



Australian Government
Clean Energy Regulator

EMISSIONS
REDUCTION
FUND

Factsheet: Animal effluent management projects



The benefits of running an animal effluent management project

An animal effluent management project treats animal waste from piggeries and dairies to reduce the release of methane, a potent greenhouse gas, into the atmosphere. This reduction in emissions earns Australian carbon credit units (carbon credits).

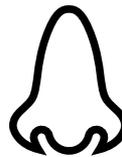
Management of animal effluent has a number of benefits:



Diversified revenue
Carbon credits provide another income stream for your business.



Lower electricity bills
Generates renewable electricity for use on-site or to sell to the grid.



Odour control
Biodigesters reduce odour effects on local residents.



Environmental action
Be recognised for your contribution to Australia's emissions reductions.

How animal effluent management projects work

The decomposing organic matter in animal waste produces methane. This methane is released into the atmosphere when waste material from piggeries and dairies is disposed of in an anaerobic* pond. This is because microbes that produce methane are active in waste in the absence of oxygen.

Animal effluent management projects introduce new treatment processes that destroy or avoid methane emissions. A project's emission reductions are determined by measuring the amount of methane destroyed or avoided by the new processes. You earn carbon credits for the reduction in methane emitted (measured in carbon dioxide equivalent).

Animal effluent management project activities

You can treat animal waste and reduce emissions through an emissions destruction or emissions avoidance project:

Emissions destruction project – install an anaerobic digester to capture and destroy methane. These projects may also be able to generate electricity and heat for on-site use or to supply to the grid.

Emissions avoidance project – separate and aerobically* compost waste solids to produce less methane. For example, you can separate solid waste and place it in aerobic compost. Aerobic composting produces significantly less methane because methane-producing microbes are not active in the presence of oxygen.

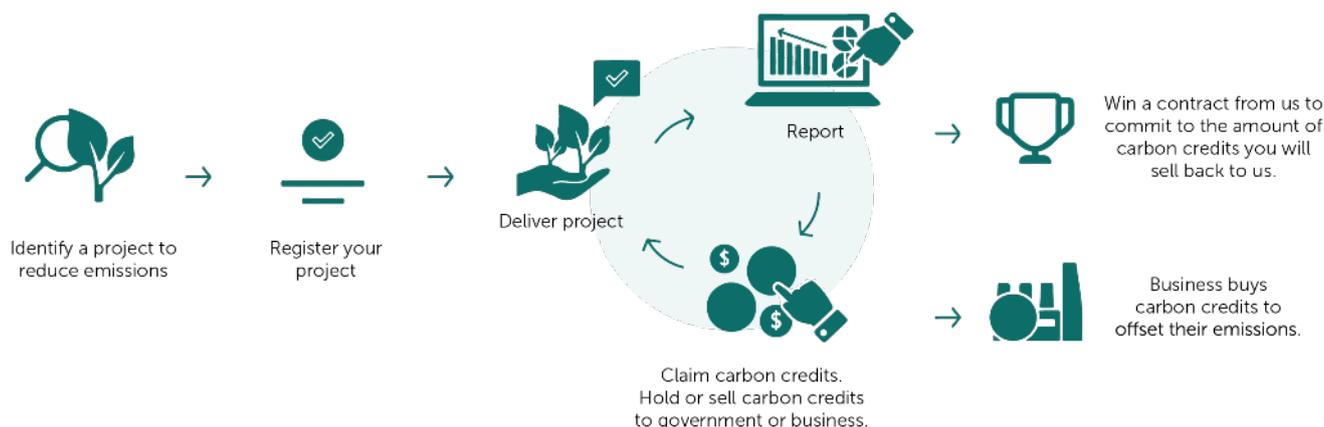
*Anaerobic conditions do not contain oxygen, while aerobic conditions have oxygen present.

How the Emissions Reduction Fund works

The Emissions Reduction Fund offers landholders, communities and businesses the opportunity to run new projects that reduce or remove greenhouse gas emissions from the atmosphere.

In running an Emissions Reduction Fund project, you can earn carbon credits and sell them to the Australian Government, or to companies and other private buyers. Each carbon credit represents one tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent greenhouse gas emissions stored or avoided.

How to participate



Emissions Reduction Fund project lifecycle

Make sure you are eligible to participate

To be eligible you must:

- Treat an eligible waste stream (containing animal urine, faeces or incidental waste e.g. spoiled feed) that is sourced from a piggery or dairy and would otherwise have been disposed of in an anaerobic pond.
- Establish legal right (to run your project and claim carbon credits) – for example, by having operational control of the waste treatment equipment.
- Obtain regulatory approvals required to run your project and ensure project activities are not required to be carried out under a Commonwealth, state or territory law.
- Make sure your project is new – you cannot start treating waste until after we register your project.
- You cannot have already installed the project's waste treatment equipment. If you have pre-existing equipment, it must have only operated as part of a pilot or trial waste treatment project.

Running and reporting on your project

As part of registering a project, you will need to describe your proposed activities and calculate your expected carbon credits.

There are operating, monitoring, reporting and audit obligations in running an animal effluent management project. You will need to report on your project at least once every two years. You receive carbon credits each time you report over a period of seven to twelve years (duration depends on the project activities chosen).

Further information

Visit our website www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au, or contact us on 1300 553 542.