



Australian Government
Clean Energy Regulator

EMISSIONS
REDUCTION
FUND

Factsheet: Landfill gas projects



The benefits of running a landfill gas project

A landfill gas project captures gas from waste to prevent the release of methane into the atmosphere. This reduction in emissions earns Australian carbon credit units (ACCUs).

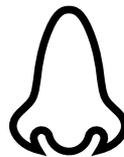
Management of landfill gas has a number of benefits:



Diversified revenue
ACCUs provide another income stream for your business.



Lower electricity bills
Generates renewable electricity that can be used on-site or sold to the grid.



Odour control
Capturing methane can reduce odour effects on local residents.



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

How landfill gas projects work

Waste decomposing in landfills produces potent greenhouse gases, such as methane, which are released into the atmosphere. A landfill gas project involves constructing new – or upgrading existing – equipment that captures and combusts the methane produced in landfills (known as landfill gas). A landfill gas (generation) project can also involve capturing landfill gas for upgrading into biomethane for use as a natural gas substitute.

Combusting landfill gas or biomethane produced from landfill gas converts methane to carbon dioxide, which is a much less potent greenhouse gas. You can combust landfill gas using a flare, or in a generator to generate electricity which can then be used on-site or sold back to the electricity grid. Biomethane produced from landfill gas can be used as a natural gas substitute in energy and transport applications.

A project's emission reductions are determined by measuring the amount of methane combusted or biomethane used to displace natural gas since implementing the upgrades. You earn ACCUs for the reduction in methane emitted (measured in carbon dioxide equivalent).

Landfill gas project activities

You can run a landfill gas project by:

1. Measuring current emissions levels.
2. Installing, upgrading, or recommissioning landfill gas collection equipment – for example, gas collection wells and piping.

3. Collecting and combusting captured methane (which can then be used to generate electricity).
4. Measuring and calculating emissions captured from the upgrade.

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 ACCUs and sell them to the Australian Government, or to companies and other private buyers. Each ACCU 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:

- Establish a new landfill gas collection and combustion system, restart or upgrade an existing system.
 - » If your project involves recommencing using an existing system, the recommissioned collection equipment cannot have been used after 24 April 2014.
- Ensure your landfill has eligible waste – emissions created from waste deposited between July 2012 and July 2014 are not eligible to earn ACCUs.
- Establish legal right (to run your project and claim ACCUs) for example, obtain consent from the site owner to undertake the project.
- 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 have started project activities until we register your 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 ACCUs.

There are operating, monitoring, reporting and audit obligations in running a landfill gas project. You will need to report on your project at least once every 2 years. You receive ACCUs each time you report over a period of 12 years for projects that flare only, and 84 months for projects that generate electricity.

Further information

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