



**UCR CoU Program Approved Methodologies
&
New Methodologies Guidance Document**

**Ver 1.0
Date 01/2024**

UCR approved methodologies summary: All projects verified against an approved VCM methodology are accepted for UCR if projects conform to the current version of the UCR CoU Standard and the current version (or approved UCR deviations) of the applied methodology. Approved methodologies and guidance to developing the same are listed in this document.

1. OVERVIEW

Universal CO2 Emission And Offset Registry Pvt Ltd (Universal Carbon Registry or UCR) is a private limited company located in India and has launched a low cost, simple and robust voluntary carbon standard (UCR CoU Standard or UCR Standard) and an accompanying voluntary carbon registry platform (UCR platform or Registry) to enable a sustainable and defossilized world economy. The UCR operates in the voluntary or verified carbon market (VCM) space.

All projects entering the UCR ecosystem are subject to initial project validation to ensure compliance with the UCR CoU Standard, eligibility conditions, prevention of double issuance fraud and validation (including prior history conformance checks in regards to registration and issuance of carbon offsets within programs outside the UCR) prior to registration of the same.

Carbon dioxide and methane, being the most significant green-house-gas (GHG) contributors by volume, have a number of project types suited to various industries in the Global South. The UCR Standard deals with GHG-emission-reduction projects covering **only** these two greenhouse gases, as indicated below:

- (a) Carbon-dioxide (CO₂);
- (b) Methane (CH₄).

Project activities dealing (i.e. reducing, capturing, avoiding or replacing) with the following GHGs (and **related** approved methodologies) are **ineligible** at this time:

Nitrous oxide (N ₂ O)
Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HFC-23 • HFC-134a
Perfluorocarbons (PFCs)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CF₄ • C₂F₆
Sulfur hexafluoride (SF ₆)
Nitrogen trifluoride (NF ₃)

In order to have the highest credibility possible, the UCR Standard and its registry platform ensures quality by ensuring that all carbon credits (i.e. verified/voluntary carbon credits or carbon offset units or CoUs) are mined from green projects that meet the pre-approved **UCR Positive List**.

Methodologies approved by the UNFCCC's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) pertaining to the following **scopes** are eligible for use and adaptation to the UCR CoU Standard.

Energy industries (renewable - / non-renewable sources)	Energy distribution	Energy demand	Manufacturing industries	Chemical industries
Transport	Metal production	Waste handling and disposal	Agriculture	Construction

Project activities under the **Fugitive Emissions from Fuels (solid, oil and gas)** specific scope can use or adapt the following applicable methodologies **only** under the UCR Standard as below:

AM0023	AM0043	AM0064	AMS-III.W	AMS-III.BI
--------	--------	--------	-----------	------------

The CDM approved methodologies were selected by the UCR Standard for the following reasons:

- It was (and is) the first global carbon offset scheme operated by the United Nations allowing countries (but adopted by non-state actors via the VCM) to fund greenhouse gas emissions-reducing projects in other countries and claim the saved emissions as part of their own efforts to meet international emissions targets (or reduce a corporate or individuals carbon footprint via the VCM),
- Many stakeholders, auditors, project owners and consultants in the current VCM are well versed with these CDM methodologies (its updates and versions over two decades) and;
- These methodologies have been designed keeping in mind the prevailing conditions in the Global South and the flexibility to be adapted to the UCR Standard.

The UCR Standard also **does not include** project activities that involve vaulting and buffering of carbon stocks and other such project types.

2. Developing New Methodologies

The GHG emission reductions or avoidance from the proposed new methodology for the mitigation activity on UCR must be (at a minimum):

- within the approved UCR activity scopes
- permanent with **NO risk of reversal with no credits needed to be kept aside as a buffer in case of reversal.**
- robustly quantified and based on **conservative approaches**
- by default help towards the **transition of NetZero and defossilization**
- **above business as usual and not legally required** (or that non-enforcement of the legal requirements is widespread)
- **inclusive and adaptable** to allow the poorest rural project to apply the same parameters at par with the largest corporate project intending to use the said methodology.

The UCR-Approved Verifier is responsible for providing an objective assessment of the new proposed methodology with a fair degree of assurance. The assessment must be performed in conformance to UCR methodology requirements (this document) or its latest updated version.

The proposed new methodology validation must be conducted based on the criteria prescribed in this document, ISO 14064-2/8/ and requirements contained in ISO 14064-3/9/, employing a risk-based approach.

The proposed methodology must be proposed under the appropriate sectoral scope and must conform to the ISO 14064-2 requirements at the methodology level. The validation must be performed in accordance with the requirements of ISO 14604-3 using standard audit techniques including but not limited to document review, interviews and independent cross-checks by the UCR approved verifier or assessment team.

The new Methodology assessment must include a detailed review of applicability criteria, baseline approach, UCR designated additionality, project boundary emissions, leakage, monitoring data and parameters, quantification of net GHG emission reduction and/or removals, monitoring, data and parameters, and relationships to approved or pending methodologies.

The validation criterion must be to carry out the assessment of the adherence of proposed methodology at the principal level to the UCR Programme requirements (relevance, completeness, consistency, accuracy, transparency, and conservativeness).

3. New Methodology Development Guidance

- **Scope**

The scope of the UCR verifier for validating the proposed new Methodology is to:

- Conduct a validation assessment in accordance with own QMS that is based on the ISO 14065/10/ and ISO 14066/11/along with the guidance provided by the UCR Board to determine if the project meets all applicable UCR requirements, including those specified in the ISO 14060 family of standards, relevant methodologies, and tools, and processing the same with UCR Programme Requirements.
- Assess the accuracy, conservativeness, relevance, completeness, consistency, and transparency of the information provided by the methodology developer.
- Determine whether information provided by the methodology developer is reliable and credible.
- Present information in the form of validation report in a factual, neutral, coherent manner and referencing the sources and assumptions, other forms of validation mean employed.
- Report the findings and conclusions in an objective manner and conduct the validation in accordance with UCR requirements, and guidance.
- Adhere to the principles of independence, ethical conduct, fair presentation, and due professional care in assessment process.
- Apply consistent validation criteria in providing expert judgments to the requirements of applicable approved methodologies, tools, and also cross check the same; and
- Safeguard the confidentiality of all information obtained during new Methodology validation and verification.

The proposed new Methodology must establish criteria for monitoring by requiring project proponents to develop a monitoring plan to guide monitoring efforts.

The proposed new Methodology must apply a systematic, step-by-step approach to determine the baseline scenario. The proposed methodology must also provide a comparable “attribution” approach for baseline determination, as is the norm for acceptable quantification approaches by other registered methodologies in the VCM.

While identifying other technologies, project participants developing new Methodologies, may also use publicly available information, for example from government departments, industry associations, international associations on the market penetration of different technologies etc.

Proposed new Methodology shall describe the criteria and procedures for obtaining, recording, compiling, and analysing monitored data and parameters.

Proposed new Methodology shall establish procedures to quantify leakage where the potential for leakage is identified.

- **Non-conformities and corrective action requests**

If the UCR Verifier identifies issues that require further elaboration, research or expansion in order to determine whether the “Proposed” new Methodology meets UCR rules and requirements and can achieve credible GHG emission reductions or net anthropogenic GHG removals, the UCR Verifier shall ensure that these issues are accurately identified, formulated, discussed and concluded in the Validation Report.

The UCR Verifier shall raise a clarification request (CL) if information is lacking or insufficiently clear to determine whether the applicable UCR rules and requirements have been met. All CLs or corrective action requests (CARs) must be completed and closed by the project proponent prior to submission of the VR to the UCR Board.

The UCR Verifier shall not raise a forward action request (FAR) that relates to UCR rules and

requirements for registration of the proposed new Methodology.

Review of Submitted New Methodologies

If the validation report satisfies the review by UCR staff, the new Methodology will be uploaded on the UCR Registry for comments from stakeholders **for a minimum period of 30 days**. Any clarifications will be communicated by the UCR staff to the project proponent. Post review, the UCR Program Head shall notify the acceptance of the new Methodology to users of the UCR CoU standard.

Stakeholders are defined as project developers, verification bodies, trade associations and other market participants such as consultants, carbon brokers, carbon exchanges, carbon retailers and carbon credit buyers.

All relevant comments are to be addressed to info@ucarbonregistry.io.

Cost of Verification Services

The costs of new Methodology development is to be paid by the project proponent to the UCR Verifier directly as per the terms and conditions agreed upon between the counterparties. UCR and its staff are not party to such agreements between Verifier and Project Proponent.

The review and listing fees for new Methodologies **to be paid to the UCR Standard** will be communicated to the project proponent.