



RULE CLARIFICATION

RULE CLARIFICATION – REFUSE DERIVED FUEL (RDF)

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RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Eligible methodologies for Gold Standard for the Global Goals
 - AMS-III.E. Avoidance of methane production from decay of biomass through controlled combustion, gasification or mechanical/thermal treatment
 - AMS-III.Y. Methane avoidance through separation of solids from wastewater or manure treatment systems
 - GS4GG Renewable Energy Requirements
 - GS4GG Safeguarding Principles and Requirements
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SUMMARY

Landfilling and dumping of waste is practiced extensively in many regions of the world and causes significant environmental concerns. Less harmful alternatives are being sought by local and national governments, including integrated waste management. Integrated waste management covers the value-chain from waste generation, collection, transportation, treatment and final disposal, utilising treatment solutions selected and designed based on local conditions. These solutions include sorting and treatment of waste for recovery, recycling or for energy generation.

The use of the non-recyclable fractions of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) to produce an alternative fuel, commonly known as Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF), is considered as a key pillar of an integrated waste management system. Use of combustible waste as a fuel in cement plants or as a co-combustion fuel in power plants or other industrial boilers is a well-established practice in industrialized nations. Best-practice experiences and lessons form the basis of this rule clarification, which ensures that Gold Standard rules can facilitate the ongoing, sustainable adoption of RDF.

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Gold Standard accepts methodologies approved for use under the UNFCCC Clean Development Mechanism, but commonly establishes additional eligibility criteria and monitoring requirements to maximise sustainable development impact. These criteria and requirements are listed in the downloadable methodology [tool](#).

Gold Standard methodology eligibility criteria stipulating that only organic waste can be used to produce fuel (i.e. RDF in AMS-iii.e and AMS-iii.y) do not apply, as it is common for non-recyclable plastics that follow the waste management hierarchy to be present in RDF.

[GS4GG Renewable Energy Requirements](#) provides certification guidelines and requirements for Renewable Energy activities, including waste handling and incineration. This clarifies that Sub section **1.6 Waste incineration and gasification** applies to RDF activities and that **1.7 Waste handling and disposal** is not applicable to RDF activities as the same requirement is addressed by 1.6.

Further, sub section **1.2 project activity using biomass resources** pertains only to activities generating energy from biomass grown as a crop (not from biomass that may be present in landfill, which is addressed by sub section **1.3 Project activity using Biogas**).

In line with other Gold Standard technology-based safeguards (see 1.5 Fossil co-generation), emissions reductions generated from fossil fuel based resources are not eligible for carbon credit issuance. Projects claiming emission reductions via use of RDF as a fuel may only issue carbon credits for emission reductions obtained from the biogenic content of RDF.

RDF activities undergoing Gold Standard certification should consider the following safeguards as relevant during the Safeguards Assessment outlined in the [Safeguarding Principles and Requirements](#).

- Principle 3 – Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions
- Principle 7.1 - Emissions
- Principle 9.4 - Release of pollutants
- Principle 9.5 - Hazardous and Non-hazardous Waste