Emissions Reduction Fund Method: Animal Effluent Management

The Emissions Reduction Fund provides incentives for Australian businesses and land managers to take practical actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Participants earn carbon credits by undertaking activities using an approved method, which sets out the rules for the activity.

This fact sheet outlines the method for reducing methane emissions by changing animal effluent management practices.

**Who could benefit?**

This method allows piggery and dairy businesses across Australia to earn carbon credits by undertaking activities that reduce methane emissions from managing their animal effluent.

**How does it work?**

Effluent from intensive piggeries and dairies are significant sources of methane emissions when broken down under anaerobic conditions (in the absence of oxygen).

The method credits greenhouse gas abatement for both the destruction and avoidance of methane emissions that arise from effluent management at piggery and dairy facilities.

- **Emissions destruction** projects generate and capture biogas from animal effluent in an anaerobic digester and use a combustion device to destroy the methane. These projects provide opportunities to generate electricity and heat for use on-farm or supplied to the grid.

- **Emissions avoidance** projects reduce methane emissions by using solids separation devices to divert volatile solids away from uncovered anaerobic ponds. Solids are then stored in aerobic stockpiles or as compost, thus producing less methane. There is no opportunity to generate electricity from these projects.

Projects can also source external effluent and other waste material for use in emissions destruction activities. Abatement can be estimated from this material provided the material was destined for an anaerobic pond.

The method provides crediting periods of 7 years for projects that generate electricity and up to 12 years for projects that do not generate electricity.
Specific requirements

To be eligible to participate:

• Projects need to occur at piggery or dairy facilities.
• Projects must use animal effluent or waste material that would have ordinarily been treated in an anaerobic pond.
• Projects must meet additionality requirements—project activities must be new and not be required by law.
• Projects under existing animal manure management methods can elect to transfer to the Animal Effluent Management method.

Monitoring, reporting and auditing

Project records must be kept as they provide evidence that supports the estimated abatement amount. These records may be required by auditors and the Clean Energy Regulator.

Projects are required to submit a report to the Clean Energy Regulator at least once every two years to demonstrate method requirements are being met. This includes reporting on what effluent treatment approach has been used, all equipment and devices used to measure emissions and how carbon abatement has been estimated.

Projects must also be audited by a registered national greenhouse and energy reporting (NGER) auditor.

Further information

For information on submitting project applications, as well as on reporting and auditing, visit the Clean Energy Regulator’s website, [www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au](http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au) or contact [enquiries@cleanenergyregulator.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@cleanenergyregulator.gov.au)


Note: While the Commonwealth has made reasonable efforts to ensure the accuracy, correctness or completeness of the material, the Commonwealth does not guarantee, and accepts no liability whatsoever arising from or connected to, the accuracy, reliability, currency or completeness of this material.

Any references to the potential costs or benefits of undertaking an activity in accordance with a method are estimates only. This material is not a substitute for independent professional advice and entities should obtain professional advice suitable to their particular circumstances.