



**Verified Carbon
Standard**
A VERRA STANDARD



VCS & W+ PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Background

This guidance should be used by project proponents applying both the VCS Program and the W+ Program for their project. Project proponents must follow the requirements of each program, therefore the rules and requirement documents of each program should be followed and considered the primary source of project requirements. This document is designed to provide additional guidance on how to register and verify a project under both programs simultaneously. It is supplemental to the VCS Program document, *Registration and Issuance Process* and the W+ Program document, *W+ Program Guide*.

There are no additional fees associated with the joint registration or verification process. Both programs will continue to invoice the same fees associated with the registration, verification and issuance processes as set out in the *VCS Program Fee Schedule* and the *W+ Program Fee Schedule*.

For the purposes of projects applying both the VCS and W+ Programs the VCS terms for the project documents will be used. Therefore, the VCS term 'project description' will be used in place of the W+ term 'project design document'. Likewise, the VCS term 'monitoring report' will be used in place of the W+ term 'monitoring evaluation report'.

Joint Registration

The following guidance applies to project proponents that have not yet registered their prospective project with either program and will be applying to both simultaneously. If the project is already registered to one program but not the other, see *Registration to a Second Program*, below. Please note that a project proponent's prior registration of a project to one or both standards has no bearing on the registration of a new project.

The registration process has three main steps; pipeline listing, validation audit, and registration request. Project proponents first submit a draft project description to be listed on the VCS project pipeline for public comment. Projects, as described in the draft project description, then undergo a validation audit by an approved VVB and the W+ TEG. Upon completing a successful validation audit, project proponents request registration with both programs.

Step 1- Pipeline listing:

- 1) The project proponent will use the *VCS & W+ Project Description Template* to draft the project description for listing on the VCS project pipeline and W+ website. The VCS Program requirements for the pipeline listing process are detailed in Sections 3.1.1 through 3.1.7 of the *Registration and Issuance Process v4.0*. Project proponents that wish to register their project under both the VCS and W+ Programs may not request to list on the VCS pipeline as *under development*, and must request to list as *under validation*, therefore, Section 3.1.3 of the *Registration and Issuance Process v4.0* is not applicable. Section 3.1.4 of the *Registration and Issuance Process v4.0* must be followed to list the project as *under validation*. The project proponent will develop then submit the draft project description to Verra through their Verra registry account.
- 2) Verra will notify the W+ Coordinator of the project proponent's intent to register the project to both programs and will provide the W+ Coordinator with all submitted project documents. Verra will perform a completeness check on the VCS pipeline documents, as per Section 3.1.8 through 3.1.9 of the *Registration and Issuance Process v4.0*.
- 3) The W+ requirement for the listing process is to complete all W+ sections of the *VCS & W+ Project Description Template*. The W+ Coordinator will perform a completeness check on the W+ sections of the project description.
- 4) Upon successful completion of the VCS and W+ completeness checks the project is listed on the W+ website with a link to the Verra Registry, the draft project description is posted on the Verra Registry and the project is listed as *under validation*, as per Section 3.1.10 through 3.1.14 of the *Registration and Issuance Process v4.0*.

Step 2 - Validation audit:

- 1) Once the project is listed on the VCS project pipeline and draft documents are posted for the 30-day public comment period, the VVB may begin the validation audit, recording the results of the audit in the *VCS Validation Report Template*.
- 2) Once the VCS public comment period begins, the project may submit the project description to the W+ Coordinator for review by a gender expert from the W+ Technical Expert Group (TEG).
- 3) Where the VVB or TEG requests any changes during the VVB validation or TEG review, the project proponent must make the changes to the project description, updating the version number of the document. The project proponent will need to coordinate between the TEG and VVB so that any changes to the project description are reviewed and approved by both the VVB and TEG.

Step 3 - Registration request:

- 1) When the VVB has provided a positive validation conclusion and the TEG has approved the same version of the project description, the project proponent may submit the project description, validation report and all necessary accompanying documents (i.e., VCS representations and non-permanence risk reports, if necessary) to Verra to request VCS registration approval.

- 2) Verra will then conduct a completeness review, or accuracy review if necessary, as per Section 4.3 of the *Registration and Issuance Process v4.0*, to ensure the validation was conducted in accordance with VCS Program requirements. If findings are raised during the Verra review which require changes to the project description, the project must submit the updated project description to the TEG to approve of the changes. If the changes are approved by the TEG, the TEG will notify the project proponent and Verra that the current version is approved.

Registration to a Second Program

If the project is registered to the VCS Program or the W+ Program, but not both, the project may register with the second program independently. In such situations the project proponent will register the project with the second program, following the procedures and requirements of that program alone. Upon the successful completion of registration to the second program, the project proponent must notify both programs of their intent to be registered under both programs. Verra and the W+ Coordinator will ensure there are no discrepancies between the documentation, and if so the project's status will be updated on the Verra Registry and the W+ website to indicate registration to both programs.

Verification

Projects registered to both the VCS and W+ Programs may undergo a joint VCS and W+ verification when the monitoring periods for both programs start and end on the same date.

- 1) Project proponents will use the joint *VCS and W+ Monitoring Report Template* to draft the monitoring report. The project proponent must then submit the draft monitoring report to the W+ Coordinator for a completeness check; no submission to Verra is necessary.
- 2) The W+ Coordinator will then conduct a completeness check to ensure all W+ requirements are met. Once the W+ Coordinator has finished the completeness check, and notified the project proponent of such, the project proponent may then submit the draft version of the monitoring report to the VCS approved VVB and W+ accredited auditor, and undergo a verification audit.
- 3) The VVB and W+ accredited auditor will use the *VCS & W+ Verification Report Template* to document the verification. When the VVB and W+ auditor have provided a positive verification conclusion to the same version of the monitoring report the project proponent may submit the monitoring report, verification report, and all necessary accompanying documents (i.e., VCS representations, non-permanence risk reports, if necessary, and W+ certification statements), to Verra and the W+ Coordinator for VCS and W+ verification approval.
- 4) Verra and W+ will perform completeness reviews and Verra may choose to conduct an accuracy review of the monitoring and verification reports along with necessary accompanying documents, as per Section 4.3 of the *Registration and Issuance Process v4.0*. If issues are identified by Verra or the W+ Coordinator which require correction or clarification during the review of the verification documents, the project proponent and VVB must respond to the findings and submit updated documents to both Verra and the W+ Coordinator.

- 5) When Verra and the W+ Coordinator approve the same version of the verification documents the verification will be approved.
 - a. The project's VCS status will be changed back to *registered*, the verification documents will be posted to the Verra Registry, and the project will be able to issue VCUs from the monitoring period.
 - b. The W+ Coordinator updates the status of the project on the W+ website (as *Project Verified* with a link to the Verra Registry).

Issuance

Once the verification is complete, the project proponent may request issuance of VCUs tagged with a W+ label. All issuance requests are performed through the [Verra Registry System](#).