

# Carbon Farming Initiative

## The Basics

### Carbon Farming Initiative

The Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI) is a voluntary Australian Government carbon offsets scheme. It aims to help farmers and land managers earn income from reducing emissions like nitrous oxide and methane, and sequestering carbon in vegetation and soils through changes to agricultural and land management practices.

Land managers who participate in the initiative can generate carbon credits, which can then be sold. While only a handful of methodologies have been approved to date, the initiative can include activities such as:

- reforestation
- revegetation
- native forest protection
- avoided de-vegetation
- managed regrowth
- reduced methane emissions from livestock
- livestock manure management
- management of feral animals
- reduced fertiliser emissions
- increased carbon storage in soils
- biochar application
- rangeland restoration
- savannah fire management
- reduced emissions from burning stubble and crop residue
- reduced emissions from legacy landfill waste



This list provides examples of the types of activities possible under the CFI. However, before specific activities can become a CFI project they need to be added to the Positive List and have an approved methodology.

**Methodologies** – there are approved methodologies for activities allowed under the CFI. These methodologies are legal instruments explaining the procedure for each activity and can be developed by

anyone. There are methodologies currently being developed for a range of abatement activities.

You can view approved methodologies or access more information about getting involved in developing new ones at [www.climatechange.gov.au/en/government/initiatives/carbon-farming-initiative/methodology-development/approved-methodologies](http://www.climatechange.gov.au/en/government/initiatives/carbon-farming-initiative/methodology-development/approved-methodologies)

**Positive and negative lists** - the Positive List identifies activities that have been approved as additional and therefore eligible to participate in the initiative. It can be viewed at [www.climatechange.gov.au/government/initiatives/carbon-farming-initiative/activities-eligible-excluded/additional-activities-positive-list](http://www.climatechange.gov.au/government/initiatives/carbon-farming-initiative/activities-eligible-excluded/additional-activities-positive-list)

There are also guidelines available for how to propose activities to be included in the Positive List. The Negative List, on the other hand, identifies activities that are excluded from the CFI because there is a risk that the activity will have a negative impact. The Negative List can be found at

[www.climatechange.gov.au/government/initiatives/carbon-farming-initiative/activities-eligible-excluded/excluded-activities-negative-list](http://www.climatechange.gov.au/government/initiatives/carbon-farming-initiative/activities-eligible-excluded/excluded-activities-negative-list)



### More on methodologies

There are currently approved methodologies for: capture and combustion of landfill gas; destruction of methane generated from manure in piggeries; environmental plantings; and savanna burning.

Methodologies under consideration relate to: avoided emissions from diverting waste from landfill; native forest protection; destruction of methane from piggeries using biodigesters; destruction of methane generated from dairy manure in covered anaerobic ponds; reforestation and afforestation; and management of camels in rangelands.

**Additionality and common practice** – for activities to create a genuine offset, they need to be things that would not have occurred anyway. In other words, if the activity would have been undertaken regardless of the CFI then the abatement achieved is not additional. This is what is meant by additionality.

The CFI includes a two-part additionality test to ensure credits are only issued for additional abatement. First, projects must not be required by law. The second part of the additionality test looks at common practice. Activities that are already common practice or widespread are not additional. Activities that are identified as going beyond common practice will be listed on the CFI Positive List, which is established in regulations. Some activities could be common in some regions and industries and not others.

More information about additionality and how common practice is determined is at [www.climatechange.gov.au/government/initiatives/carbon-farming-initiative/activities-eligible-excluded/additional-activities-positive-list/positive-list-guidelines-proposal-form](http://www.climatechange.gov.au/government/initiatives/carbon-farming-initiative/activities-eligible-excluded/additional-activities-positive-list/positive-list-guidelines-proposal-form)

**Permanence** – carbon that is stored in vegetation and soils can be released into the atmosphere reversing the benefit of the project. So sequestration projects under CFI have a permanency requirement of 100 years. That means projects which remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere and store them in plants or soil as carbon must maintain these stores for 100 years. And if the carbon is lost (through fire or drought or clearing), you have an obligation to restore the carbon.

Landholders can choose to cancel their project at any time, for example because they wish to sell the land without the project or use the land for something else, by relinquishing (handing back) credits to the Administrator. Credits could be purchased at the prevailing market price or the proponent could use credits they have banked.

**Legalities**– to undertake activities under the Carbon Farming Initiative, you must have a legal right to carry out the project. That might involve ownership of the site or an agreement to use the site. For sequestration projects, you also must hold the exclusive legal right to obtain the benefit of sequestration of carbon in soil or vegetation in that area.



## Where to go for more information

Remember, it is your responsibility to ensure you are aware of all of your obligations under the Carbon Farming Initiative. Further information is available from:

### Australian Government

Climate and carbon farming information for primary producers: [www.daff.gov.au/climatechange](http://www.daff.gov.au/climatechange)

CFI: [www.climatechange.gov.au/cfi](http://www.climatechange.gov.au/cfi)

How to participate in the Carbon Farming Initiative: [www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/Carbon-Farming-Initiative](http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/Carbon-Farming-Initiative)

Clean Energy Future – 1800 057 590

The CFI handbook is available at [www.climatechange.gov.au/government/initiatives/carbon-farming-initiative/handbook](http://www.climatechange.gov.au/government/initiatives/carbon-farming-initiative/handbook)

### Regional Landcare Facilitators

Regional Landcare Facilitators across the New England North West can help to point you in the right direction:

Tablelands & Slopes: Jennie Coldham  
0427 260258

Moree: Sally Dickinson  
0427 521498

East Namoi: Ken Baker  
0447 518332

West Namoi: Tanya Slack-Smith  
0419 215998



## Australian Government



Regional Landcare Facilitator

Hosted by New England North West Landcare Network Chairs Inc. for the Border Rivers – Gwydir region



Regional Landcare Facilitator

Hosted by the New England North West Landcare Network Chairs Inc. Liverpool Plains Land Management Inc. and the North West Plains Sustainability Group for the Namoi region

**Acknowledgement:** This material was adapted by New England North West Landcare from material prepared by Wombat Creative Pty Ltd for North Queensland's regional NRM groups.

*It has been supported by funding from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry as part of the Carbon Farming Initiative Communications Program.*