

WAC 173-446-505 Requirements for compliance offset protocols.

(1) In order for ecology to adopt an offset protocol as a compliance offset protocol the offset protocol must:

(a) Accurately determine the extent to which GHG emission reductions and GHG removal enhancements are achieved by the offset project type;

(b) Establish data collection and monitoring procedures relevant to the type of GHG emissions sources, GHG sinks, and GHG reservoirs for that offset project type;

(c) Establish a project baseline that reflects an estimate of business-as-usual performance or practices for comparison against the GHG emission reductions and/or GHG removal enhancements to be achieved by the offset project type;

(d) Account for activity-shifting leakage and market-shifting leakage for the offset project type, unless the offset protocol stipulates eligibility conditions limiting the use of the offset protocol that eliminate the risk of activity-shifting and/or market-shifting leakage;

(e) Account for any uncertainty in quantification factors for the offset project type;

(f) Ensure GHG emission reductions and GHG removal enhancements are permanent;

(g) Include a mechanism to ensure permanence of GHG removal enhancements for sequestration offset project types;

(h) Establish the length of the crediting period for the offset project type;

(i) Establish the eligibility and additionality of the offset project type and quantify GHG emission reductions and GHG removal enhancements using standardized baseline assumptions, emission factors, and monitoring methods; and

(j) Specify the geographic area(s) where the protocol is applicable.

(2) Crediting period. The crediting period for an offset project that does not involve sequestration must be no less than seven years and no greater than 10 years, unless specified otherwise in a compliance offset protocol that has been adopted by ecology under subsection (3) of this section. The crediting period for an offset project that involves sequestration must be no less than 10 years and no greater than 30 years.

(3) An ecology offset credit must result from the use of one of the following compliance offset protocols:

(a) The California Air Resources Board, Compliance Offset Protocol Livestock Projects, October 20, 2011, and Compliance Offset Protocol Livestock Projects, November 14, 2014, are adopted. All new offset projects with a commencement date after September 30, 2022, must use the most recent version of the adopted protocol. Exceptions are listed in this subsection:

(i) Exceptions to adopting the Livestock Projects Compliance Offset Protocol, November 14, 2014, by reference:

(A) Every use of the word "regulation" in the Livestock Compliance Offset Protocol, November 14, 2014, is amended to refer to chapter 173-446 WAC.

(B) Every reference to subarticle 13 is amended to WAC 173-446-500 through 173-446-595.

(C) Every reference to ARB is amended to ecology except in Table 6.1.

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- (D) Every reference to section 95973 of the regulation is amended to WAC 173-446-510.
- (E) Every reference to section 95975 of the regulation is amended to WAC 173-446-520.
- (F) Every reference to section 95976 of the regulation is amended to WAC 173-446-525.
- (G) Every reference to section 95977 of the regulation is amended to WAC 173-446-530.
- (H) Every reference to section 95986 of the regulation is amended to WAC 173-446-585.
- (I) Every reference to section 95102 of the regulation is amended to WAC 173-446-020.
- (J) Section 1.2(a)(8) is amended to: "Cap and trade regulation" or "regulation" means ecology's regulation establishing the Climate Commitment Act Program, chapter 173-446 WAC.
- (K) Section 1.2(a)(24) is not adopted.
- (L) Section 1.2(a)(29) is amended to: "Registry offset credit" means a credit issued by an offset project registry for a GHG reduction or GHG removal enhancement of one metric ton of CO₂e.
- (M) Section 3.2(b) is not adopted and is replaced with: "If any portion of the offset project is located on land over which the state of Washington does not have jurisdiction, the offset project operator must demonstrate that the landowner(s) consent(s) to regulation pursuant to WAC 173-446-520 (3)(d) or has entered into an agreement with ecology pursuant to WAC 173-446-520 (3)(e)."
- (N) Section 5(c) is amended to: GHG emissions reductions must be quantified over an entire reporting period. The initial reporting period may consist of six to 24 consecutive months, and all subsequent reporting periods consist of 12 consecutive months and must meet the reporting requirements referred to in WAC 173-446-525.
- (O) Section 5(e) is amended to: Global warming potential values must be determined consistent with the definition of carbon dioxide equivalent in WAC 176-441-040 Table A-1.
- (ii) Exceptions to adopting the Compliance Offset Protocol Livestock Projects, October 20, 2011, by reference:
- (A) Every reference to ARB is amended to ecology except Table 6.1.
- (B) Section 1, Paragraph 4 is not adopted.
- (C) Section 3.1 is not adopted and is replaced with: "If any portion of the offset project is located on land over which the state of Washington does not have jurisdiction, the offset project operator must demonstrate that the landowner(s) consent(s) to regulation pursuant to WAC 173-446-520 (3)(d) or has entered into an agreement with ecology pursuant to WAC 173-446-520 (3)(e)."
- (b) The California Air Resources Board, Compliance Offset Protocol U.S. Forest Projects, October 20, 2011, Compliance Offset Protocol U.S. Forest Projects, November 14, 2014, and Compliance Offset Protocol U.S. Forest Projects, June 25, 2015, are adopted. All new offset projects with a commencement date after September 30, 2022, must use the most recent version of the adopted protocol. Exceptions are listed in this subsection:
- (i) Exceptions to adopting the U.S. Forest Projects Compliance Offset Protocol, June 25, 2015:
- (A) Every use of the word "regulation" in the U.S. Forest Projects Compliance Offset Protocol, June 25, 2015, is amended to refer to chapter 173-446 WAC.

- (B) Every reference to subarticle 13 is amended to WAC 173-446-500 through 173-446-595.
- (C) Every reference to ARB is amended to ecology except in section 2.1.(c.) (4), section 2.2.(b.) (6), section 2.3.(c.) (7), Table 3.1, 3.1.(a.) (2), section 3.2.(b.), section 5.2.1.(c.), section 7.1.1.(26.), Table A.1, Appendix A (f.), Appendix A (g.), Appendix A (h.), Equation C.3., Appendix B(g.), Appendix C (a.) (3.) (A.) (2.), Appendix C (a.) (4.) (A.) (2.), Equation C.12., Appendix C (b.) (3.) (A.) (2.), Appendix C (b.) (4.) (A.) (2.), Appendix E.(b.) (2.), Appendix E.(b.) (3.), Appendix F. (a.), Appendix F.(b.), Appendix F.(d.), Appendix F.(g.).
- (D) Every reference to section 95973 of the regulation is amended to WAC 173-446-510.
- (E) Every reference to section 95974 of the regulation is amended to WAC 173-446-515.
- (F) Every reference to section 95975 of the regulation is amended to WAC 173-446-520.
- (G) Every reference to section 95976 of the regulation is amended to WAC 173-446-525.
- (H) Every reference to section 95977 of the regulation is amended to WAC 173-446-530.
- (I) Every reference to section 95983 of the regulation is amended to WAC 173-446-570.
- (J) Every reference to section 95985 of the regulation is amended to WAC 173-446-580.
- (K) Every reference to section 95986 of the regulation is amended to WAC 173-446-585.
- (L) Section 1.1.(b.) is not adopted.
- (M) Section 1.2(a.) (14) is amended to: "Cap and trade regulation" or "regulation" means ecology's regulation establishing the Climate Commitment Act Program, chapter 173-446 WAC.
- (N) Section 3.2(f.) is not adopted and is replaced with: "If any portion of the offset project is located on land over which the state of Washington does not have jurisdiction, the offset project operator must demonstrate that the landowner(s) consent(s) to regulation pursuant to WAC 173-446-520 (3)(d) or has entered into an agreement with ecology pursuant to WAC 173-446-520 (3)(e)."
- (O) Section 3.5.3.(b) (2) is amended to: For an improved forest management project, a quantity of compliance instruments equal to the total number of ARB offset credits issued to the project over all preceding reporting periods, multiplied by the appropriate compensation rate indicated in Table 3.2, must be retired.
- (P) Section 3.6.(a) (2) (C) (1) is not adopted.
- (ii) Exceptions to adopting the U.S. Forest Projects Compliance Offset Protocol, November 14, 2014:
- (A) Every use of the word "regulation" in the U.S. Forest Projects Compliance Offset Protocol, November 14, 2014, is amended to refer to chapter 173-446 WAC.
- (B) Every reference to subarticle 13 is amended to WAC 173-446-500 through 173-446-595.
- (C) Every reference to ARB is amended to ecology except in section 3.8.2 Paragraph 3, Table 3.2, Section 6.2.1 Paragraph 3, Appendix A A.3, Appendix C C.1, Appendix C C.2, Appendix F.
- (D) Every reference to section 95974 of the regulation is amended to WAC 173-446-515.
- (E) Every reference to section 95975 of the regulation is amended to WAC 173-446-520.

- (F) Every reference to section 95977 of the regulation is amended to WAC 173-446-530.
- (G) Every reference to section 95983 of the regulation is amended to WAC 173-446-570.
- (H) Section 1. Paragraph 3 is not adopted.
- (I) Section 3.4. text stating "and where applicable, all Early Action Offset Credits issued pursuant to section 95990(i) of the Regulation" is not adopted.
- (J) Section 3.5. Paragraph 3 text stating "The recordation of a conservation easement may be used to denote the commencement date of pre-existing projects between December 31, 2006, and December 31, 2010." is not adopted.
- (K) Section 3.6. Paragraph 3 is not adopted and is replaced with: "If any portion of the offset project is located on land over which the state of Washington does not have jurisdiction, the offset project operator must demonstrate that the landowner(s) consent(s) to regulation pursuant to WAC 173-446-520 (3)(d) or has entered into an agreement with ecology pursuant to WAC 173-446-520 (3)(e)."
- (iii) Exceptions to adopting the U.S. Forest Projects Compliance Offset Protocol, October 20, 2011:
- (A) Every use of the word "regulation" in the U.S. Forest Projects Compliance Offset Protocol, October 20, 2011, is amended to refer to chapter 173-446 WAC.
- (B) Every reference to subarticle 13 is amended to WAC 173-446-500 through 173-446-595.
- (C) Every reference to ARB is amended to ecology except in section 3.8.2 Paragraph 3, Table 3.2, Section 6.2.1 Paragraph 3, Appendix A. A.3, Appendix C. C.2, Appendix C. C.3, Appendix E, Appendix F.
- (D) Every reference to section 95973 of the regulation is amended to WAC 173-446-510.
- (E) Every reference to section 95974 of the regulation is amended to WAC 173-446-515.
- (F) Every reference to section 95975 of the regulation is amended to WAC 173-446-520.
- (G) Every reference to section 95976 of the regulation is amended to WAC 173-446-525.
- (H) Every reference to section 95977 of the regulation is amended to WAC 173-446-530.
- (I) Every reference to section 95983 of the regulation is amended to WAC 173-446-570.
- (J) Every reference to section 95985 of the regulation is amended to WAC 173-446-580.
- (K) Every reference to section 95986 of the regulation is amended to WAC 173-446-585.
- (L) Section 1. Paragraph 3 is not adopted.
- (M) Section 3.4. text stating "and where applicable, all Early Action Offset Credits issued pursuant to section 95990(i) of the Regulation" is not adopted.
- (N) Section 3.5. Paragraph 3 text stating "The recordation of a conservation easement may be used to denote the commencement date of pre-existing projects between December 31, 2006, and December 31, 2010." is not adopted.
- (O) Section 3.6. Paragraph 3 is not adopted and is replaced with: "If any portion of the offset project is located on land over which the state of Washington does not have jurisdiction, the offset project operator must demonstrate that the landowner(s) consent(s) to regula-

tion pursuant to WAC 173-446-520 (3)(d) or has entered into an agreement with ecology pursuant to WAC 173-446-520 (3)(e)."

(P) Section 11, "Forest Buffer Account" definition is amended to: Forest buffer account is defined in the regulation as a holding account for forest project compliance offset credits administered by ecology. It is used as a general insurance mechanism against unintentional reversals for all forest offset projects listed under a compliance offset protocol.

(Q) Section 11, "Listed" definition is amended to: A forest project is considered "listed" when the offset project operator or authorized project designee is registered with ecology or an approved offset project registry, submits all required documentation for project listing in the regulation and this protocol, and the project has been approved by ecology or an approved offset project registry for listing.

(c) The California Air Resources Board, Compliance Offset Protocol Ozone Depleting Substances Projects, October 20, 2011, and Compliance Offset Protocol Ozone Depleting Substances, November 14, 2014, are adopted. All new offset projects with a commencement date after September 30, 2022, must use the most recent version of the adopted protocol. Exceptions are listed in this subsection:

(i) Exceptions to adopting the Ozone Depleting Substances Compliance Offset Protocol, November 14, 2014, by reference:

(A) Every use of the word "regulation" in the Ozone Depleting Substances Compliance Offset Protocol, November 14, 2014, is amended to refer to chapter 173-446 WAC.

(B) Every reference to subarticle 13 is amended to refer to WAC 173-446-500 through 173-446-595.

(C) Every reference to ARB is amended to ecology.

(D) Every reference to section 95973 of the regulation is amended to WAC 173-446-510.

(E) Every reference to section 95975 of the regulation is amended to WAC 173-446-520.

(F) Every reference to section 95976 of the regulation is amended to WAC 173-446-525.

(G) Every reference to section 95977 of the regulation is amended to WAC 173-446-530.

(H) Section 1.1.(b.) is not adopted.

(I) Section 1.2 (a)(2) is amended to: "Cap and trade regulation" or "regulation" means ecology's regulation establishing the Climate Commitment Act Program, chapter 173-446 WAC.

(J) Section 1.2(a)(19) is amended to: "Registry offset credit" means a credit issued by an offset project registry for a GHG reduction or GHG removal enhancement of one metric ton of CO₂e.

(K) Section 3.2(d.) is not adopted and is replaced with: "If any portion of the offset project is located on land over which the state of Washington does not have jurisdiction, the offset project operator must demonstrate that the landowner(s) consent(s) to regulation pursuant to WAC 173-446-520 (3)(d) or has entered into an agreement with ecology pursuant to WAC 173-446-520 (3)(e)."

(L) Section 3.5.(c.) is not adopted.

(ii) Exceptions to adopting the Ozone Depleting Substances Compliance Offset Protocol, October 20, 2011, by reference:

(A) Every use of the word "Regulation" in the Ozone Depleting Substances Compliance Offset Protocol, October 20, 2011, is amended to refer to chapter 173-446 WAC.

(B) Every reference to ARB is amended to ecology.

(C) Every reference to section 95975 of the regulation is amended to WAC 173-446-520.

(D) Every reference to section 95976 of the regulation is amended to WAC 173-446-525.

(E) Section 1. Paragraph 4 is not adopted.

(F) Section 3.1 is not adopted and is replaced with: "If any portion of the offset project is located on land over which the state of Washington does not have jurisdiction, the offset project operator must demonstrate that the landowner(s) consent(s) to regulation pursuant to WAC 173-446-520 (3)(d) or has entered into an agreement with ecology pursuant to WAC 173-446-520 (3)(e)."

(d) The California Air Resources Board, Compliance Offset Protocol Urban Forest Projects October 20, 2011, is adopted. All new offset projects with a commencement date after September 30, 2022, must use the most recent version of the adopted protocol. Exceptions are listed in this subsection:

Exceptions to adopting the California Air Resources Board, Compliance Offset Protocol Urban Forest Projects, October 20, 2011:

(A) Every use of the word "regulation" in the Urban Forest Projects Compliance Offset Protocol, October 20, 2011, is amended to refer to chapter 173-446 WAC.

(B) Every reference to ARB is amended to ecology.

(C) Every reference to section 95975 of the regulation is amended to WAC 173-446-520.

(D) Section 1. Paragraph 5 is not adopted.

(E) Section 3.1 is not adopted and is replaced with: "If any portion of the offset project is located on land over which the state of Washington does not have jurisdiction, the offset project operator must demonstrate that the landowner(s) consent(s) to regulation pursuant to WAC 173-446-520 (3)(d) or has entered into an agreement with ecology pursuant to WAC 173-446-520 (3)(e)."

[Statutory Authority: RCW 70A.65.220. WSR 22-20-056 (Order 21-06), § 173-446-505, filed 9/29/22, effective 10/30/22.]