

Project Application Form Guidance – Coal Mine Waste Gas Method

Purpose of this Guidance

This guidance details how to fill out the “ERF Project Application” in the [client portal](#) to submit an Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF) application for a project under the Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative- Coal Mine Waste Gas) Methodology Determination 2015 (the Method). The structure and headings in this document mirror those in the “Project details” and “Eligibility details” sections of the client portal and this should assist you in completing these sections of the application.

The Clean Energy Regulator assesses your project to ensure that it is an eligible offsets project under the *Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Act 2011* (the Act), the Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Rule 2015 (the Rule) and the Method. The Act, the Rule and the Method set out requirements for the information that must be included in an application for declaration of an eligible offsets project.

Providing detailed information about your project will assist in assessing your application. If you want to provide additional information you can upload documents in the client portal.

Project Details

Is the project proposed to be carried out, or being carried out, entirely within Australia?

Under the requirements of the Act, all projects must be carried out in Australia including its external territories.

Method category (selection)

To apply under the Coal Mine Waste Gas method, you should select the ‘Coal Sector’ option in the drop-down menu.

Method (selection)

Select ‘Coal mine waste gas’.

Does the project meet the newness requirement?

For a project to be declared an eligible project, the project must meet the *newness requirement*. You should ensure you have reviewed the newness requirements of section 27 (4A) to (4E) of the Act prior to selecting

the appropriate response. For further guidance on the newness requirement please review the information on the [Eligibility, additionality and newness](#)¹ page on the Clean Energy Regulator website.

Are the project activities funded under any of the government programs, or do they include any activities listed in section 21 of the Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Rule 2015 (rule)?

The Rule excludes certain activities funded by other government programs from being the subject of an eligible offsets project. The list of other government programs in section 21 of the Rule includes the Renewable Energy Target, the NSW Energy Savings Scheme, the Victorian Energy Efficiency Target and several other state and territory based energy efficiency schemes. Ensure that you review the requirements prior to selecting the appropriate response. There are some coal mine waste gas projects that do receive renewable energy certificates under the Renewable Energy Target.

Is the project, or any part of it, required to be carried out by or under a law of the Commonwealth, a State or a Territory (regulatory additionality requirement)?

For a project to be declared an eligible project, the project activities must not be required by law. This includes requirements of local development approvals and planning regulations, which are a requirement of state and territory law.

What start date do you wish to nominate for your project?

The start date of a project refers to the date the project crediting period will begin. It does not refer to the date the activities take place. For some projects, you may choose a date a few months after the activities have taken place when the project is fully operational and is generating abatement.

The start date for Coal Mine Waste Gas project may be on or up to 18 months after the date the project is declared eligible by the Clean Energy Regulator. When selecting this date be aware that the Clean Energy Regulator has 90 days to assess projects. You cannot select a start date earlier than the date the project is declared. You can set the start date as 18 months from when the project is declared by the Clean Energy Regulator.

If you do not nominate a start date, the start date for your crediting period will be the day the project is declared eligible.

What is the forward abatement estimate for the project?

The forward abatement estimate (FAE) is an estimate of the amount of carbon abatement, in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (t CO₂-e), which corresponds to the number of Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs) likely to be issued in relation to the project over the crediting period..

The purpose of the FAE is to allow the Clean Energy Regulator to assign an audit schedule for your project. It is an estimate only and can be rounded to the nearest 50,000 t CO₂-e. One t CO₂-e is equivalent to one ACCU. More information can be found on the [FAE](#)² section of the Clean Energy Regulator's website.

¹ <http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/ERF/Want-to-participate-in-the-Emissions-Reduction-Fund/Planning-a-project/Eligibility-additionality-and-newness>

Total Crediting Period (years) of the project?

The crediting period for this method is 7 years. This field will be pre-populated and fixed.

Average Annual FAE (forward abatement estimate)?

The average annual FAE is the FAE / 7 (the crediting period). This field will be pre-populated based on the forward abatement estimate provided.

What is the estimate of the peak period of the project or abatement

This information will be considered when determining the timing of the project's scheduled audits.

Does the project require any regulatory approvals?

You must declare any regulatory approvals that will be (or were) required to undertake the project activities. For example, commissioning a new electricity production project is likely to require state government development and operational approvals.

Have all relevant regulatory approvals been obtained for the project? (Appears only if you have responded yes to the previous question)

You do not need to have obtained all regulatory approvals when you apply, however, to be eligible for ACCUs, your project must have received all the required regulatory approvals by the end of the first reporting period.

If you have received regulatory approvals for the project, you should include them in your application. If regulatory approvals have been received and a copy has not been provided to the Clean Energy Regulator, this may result in a delay in declaring the project eligible.

² <http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/ERF/Want-to-participate-in-the-Emissions-Reduction-Fund/Step-1-Apply/Forward-abatement-estimates>

Eligibility details

Where is the physical location of the project or how will the project boundary be defined?

The Rule requires that information identifying the location of the project must be provided. This could be a street address or a latitude and longitude of the location or a publically known name of the mine.

If you are aware that there may be more ERF projects that are taking place at that site, or activities supported by other government programs, you should either specify the exact location of your project, or alert the Clean Energy Regulator of these activities so that they can be separated from the project (see section 15A of the Act – No double counting test).

Describe the project and activities

You must describe the project and explain how it meets each of the eligibility requirements for a project set out in Part 2 and 3 of the Method.

The following information must be included in your application:

- You must clearly identify whether the project is a new flaring project, an expansion flaring project, a new electricity production project, an expansion electricity production project or a displacement electricity production project.
- You must provide a description of how the project, if implemented in accordance with the Act and the Method, could reasonably be expected to result in carbon abatement. If you have conducted a feasibility study, commissioned a third party report or have supporting calculations of the carbon abatement potential of the project, it may be beneficial to include this information as part of your project application.

Describe the skill and expertise of any person intended to be used in carrying out the project consistently with the relevant method

Having people involved in your project who can comply with the requirements of the Method for calculations, monitoring, record keeping and reporting is critical to the success of your project. You cannot claim ACCUs unless you comply with these requirements. In your response to this question, the Clean Energy Regulator is looking for evidence that you have considered these requirements and how the party undertaking these activities is qualified to do so.

For example, to determine that the project activities can deliver abatement the project may require someone with professional qualifications in measurement and verification techniques to be involved in the design and/or implementation of the project. Some examples of other relevant qualifications may include:

- Accredited engineers
- National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (NGERs) auditors
- Qualified auditors from relevant state schemes
- Certified energy efficiency specialist (CEES) or certified energy efficiency leader (CEEL)
- Certified international performance measurement and verification protocol (IPMVP or CMVP) assessors.

Where available, you can provide any supporting documents or materials such as third party audits. Third party audits and third party technical assessments will provide additional assurance regarding the

background and qualification of those involved. It would assist the Clean Energy Regulator in assessing the application if direct experience in coal mining could be demonstrated.

Do you have the legal right to carry out the project?

You should read the information on legal right available on the [Legal right](#)³ page on the Clean Energy Regulator website and consider seeking professional legal advice before signing this form to ensure you have the legal right to carry out the project as required by the Act. Your response to this question should demonstrate that you have read and considered the issues identified in this advice.

You must provide evidence of your legal right to carry out the project at all sites listed on your application at the time of applying for registration. It is important to note that approval of the project by the Clean Energy Regulator does not establish legal right. You are required to keep records of any agreements with stakeholders. Legal right for all sites, activities and equipment in the project, including those added after registration, will be checked during audits.

Facilities covered by the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (NGER) Act 2007

There are additional consent requirements for projects carried out at an NGER facility where the amount of reported scope 1 emissions of one or more greenhouse gases from the operation of the facility is likely to be more than 100,000 t CO₂-e for one or more years in the crediting period for the project. In these cases, section 20 of the Rule requires that you must demonstrate that you have operational control of the facility or the consent to carry out the project from the person who has. If there is more than one participant then the requirement applies to all participants. Note that the person who has operational control of the facility may not necessarily be the one who can grant the legal right to carry out the project. Please also provide the location of the related NGER facility.

To assist the assessment of your application you must indicate whether your site is a relevant NGER facility, and provide supporting documentation to show that the person who has operational control of the facility has provided consent for the project to take place.

³ <http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/ERF/Want-to-participate-in-the-Emissions-Reduction-Fund/Planning-a-project/Legal-right>