

Factsheet: Environmental Plantings Pilot



The Clean Energy Regulator has made it easier for farmers and landholders to directly participate in the Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF).

You can now diversify your income and help Australia reduce its emissions by planting trees on your land.

Benefits of environmental plantings pilot projects

The environmental plantings pilot removes the cost of project audits, simplifies project registration and crediting processes, and introduces an easier way to sell Australian carbon credit units (ACCUs) to the Australian Government.

Environmental plantings projects involve planting a mixture of native and local tree, shrubs and understorey species to establish new and permanent forest cover. These projects earn one ACCU for each tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂-e) stored in the project trees as they grow.

In addition to carbon abatement, increasing the number of trees on your land has other important benefits:



Diversify revenue
ACCUs provide another income stream for your property.



Shelter for livestock and pastures
Plantings improve the condition of stock and pastoral productivity.



Restore degraded land
Protect soils from wind erosion by reducing wind speeds.



Ecosystem health
Improves water quality through reduced pesticide and fertiliser runoff.

Pilot eligibility criteria

To participate in the environmental plantings pilot, the following eligibility criteria applies:

- The project is registered under the [environmental plantings method](#),
- The project proponent is the owner, leaseholder or native title holder of the land,
- The total anticipated or reported carbon estimation area (CEA) is no more than 200 hectares,
- The planting areas are modelled as mixed species block plantings using the generic calibration in FullCAM,
- The project area is subject to geospatial tool monitoring and assurance by the Clean Energy Regulator (removing the cost of scheduled audits).

Participating in the Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF)

The ERF is a voluntary scheme administered by Australian Government Clean Energy Regulator that supports investment in carbon abatement projects across all sectors of the Australian economy. It is helping Australia to meet its emissions reduction targets, as well as providing business and employment opportunities.

How to participate in the pilot



Figure 1: Lifecycle of an environmental plantings pilot project



Step 1. Review guidelines

Review the ERF scheme and pilot eligibility criteria and requirements in the [Environmental Plantings Pilot – Information Pack](#).



Step 2. Register

Apply to register your pilot project via the new, streamlined registration form in [Client Portal](#).



Step 3. Establish plantings

Establish planting area/s (via direct seeding and/or planting tubestock) and maintain plantings as they grow.



Step 4. Geospatial monitoring

Instead of the farmer or landholder incurring the cost of audits, the Clean Energy Regulator will use geospatial tools to confirm the planting activity has happened, verify that abatement is being achieved, and monitor for disturbances.



Step 5. Simplified reporting and crediting

Pilot participants can earn one ACCU for each tCO₂-e stored by project trees. The Clean Energy Regulator will assist with project mapping and modelling annually to make it easier to report on carbon abatement and earn ACCUs.



Step 6. Sell ACCUs

ACCUs can be sold to generate income, either to the Australian Government or to private buyers in the secondary market.



Step 7. Maintain forest cover

Forest cover must be maintained to preserve the carbon stored in your project trees for the duration of the permanence period (25 or 100-years).

More information

Visit [Environmental Plantings Pilot](#) or contact us on **1300 553 542** or at land@cleanenergyregulator.gov.au.