

Challenges to usage rates of Lifestraw water filters

GENEVA, Switzerland (2 May 2017) – On 14 September 2016, a group of Stanford University academics led by Amy Pickering published a study titled, “Climate and Health Co-Benefits in Low-Income Countries: A Case Study of Carbon Financed Water Filters in Kenya and a Call for Independent Monitoring.” The study presents alternative usage rates for periods that correspond with the monitoring periods for which the Gold Standard issued carbon credits to Vestergaard Frandsen’s Lifestraw project (GS886). At the same time, atmosfair, a competitor to Vestergaard, filed a written complaint against GS886, citing the Stanford study. On this basis Gold Standard has opened a grievance, published an [investigation plan on our website](#), and flagged the project in the Market Registry as being under investigation. The investigation will include a comprehensive review of the Stanford study and solicitation of feedback from Vestergaard, Berkeley Air Monitoring Group, the auditor, Ms. Pickering, and any other relevant party. Gold Standard will publish a final report with findings and recommendations to its website.

Gold Standard commits to transparency, fairness, and integrity toward all parties throughout the investigation. We will disclose any potential conflicts of interest, including those of the project developer, members of the Secretariat, Technical Advisory Committee or Board of Directors, and the researchers and parties raising the grievance. We will continue to stand behind GS886 and its issued emissions reductions unless the results of the investigation dictate otherwise.

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