

**GOLD STANDARD
SDG IMPACT CERTIFICATION**

**For climate projects with carbon impacts
certified by other standards**

Version 1.0

June 2019

Prepared by:

Gold Standard & SustainCERT

Certify your carbon project's sustainable development impacts with Gold Standard

Gold Standard SDG Impact certification makes it easy for developers to deliver and certify the benefits their projects deliver and distinguish themselves among premium buyers in the market.

With rising buyer interest in the sustainable development outcomes of climate protection projects, there is an opportunity to channel this demand to drive growth of the voluntary carbon market and help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Today, projects vary widely in their contributions to sustainable development. Some that are going further and effecting meaningful change find it challenging to communicate their distinctions to potential buyers. Other projects struggle with the resources and direction to measure and monitor their impacts on the ground.

To support project developers in delivering real, verified impact in sustainable development, Gold Standard is offering projects that have been certified by other carbon standards to have their SDG impacts certified by Gold Standard.

What are the benefits for project developers?

1. Increased credibility

- **Brand recognition.** Since 2003, Gold Standard has been known as the benchmark for ambitious sustainable development in climate protection projects, considered the highest quality standard by NGOs like WWF and the David Suzuki Foundation.
- **Credible and comparable SDG impact claims.** Using standardized SDG impact indicators and quantification yields more credible claims, allowing developers to communicate clearly and confidently about project performance.
- **Enhanced impact reporting capabilities.** Gold Standard is developing automated data visualisation tools to bring project impact to life. We also offer the ability to calculate the 'shared value' of impacts in economic terms.
- **Greater assurance without extra time or cost.** [SustainCERT](#), the official certification provider for Gold Standard for the Global Goals, takes the final certification decision on whether the sustainability reporting requirements have been met in every project.

2. Reduced complexity

- **Focused requirements.** Activity-specific safeguards and detailed guidance for stakeholder consultation help developers focus efforts on what really matters.
- **Simplified MRV.** IT-based SDG Impact tools standardise and simplify SDG indicator selection and help automate MRV.
- **Streamlined certification process.** SustainCERT will leverage developers' existing VVB engagement to ensure it captures all monitoring parameters required to manage costs and complexity.

What's required?

- Registered status with an eligible offset Scheme
- Eligible project type (see Table below)
- Positive contribution to a minimum of 3 SDGs (climate + 2 additional)
- Stakeholder inclusivity
- Adherence to social and environmental safeguards

What's the process?

Step 1 – Open Gold Standard Registry Account and Submit Gap Analysis template

Step 2 – SustainCERT reviews Gap Analysis template against Gold Standard requirements; on approval Project uploaded to the Gold Standard Registry as 'Listed'

Step 3 – Verification by Gold Standard-approved [VVB](#)

Step 4 – Performance Review by SustainCERT; on SustainCERT's approval, project is updated on the Gold Standard Registry to 'Gold Standard Certified' Status

Steps 3 and 4 are simply repeated at each request for Gold Standard certification. Note, a project must maintain its Gold Standard certification by submitting a short annual report in years when Gold Standard certification does not take place.

What are eligible project types?

Gold Standard Activity types	Example Project Types (other project types may be eligible if not listed here)
Community Service Projects	<p>Renewable energy connected to mini-grid or off-grid solutions: Including solar, tidal/wave, wind, hydropower, geothermal, waste to energy and renewable biomass</p> <p>End-use energy efficiency: Including efficient cooking, heating, lighting</p> <p>Waste management and handling: Including composting, biogas</p> <p>Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH): WASH activities that contribute to climate change mitigation and/or adaptation</p>
Renewable Energy Projects	<p>Projects supplying energy to a national or a regional grid from non-fossil and renewable energy sources such as photovoltaic, tidal/wave, wind, hydro, geothermal, waste to energy and renewable biomass.</p> <p><i>Additional eligibility criteria are prescribed for specific project types including hydropower and projects using biomass resources.</i></p>
Land use & Forestry Projects	Projects that use Gold Standard approved methodologies for Land Use and Forestry

How much does it cost?

- Annual Gold Standard Registry Account Fee - \$1,000 (free in year 1)
- Preliminary Review Fee - \$1,800 (one-time)
- Project Performance Review - \$1,000 (at each performance review)