CLIMATE FORWARD

A program of the CLIMATE ACTION RESERVE

Dairy Digester

Version 1.0 Forecast Methodology Summary

Overview

Accounts for greenhouse gas emission reductions due to installation, or expansion, and operation of a biogas control system (BCS) that captures and destroys methane gas from anaerobic manure treatment and/or storage facilities at dairy operations.

- Captured biogas will be destroyed onsite, transported for offsite use or used to power vehicles
- Centralized digesters that integrate waste from more than one dairy do not meet the project definition, but an operation that maintains offsite housing for animal stock and transports manure to the BCS is eligible. Third-party facilities that maintain support animal stock or facilities contracted to contribute manure to the BCS do not meet the project definition

Project Requirements

Location: United States and its territories, or on U.S. tribal lands.

Start Date and Crediting Period: The start date is defined as the date on which the project's BCS becomes operational. A BCS is considered operational on the date that the system begins producing and destroying methane gas after completion of an initial start-up period. Project proponents are eligible to register FMUs for a fifteen-year crediting period.

Additionality:

- Performance standard test: Projects use a technology-specific threshold. By installing or expanding a BCS, the project proponent passes the performance standard test
- Legal requirement test: No federal, state or local laws, statutes, rules, regulations or ordinances, court orders or other legally binding mandates require the project activity
- Uncontrolled anaerobic baseline: The BCS must digest manure that would primarily be treated in an anaerobic system in the absence of the project for the project to be eligible to register FMUs. Eligible baseline conditions include:
  - Existing dairy facilities
  - New dairy facilities (greenfield projects)
  - Expansion of existing mitigation projects (expansion projects)

Environmental and Social Safeguards:

- Potential impacts: Project proponents will confirm that no negative environmental and social impacts are expected and describe measures taken to avoid any such potential negative impacts
- Co-benefits: Project proponents are encouraged to describe positive impacts on environmental and social issues, such as air quality, water supply, recreation, employment and environmental justice

Regulatory Compliance: Projects must be in compliance with all applicable laws directly related to project activities and project proponents must assess risks for future non-compliance, indicating how such risks will be mitigated.

Project Resilience Measures: Project proponents must implement measures for every project to reduce the risk that a given project would fail to produce the estimated emission reductions. Specific mitigation measures must be implemented at the time of project implementation to address a range of specific risks: financial risks, design and operating risks, and the risk of dairy closure.

Project Implementation: A Project Implementation Report must be completed prior to project confirmation and issuance of FMUs. The report will cover all aspects of implementation and reporting in the methodology and must specify how all requisite data has been collected and recorded.

Confirmation Schedule: Confirmation with a site visit must occur at least once during the crediting period. Projects have no ongoing monitoring, reporting and confirmation obligations under Climate Forward.

Important Note: This is a summary of the forecast methodology. Please read the full forecast methodology for a complete description of project requirements.