

Eligibility requirements for MSW incineration activities

Background:

According to the “Renewable Energy and Community Services Activity Requirements” – waste incineration and gasification projects involving co-firing of non-renewable and renewable waste within incineration or gasification facilities shall NOT be eligible under Gold Standard. This rule update extends the scope of eligibility requirements to allow MSW incineration activities to qualify for GS4GG certification.

Rule Update:

Eligible Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) incineration activities seeking Gold Standard certification shall also meet the following requirements:

1. Stakeholder consultation

- The Project Developer shall ensure meaningful, effective and informed participation from stakeholder groups such as local **communities who are living in nearby area and may be impacted adversely or positively from project**. The Project Developer shall carry out the stakeholder consultation(s) following the GOLD STANDARD FOR THE GLOBAL GOALS STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION & ENGAGEMENT PROCEDURE, REQUIREMENTS & GUIDELINES.

2. Project Eligibility

- The project shall involve energy generation (electricity and/or heat) from MSW incineration. The MSW incineration shall be considered as recovery operations with respect to the waste hierarchy as long as the project activity recovers energy from municipal waste incineration in an efficient way.
- Project activities planning to make use of waste materials that are already in use in the pre-project situation shall NOT be eligible unless convincing evidence is provided to show that the current users are in agreement with the shift of use resulting from the project. In the absence of such an agreement, the Project Developers shall demonstrate that the project activity makes use of surplus waste materials and shall include this analysis in the Monitoring Plan. They must be done as follows for projects with installed energy generation capacities of:
 - **less than or equal to 15 MW or 45 MW_{th}** – once, ex ante, in time for validation
 - **greater than 15 MW or 45 MW_{th}** – once, ex-ante in time for validation and for each one of the verifications

- The project shall develop and implement a waste management awareness programme to encourage the stakeholders to adopt best practices for waste reduction, reuse and recycling and avoid any negative impact on prevailing waste management practices in the project boundary. Such a programme may include variety of activities, including but not limited to – community outreach and education campaigns, educational campaigns via local schools and other institutes, educational displays, television/radio campaigns, etc.

- The programme performance shall be evaluated frequently, at minimum biennially following the date of design certification, to assess its effectiveness and it shall be amended when required.

3. Emissions and operational requirements

- To avoid any potential negative impact, the project seeking certification under Gold Standard for the Global Goals shall meet the most stringent regulatory requirements available for emissions and operation of MSW incineration plant. In this regard, the project developer shall compare the host country regulatory requirements with the most recent version of [European Union Regulations for Waste Incineration Plants & Waste Co-incineration Plants](#) and shall submit the comparison table for Gold Standard review at the time of preliminary review. If due to type of technology or otherwise it is not feasible to meet the most stringent regulatory requirements, the Project Developer shall submit the rationale and proposed mitigation measures at the time of preliminary review. In such cases, Gold Standard will make a decision in consultation with the experts (if required) on a case-by-case basis.

- The Project Developer shall ensure that measures are put in place to ensure that applicable host country or other applicable regulations are complied with.

- Where the Project Developer becomes aware that a requirement of the applicable regulations has been breached or is being breached, the Project Developer shall
 - Inform the Gold Standard immediately
 - Immediately take the measures necessary to ensure compliance is restored within the shortest possible time

- Where a breach of the applicable regulations that poses an immediate danger to human health or threatens to cause an immediate significant adverse effect upon the environment, the project shall be withdrawn from Gold Standard until compliance is restored to the satisfaction of Gold Standard.

4. Ongoing monitoring requirements

- The Project Developer shall report on compliance status with regards to regulatory requirements within six months of operational start date, where applicable, and annually after the first six months.

- The Project Developer shall include the relevant information in the Annual Report, as required under Gold Standard for the Global Goals.