Simplified Methodology for Efficient Cookstoves

The objective of this methodology is to reduce overall project development costs without compromising the integrity for activities that generates less than 10,000 tCO_2 per year per activity. The methodology provides several innovative alternatives for estimation of fuel consumption and emission reductions, along with default factors for several monitoring parameters to further reduce transaction costs.

This methodology is applicable to project activities[1] that introduce efficient cookstoves to reduce usage of non-renewable firewood or switch from non-renewable to renewable firewood for household cooking. The methodology is only applicable if 1) the baseline fuel is firewood and 2) the baseline cookstove is a three stone fire or a traditional cooking device without a grate or a chimney. Typical examples are the replacement of three-stone cookstove with Improved Cookstove (ICS) or switching from non-renewable to renewable fuel with or without replacing the baseline cookstoves.

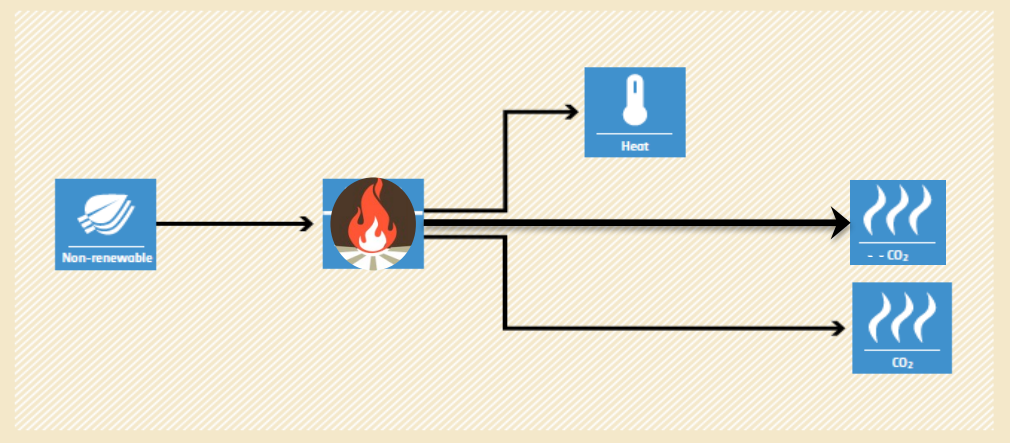

Fig. Baseline situation

[1] The methodology is applicable to Gold Standard micro-scale programmes and micro-scale activities. Please refer to Annex T- Standalone Micro-scale Scheme Rules and Annex U –Micro-scale Programme Rules for project eligibility criteria under Gold Standard Micro-Scale project scheme.

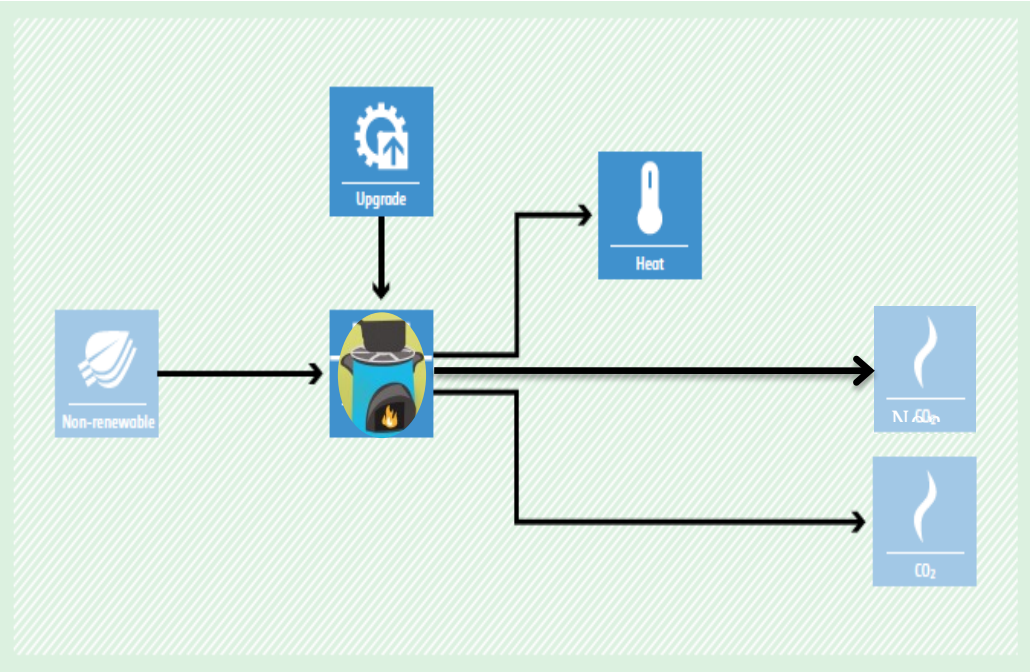

Fig. Project situation

Simplified approach for calculating baseline emission reductions

To determine the baseline fuel consumption, the options available range from the simplest, i.e., default firewood consumption value, to conducting more complex performance tests on the baseline cookstove. The project developer can also use historical records relevant to the target population, like published reports or literature, or they can carry out surveys among the target users.

The default firewood consumption value represents a suppressed demand situation based on minimum service level, i.e., energy derived from the combustion of 0.5 tonnes firewood per capita per year[2]. The methodology allows crediting equivalent to the minimum service level across the world.

The emission reductions are estimated for firewood savings resulting from efficiency improvements in the project scenario in comparison to the baseline situation, or fuel switching from non-renewable to renewable biomass.

To determine the corresponding emissions reductions, the methodology also provides CO_2 and non-CO_2 emissions factor for firewood. Project developers can choose simplified monitoring requirements with default factor or on-site testing of cookstove performance, thus reducing operational costs without compromising integrity. Guidelines and sample questionnaires for baseline and project surveys further simplify the process.

[2] http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/documents/MP_Energy_Low_Res.pdf

Promoting Discontinuation of Baseline Stoves and Transparency in Credit Ownership

Projects must have an incentive mechanism (e.g. a discounted price for the improved cookstove) in place to encourage discontinued use of baseline stove, thus improving outcomes. And to empower local communities, the methodology also requires clear communication about ownership rights to sell emission reductions among cookstoves producers, retailers and end users by contract or clear written assertions in the transaction paperwork.

In order to allow an initial estimation of possible emission reductions for a specific project, a calculation tool has been developed along with the methodology, which is available on the Gold Standard website.