

Revised Annex C: Guidance on Project Type Eligibility

Project activities are eligible under Gold Standard as long as they belong to the two categories defined below. Furthermore, specific eligibility criteria apply to some types of project activities - see Table C-1 below (this table is subject to regular updates). If you have any doubts about the eligibility of your project activity, contact the Gold Standard secretariat <info@cdmgoldstandard.org>.

Renewable Energy Supply:

The Renewable Energy Supply category is defined as the generation and delivery of energy services (e.g. mechanical work, electricity, heat) from non-fossil, non-depletable energy sources.

End-use Energy Efficiency:

The End-use Energy Efficiency improvement category is defined as the reduction in the amount of energy required for delivering or producing non-energy physical goods or services. Project activities must implement measures to reduce energy requirements as compared to the baseline without affecting the level and quality of the services provided (service equivalence). Furthermore, the following principle applies: efficiency measures implemented are considered 'end-use' energy efficiency measures when final end-users of products or services delivered can be clearly identified and therefore are within the project boundaries, and when physical intervention is required at the end-user side. Both emission reductions from direct and indirect energy savings are potentially eligible, i.e. the introduction of measures which directly reduce the use of non-renewable fuels at the point of intervention, or of measures that do not directly reduce the amount of fossil fuels consumed at the point of intervention but lead to a reduction of the amount of an energy intensive product (e.g. fertilizer) used for the delivery of the same non-energy physical goods or services.

Table 1.C

Project type	Eligibility Criteria
Hydro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All hydropower project activities must at a minimum discuss the relevance and implications of the full list of items provided in Table C.2 as part of the sustainable assessment process. • Project activities involving hydropower plants with an installed capacity of less than or equal to 20 MWe shall be eligible for GS registration. This capacity threshold shall apply to each one of the project activities part of a bundle, and not to the overall bundle, and to each one of the CPA part of a PoA. • The eligibility of project activities involving a hydropower plant with an installed capacity greater than 20 MWe shall be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the Gold Standard Foundation, in the light of a Pre-feasibility assessment (PFA), in accordance with the procedure provided in section T.2.5. The project participant shall provide the following additional information as part of the documentation to be reviewed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A Local Stakeholder Consultation Report, in accordance with the guidelines for a Local Stakeholder Consultation, as provided in section T.2.6. For project activities involving existing dams (such as dams built for irrigation purposes), the stakeholder consultation shall include a site-visit by local stakeholders taking part to the consultation. ○ A report ('Compliance Report') showing that the project activity is in compliance with the latest WCD guidelines¹, validated by a DOE/AIE.
Electricity and/or heat, and liquid biofuels from biomass resources	<p>Biomass resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project activities making use of non-renewable biomass resources shall NOT be eligible for Gold Standard registration. The project applicant shall therefore provide convincing evidence that the project activities make use of renewable biomass resources², and shall include this in the Sustainability Monitoring Plan. • Project activities expected to make use of biomass resources already in use shall NOT be eligible for Gold Standard registration unless convincing evidence is provided showing that the current users are in agreement with the envisioned shift of use (potential leakage associated to such a shift must be taken into account). In

¹ www.dams.org

² Refer to EB 23, Annex 18 "Definition of Renewable Biomass or its update http://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/023/eb23_repan18.pdf

	<p>the absence of such an agreement, the project applicants shall demonstrate that the project activities make use of surplus biomass³, and shall include this analysis in the Sustainability Monitoring Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Furthermore, project applicants shall demonstrate that the project activities will only make use of degraded or marginal land, or land that would be set aside for the duration of the crediting period at least, and shall include this in the Sustainability Monitoring Plan. Two exceptions may be considered: project activities expected to make use of land currently in use may be eligible for GS registration if convincing evidence is provided showing that the envisioned energy crop is part of a traditional rotational cropping, or if an increase of the productivity is obtained, locally and to the benefit of the current users, through measures implemented by the project activity so as to at least compensate for the part of the land newly allocated to growing the energy crop. • Project activities making use of GMOs shall declare so in a transparent way. Local stakeholders opinion on GMOs shall prevail and appropriate mitigation measures shall be put in place to address their concerns, if any, in a satisfactory way. <p>Biomass conversion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoidance of methane from biomass decay shall be eligible as long as biomass is used as a substitution for non-renewable fuels in project activities delivering energy services. • The use of non-renewable fuel in biomass heat and/or electricity generation plants is authorised as long as the renewable fuel share reaches 50%⁴ after the first 3 year⁵⁵ of operation for retrofit projects, and represents 80%⁴ from the outset for Greenfield projects. • The eligibility of project activities making use of Palm oil and/or palm oil mill by-products or residues for electricity and/or heat generation, and/or for biofuel production shall be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the GS Foundation, in light of a Pre-feasibility assessment. The project participants shall provide the following on top of the usual project documentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A Local Stakeholder Consultation Report, in
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³ In accordance with the approach proposed in paragraph 18 of the Attachment C to Appendix B: General Guidance on Leakage in biomass project activities (Attachment C to Appendix B of 4/CMP.1 Annex II)

http://cdm.unfccc.int/Reference/Guidclarif/ssc/index_guid.html

⁴ This refers to the percentage of the total fuel fired on annual energy basis.

⁵ The reference date for 3 year is the start date of crediting period.

⁶ RSPO Website <<http://www.rspo.org>>

	<p>accordance with the guidelines for a Local Stakeholder Consultation as provided in section T.2.6, and provided as part of the documentation to be reviewed at the time of the pre-feasibility assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A report ('Compliance Report') showing that the project activity is in compliance with the latest version of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil guidance document on Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Palm Oil Production⁶ inc. the national interpretations), validated by a DOE/AIE, and provided as part of the documentation to be reviewed at the time of the registration review. Project proponents must demonstrate that they have started the process for RSPO compliance at the time of submission for the pre-feasibility assessment. • Methane recovery project activities in waste water treatment plants related to Palm Oil production shall comply with all rules provided for palm oil project activities in the section 'Electricity and/or heat, and liquid biofuels from biomass resources'.
<p>Biogas (landfill gas and biogas from agro-processing, wastewater and other residues)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methane recovery project activities shall be eligible for emission reductions from both methane avoidance (including from the flared biogas fraction) and non-renewable fuel substitution as long as at the time of validation, evidence shows that the system is designed in a way to make use of some of the biogas recovered for the delivery of energy services (e.g. electricity, heat). • Methane recovery project activities in waste water treatment plants related to Palm Oil production shall comply with all rules provided for palm oil project activities in the section 'Electricity and/or heat, and liquid biofuels from biomass resources'.
<p>Waste heat recovery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project activities involving waste heat recovery in industrial processes shall be eligible for GS registration for emission reductions related to on-site energy consumption. Emission reductions related to the export of heat or electricity generated from the waste heat recovered shall NOT be eligible unless it can be shown that the primary and unique source of energy for the industrial process is renewable energy. This requirement applies on an annual basis and the electricity generation profile does not have to necessarily match the on-site demand profile on an instantaneous basis.

<p>Waste gases recovery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project activities involving the use of waste gases recovery in industrial processes shall be eligible for GS registration for emission reductions related to on-site energy consumption. Emission reductions related to the export of heat or electricity generated from the waste gases recovered shall NOT be eligible unless it can be shown that the primary and unique source of energy for the industrial process is renewable energy. This requirement applies on an annual basis and the electricity generation profile does not have to necessarily match the on-site demand profile on an instantaneous basis. Emissions from the combustion of the recovered gases shall of course be taken into account in the project emissions calculations.
<p>Fossil-fired cogeneration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fossil-fired co-generation project activities shall be eligible for emission reductions from end-use energy efficiency improvements, i.e. related to on-site energy consumption. Emission reductions related to the export of heat or electricity generated from the waste heat recovered shall NOT be eligible. This requirement applies on an annual basis and the electricity generation profile does not have to necessarily match the on-site demand profile on an instantaneous basis.
<p>Waste incineration and gasification</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-firing of non-renewable and renewable waste within incineration or gasification facilities shall NOT be eligible under Gold Standard.
<p>Relighting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relighting project activities implying the substitution of incandescent light bulbs by CFLs shall provide a detailed description of the future collection and transport process and disposal or recycling plan of the CFLs, with a particular attention to mercury. The effectiveness of the plan shall part of the Sustainability Monitoring Plan.
<p>End-use fossil fuel switching</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project activities involving fossil fuel switching shall only be eligible for Gold Standard registration for the emission reductions related to end-use energy efficiency improvements associated with the fuel switch (e.g. energy recovery by water condensation in the fumes of natural gas fired boilers); emission reductions related to the difference in carbon content between a nonrenewable fuel and a less carbon intensive non-renewable fuel used for substitution shall NOT be eligible.
<p>Improved distributed heating and cooking devices (e.g. biodigesters, cook-</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project activities involving a large amount of small, distributed heating, cooking or electricity generation devices using renewable energy sources shall provide the Gold Standard with a clear description of the transfer of credits ownership all along the investment chain, and with

stoves), and distributed micro-scale electricity generation units (e.g. micro-hydro and PV for households)	proof that end-users are aware of and willing to give up their rights on emission reductions.
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Table C.2

Special Guidance for hydropower project activities

All hydro projects must at a minimum discuss the relevance and implications of the full list of items provided in Table C-2 below as part of the sustainable assessment process.

Management domain	Basic requirements
	Minimum Flow Goal is a dynamic flow regime, which qualitatively simulates the natural hydrological regime
	Minimum flow which guarantees habitat quality and prevents critical oxygen and chemical concentrations
	No disconnection of lateral rivers
	Minimum water depth for fish migration during critical periods
	Lateral and vertical connectivity (flood plains and groundwater) shall not be substantially disturbed
	Provides sufficient transport capacity for sediments
	Landscape compartments shall not be destroyed
	Flood plain ecosystems shall not be endangered
	Conservation of locally adapted species and ecosystems
Hydro peaking	Rate of change of water level should not impair fish and benthic populations
	Reduction in water level should not lead to drying of the water course.
	Protective measures if flood plain ecosystems are impaired.
	No isolation of fish and benthic organisms when water level decreases
	No impairment of spawning habitat for fish
Reservoir management	Are there feasible alternatives to reservoir Reservoir management flushing?
	Changes in reservoir levels should not impair lateral ecosystems (flood plains, rivershores, ...)

	Connectivity with lateral rivers should not be impaired
	Sediment accumulation areas should be used as valuable habitats, where feasible
	Special protection of flood plain ecosystems if they are impaired
Sediment management	Sediments have to pass through the power plant.
	No erosion and no accumulation in the river bed below storage dams and water intakes because of a deficit in sediments.
	Sediment transport should sustain morphological structures, which are typical for the river.
	No accumulation of sediments below dams
	Riverine habitats have to be established
Power plant design	Free fish migration upwards and downwards (as far as technologically Power plant design feasible)
	Protection of animals against injury and death stemming from power plant operations (turbines, canals, water intakes, ...)
Social impacts	Cultural landscapes
	Human heritage (including protection of special ethnic groups)
	Preservation of lifestyles
	Empowerment of local stakeholders in the decision-making process (about mitigation and compensation of social impacts)
	Resettlement of local population under similar or better living conditions (than prior to the project)
	Build additional social infrastructure, sufficient to cope with population increase (due to migration induced by the project)
	Water quality and fishing losses affecting downstream riverside population