



Soil Organic Carbon Projects

Activities and eligibility requirements

To be eligible under the *Estimation of soil organic carbon sequestration using measurement and models method*, projects must introduce **one** or more of the following activities:

- applying nutrients to the land in the form of a synthetic or non-synthetic fertiliser (from eligible sources) to address a material deficiency.
 - for example, applying compost or manure.
- applying lime to remediate acid soils.
- applying gypsum to remediate sodic or magnesian soils.
- undertaking new irrigation.
 - this involves applying new or additional irrigation obtained through improving the efficiency of on-farm infrastructure and/or management practices within your project area.
- re-establishing or rejuvenating a pasture by seeding or pasture cropping.
- re-establishing, and permanently maintaining, a pasture where there was previously no or limited pasture, such as on cropland or bare fallow.
- altering the stocking rate, duration or intensity of grazing to promote soil vegetation cover and/or improve soil health.
- retaining stubble after a crop is harvested.
- converting from intensive tillage practices to reduced or no tillage practices.
- modifying landscape or landform features to remediate land.
 - for example, practices implemented for erosion control, surface water management, drainage/flood control, or alleviating soil compaction. Practices may include controlled traffic farming, deep ripping, water ponding or other means.
- using mechanical means to add or redistribute soil through the soil profile.
 - for example, clay delving or clay spreading.
- using legume species in cropping or pasture systems.
- using cover crops to promote soil vegetation cover and/or improve soil health.

If you are already doing one or more of these eligible activities, you do not need to stop doing these. You just need to add one new or materially different activity from the list, in addition to what you are already doing.

Projects must include 'eligible land' has been used for pasture, cropping (including perennial woody horticulture), bare fallow, or any combination of these for the previous 5 years.

A land management strategy must be prepared or reviewed by an independent person—advising on what management activities are best suited to the site, including information on risks, monitoring, and improvements.

Undertaking one or more eligible management activities under this determination may not result in soil carbon increases and crediting is dependent on increasing the baseline level of soil carbon.

Soil sampling

A baseline sampling round must be undertaken to measure soil carbon stocks in carbon estimation areas in the first reporting period for new projects, or within 18 months of land being added to an existing project area.

- The measurement-only approaches require that a sampling round be conducted in every reporting period.
- The hybrid approach requires that for the duration of the crediting period of the project sampling rounds occur every 10 years and estimation events occur every 5 years.

An independent person must extract soil cores and measure soil carbon using laboratory measurements or laboratory calibrated in-field sensors. A consistent soil carbon estimation technology (for example, combustion or sensors) must be used within each carbon estimation area and each sampling round.

The 2021 method allows project proponents to transition from a measurement-only approach to a model-only or model-assisted approach during their crediting period. However, project proponents cannot transfer from a model-only or model-assisted approach to a measurement-only approach.

Each carbon estimation area must be divided into at least three strata (subdivisions), and at least three soil cores must be taken from each strata.

For more information

This information is taken from the Climate Energy Regulator's guide 'Understanding your soil carbon project'. [Visit their website](#) for more information or the full version of this document.

If you have further questions, contact us at carbonfarming@dpid.wa.gov.au or visit our website: <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/CF-LRP/Resources>

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