



PLASTIC STANDARD ASSESSMENT WORKING GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE

12 March 2020

Note - The Plastic Recovery and Recycling Project Accounting Program was renamed to be the Plastic Waste Reduction Program in July 2020. Terminology changes have been made throughout this document, but the document has not been updated in any other way since it was originally published on 12 March 2020.

1. Background

The [3R \(Reduce, Recover, Recycle\) Initiative](#)¹ is promoting a market-based approach to scale up recovery and recycling activities and increase accountability for plastic waste reduction efforts around the world. As part of this Initiative, Verra is developing a Plastic Waste Reduction Program (Plastic Program).

The Plastic Program aims to enable robust impact assessment of new or scaled-up plastic waste recovery and recycling projects. The Plastic Program has been under development since January 2019 and is anticipated to launch in early 2021. The terms of reference for the Plastic Waste Reduction Standard can be found on the [Verra website](#).

The Plastic Program will cover a diverse range of activities, which currently include the following: waste collection from the environment, development of new municipal infrastructure, waste picker recyclable material collection and development and/or scaling up of new recycling technologies.

¹ A collaboration led by NGOs Verra and BVRio, with steering committee members Conservation International, Danone, Lloyd's Register, McKinsey.org, Natural Capital Partners, Nestlé, South Pole, SYSTEMIQ, Tetra Pak and Veolia.

Projects developed under this Plastic Program will follow a rigorous assessment process in order to be certified. Verra seeks to establish a group of technical advisors to contribute to the development of this assessment process.

2. Objective

The Plastic Standard Assessment Working Group (PSAWG) will inform the development of assessment requirements for the Plastic Waste Reduction Standard (Plastic Standard).

3. Scope

The PSAWG will provide input on the proposed assessment (including auditor accreditation) requirements for the Plastic Standard. The PSAWG will provide guidance and advice to Verra, but will not have decision-making power.

4. Membership Composition

Participants in the PSAWG should meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Significant experience in environmental and/or social auditing, preferably at the project scale.
- Understanding of circularity concepts and supply chain sustainability standards and certification programs (e.g., GRI, AA1000, FSC, Rainforest Alliance, Fair Trade), including the role of auditors.
- Understanding of the on-the-ground realities of the activities covered under the Plastic Program.

5. Commitment

The work of the PSAWG will entail participation on calls, review of draft documents and submission of comments and/or proposed revisions to requirements.

Participants must be able to commit a limited amount of time to contribute to the PSAWG without remuneration over a three-month period between April and June 2020, with the possibility of extension.

Members must be able to commit to the following:

1. Participate in 60-90 minute conference calls (minimum three, maximum five) between April and June 2020.
2. Review and submit comments on proposed draft language of the Plastic Standard
3. Engage with Verra staff on an ad hoc basis to clarify specific assessment-related issues.

Total time commitment is estimated at approximately 20 hours. No in-person meetings are anticipated. Verra expects the group to comprise 4-6 individuals.

Verra aims to select working group members by 27 March 2020 and hold the first meeting in early April.

6. Operation

The PSAWG will be convened by Verra. Verra staff will be responsible for organizing input by the PSAWG, for facilitating communication and consultation with other stakeholders as needed and for advancing Plastic Standard development. The working language of the PSAWG will be English.

Interested parties are invited to send expressions of interest to Hannah Robinson, hrobinson@verra.org, by 25 March 2020.