposed value;
- e) Improved requirements for inclusion and delineation of upstream project and baseline emissions;
- f) Improved requirements for end-of-life consideration and how to incorporate recycling as a feasible project activity without double counting of emission reductions; and
- g) A procedure to assess the uncertainty of the emission reductions quantification and the assessment of such uncertainty.

Verra will review and provide the relevant findings in a review report. The consultant should further refine the approach and adapt the methodology in an iterative process until all findings are closed.

Deliverable 1: Draft revised and consolidated methodology that can be posted for public consultation.

- **TASK 2: Review and respond to public comments and produce an updated draft of the revised methodology.**

Verra will coordinate a 30-day public consultation on the consolidated methodology. The consultant should respond to each substantive issue raised during the consultation period. They should use the inputs obtained from the public and expert consultations, as well as Verra's comments, to produce a next draft of the methodology.

Deliverable 2a: Summary of the comments received during the consultation period and a description of how they were addressed in the methodology.

Deliverable 2b: Updated draft of the consolidated methodology.

- **TASK 3: Manage the progression of the methodology through a VVB assessment.**

Following the public consultation, Verra will select and contract an independent VVB to review the methodology. The VVB will produce an assessment report with findings. The consultant will manage the VVB assessment, respond to all findings and update the methodology until all findings are resolved.

Deliverable 3: An updated version of the consolidated methodology.

- **TASK 4: Manage the final review process and produce the final methodology.**

Verra will conduct the final review and provide the relevant findings in a review report. The consultant should further address any findings in an iterative process with Verra and the VVB until all findings are closed.

Deliverable 4: Final version of the consolidated methodology.

MILESTONES & TIMELINE

The duration of this consultancy will be approximately 12 months. An indicative timeline for meeting key milestones and deliverables follows:

TASK 1: Prepare the draft methodology and manage the preliminary review process	2 months
TASK 2: Review and respond to public comments and produce an updated draft of the methodology.	2 months
TASK 3: Manage the progression of the methodology through a VVB assessment.	5 months
TASK 4: Manage the final review process and produce the final methodology.	1 month

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

Verra will use the following criteria for evaluating proposals:

- Experience in developing GHG accounting methodologies;
- Understanding of VCS Program rules, such as overarching rules in the *VCS Standard*, *VCS Program Guide* and *VCS Methodology Requirements*;
- Depth of understanding of the value chain of plastics markets in different countries or regions, current and emerging technologies for plastics production and recycling, legislation and status regarding end of life in different countries or regions and challenges of ensuring environmental integrity;
- Degree of analytical and innovative thinking when developing new solutions; and
- Cost, to ensure that the proposed level of effort is consistent with the outcomes.

RESPONSES TO THE RFP

Respondents are requested to submit the following as part of their proposals:

- High-level technical proposal (not to exceed four pages) for the scope of work and deliverables, including a work plan. Applicants are encouraged to describe any innovations/value-added propositions that they think would enhance the scope of work requirements.
- Cost proposal/budget not to exceed USD 70,000 including total estimated costs based on a daily or hourly rate. (Note: this does not include the cost of VVB contracting.)
- Description of how the consultant would avoid any potential conflict of interest in undertaking the scope of work.

- 1-page summary of qualifications of consultant or consulting team, and separately appended resumes/CVs (not to exceed two pages each).

All application materials submitted to Verra will be kept confidential and must be submitted by email with the subject “Proposal plastics methodology development” by close of business on Friday, 19 August 2022 to Cassandra Schostek, Senior Program Officer, VCS Program Development (cschostek@verra.org).

Respondents should feel free to submit clarifying questions to the same email address with the subject “Clarification: Proposal Plastics Methodology Development” on any of the above information.

Verra will set up interviews of short-listed candidates and/or request clarifying information by 26 August 2022 with the aim of finalizing the selection by mid-September.

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.