



CFI Methodology: Destruction of Methane from Dairy Manure

The Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI) allows farmers and other land managers to earn carbon credits by storing carbon or reducing greenhouse gas emissions on the land. Participants can generate carbon credits by setting up a project under an approved CFI methodology, which sets out the rules for the activity.

This fact sheet outlines the methodology for the *Destruction of methane generated from dairy manure in covered anaerobic ponds*.

Who could benefit from this methodology?

Dairy farmers across Australia can use this methodology to generate carbon credits by installing covers and gas capture and combustion equipment on existing manure ponds or on new ponds.

Gas captured from this process can be used to generate electricity on site, or it can be burned off via a flare to reduce methane emissions.

The benefits of generating electricity from a covered dairy pond are substantial and include reduced electricity costs and the ability to sell any excess electricity to the grid.

How does it work?

The methodology involves three main steps:

1. Covering ponds to prevent the release of methane
2. Collecting the emitted methane
3. Combusting the methane component of the biogas to convert it to carbon dioxide

Specific Requirements

Eligibility

For a project to be eligible under this methodology, the following requirements must be met:

- Ponds used in the project must comply with the standards for construction, operation and maintenance of ponds set out in the [Effluent and Manure Management Database for the Australian Dairy Industry](#), available online at www.dairyingfortomorrow.com.
- The section of the pond where the dairy effluent is being actively converted into biogas (active pond volume) must be maintained at a minimum of 50 grams of volatile solids per cubic metre. Volatile solids represent the organic matter content which could potentially be converted to biogas – for a full definition, refer to the methodology determination.

- Only effluent from the management of dairy cows within the project area may be deposited in the ponds.
- Flaring systems used in the project must include a system that monitors performance and records periods when the flare is not operating or performing with partial efficiency.

These requirements are in addition to broader eligibility criteria, such as the requirement for the project to be carried out in Australia; and the project proponent having the legal right to conduct the project.

Monitoring, Reporting and Auditing

Project owners can choose between three different methods for calculating volatile solids. The methodology notes the specific record-keeping requirements for each method, for example, cow numbers and classes, the time cows spend in areas where effluent is collected for transfer to project ponds etc.

Record keeping is important and will be used to assess the abatement that has been achieved by the project and demonstrate that it has been implemented and monitored properly.

Projects must be audited by a registered CFI auditor. A list of registered auditors is available from the [Clean Energy Regulator website](#).

Further Information

This Methodology Determination is available on ComLaw at www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2012L02571.

Project applications to use this Methodology Determination may be made to the Clean Energy Regulator at www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au.

To find out about other opportunities under the Carbon Farming Initiative, visit www.climatechange.gov.au/cfi.

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