



Standards for a  
Sustainable Future

# Plastic Recovery and Recycling Project Accounting Standard

Introduction to the first consultation

**Julianne Baroody & Sneha Balasubramanian**

26 March 2020

# Verra organizational overview

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- Non-profit organization founded in 2007
- Headquartered in Washington, DC; staff in US, Colombia, Peru and Chile



Verified Carbon  
Standard



Climate, Community  
& Biodiversity Standards



Sustainable Development  
Verified Impact Standard



California Offset  
Project Registry



**LANDSCALE**

- Key strengths
  - Project experience (>1600 projects registered; 25 project types in over 70 countries)
  - Convening diverse range of stakeholders, developing workable frameworks → drive finance to high-performing projects/policies/actions
  - Innovation

# Webinar overview

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- The 3R Initiative
- The Plastic Recovery and Recycling Project Accounting Program
- Document for consultation: *Plastic Recovery and Recycling Project Accounting Standard v0.1*
- Questions
- How to use Collaborase

# 3R (Reduce, Recover, Recycle) Initiative

## Objective

Catalyze corporate leadership to **reduce plastic waste through internal and supply chain actions** and by **supporting recovery and/or recycling projects** to mitigate plastic waste that a company cannot address directly

## Secretariat



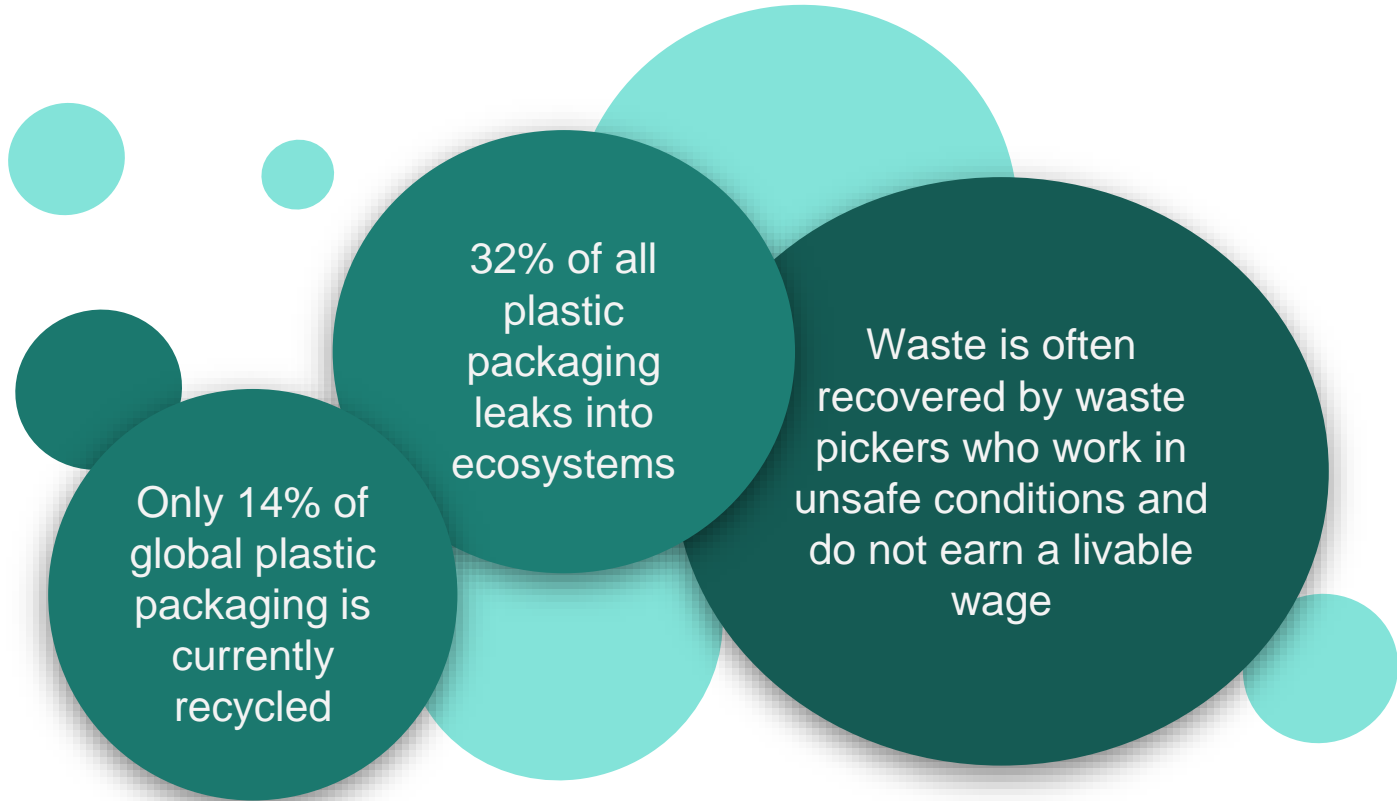
## Steering Committee



# The Plastic Accounting Program

# Justification

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# Objective & benefits

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Support and scale-up activities that increase plastic waste recycling and/or recovery from the environment

Enables robust impact assessment and comparable and transparent reporting

Addresses social risk

Facilitates project portfolio investment decision-making and prioritization

Drives increased availability of recycled plastic feedstocks

Supports corporate plastic use and waste commitments and claims

Catalyzes investment in high-impact projects

# Plastic Accounting Program value proposition

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Consistent, third-party assessed accounting of plastic waste recovery and/or recycling, with social and environmental safeguards

Generate plastic credits for activities that exceed baseline recovery or recycling rates

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## Use cases

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Achieve corporate commitments: “net zero waste”, “net zero plastic neutral”

Support extended producer responsibility schemes



# Activities

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Waste collection from environment, incl. ocean cleanup and community-based projects



Development of new material recovery infrastructure



Waste picker recyclable material recovery



Development of new recycling processes and technologies



New activity types driven by market opportunities

# The Plastic Accounting Program

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# Governance

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## Plastic Standard Development Committee (PSDC)

Guide development, pre-approve v1.0 of the Plastic Standard

## Plastic Standard Technical Advisors

Support specific elements of standard development on an ad hoc basis

## Verra Board

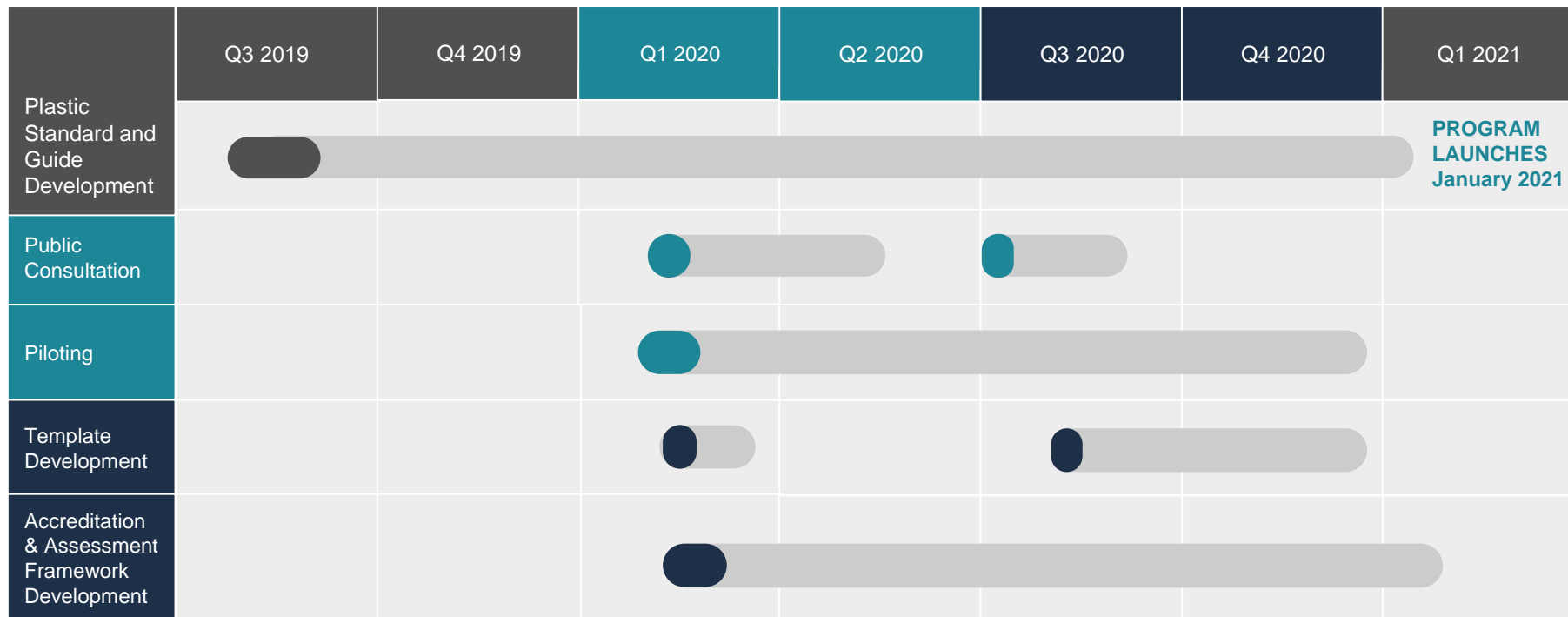
Two Board members on the PSDC; approve v1.0 of Plastic Standard

# Plastic Standard Development Committee members

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- Daniela Albuquerque, **BVRio**
- Shannon Bouton, **McKinsey.org**
- Patrick Burgi, **South Pole**
- Jim Cannon, **Verra Board**
- Lindsay Christianson, **Plastic Bank**
- Joi Danielson, **SYSTEMIQ**
- Rachel Goldstein, **Mars**
- Alix Grabowski, **WWF**
- Jennifer Howard, **Conservation International**
- Richard Helling, **Dow**
- Mark Kenber, **Verra Board**
- Vivien Luk, **WORK**
- Christie Pollet Young, **SCS**
- Cesar Sanches, **ValGroup**
- Lakmini Senadheera, **Sustainable Future Group**
- Komal Sinha, **rePurpose**
- Kendall Starkman, **Lonely Whale**

# Timeline



# The Plastic Standard

- **Scope**
  - Material: seven types of plastic, composite materials containing any of the seven types of plastic
  - Approved project activities
- **Project design**
  - Single or multiple activities, multiple instances of project activities, or grouped projects
- **Ownership**
  - Demonstrated by legal right to control and operate project activities

- **Start date**
  - Date on which the project began recovering or recycling plastic waste
- **Project crediting period**
  - Time period for which plastic waste recovered or recycled by the project is eligible for issuance as plastic units
  - Renewed periodically
- **Baseline scenario**
  - Plastic waste management activities that would most likely occur in the absence of the project activity
  - Could be historic or projected



- **Additionality**
  - Project activities must result in recovered or recycled plastic waste in excess of what would be achieved under a 'business-as-usual' scenario
- **Safeguards**
  - Environmental and social requirements for 'doing no harm'
  - Stakeholder engagement throughout the life of the project
  - Public comment periods prior to each assessment
- **Program definitions**
  - Appendix 1 of the document

# Questions?

Public consultation closes 26 April

Sneha Balasubramanian, [sbalasubramanian@verra.org](mailto:sbalasubramanian@verra.org)

Julianne Barody, [jbarody@verra.org](mailto:jbarody@verra.org)

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# Public consultation via Collaborase

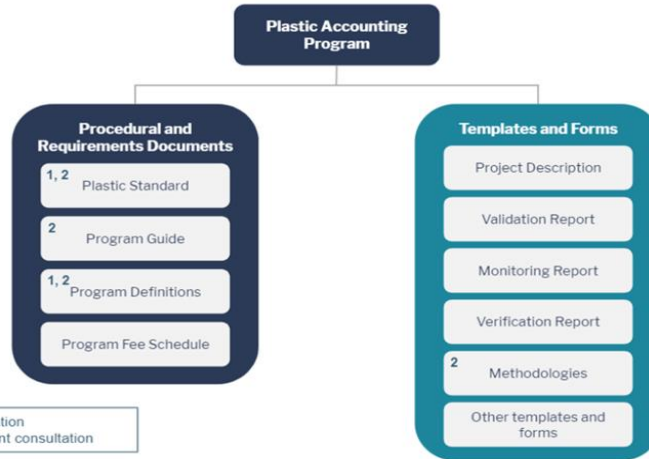
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Collaborase is an online software that supports an unlimited number of reviewers and allows reviewers to easily provide comments and navigate documents

[http://bit.ly/pc\\_plasticstandard](http://bit.ly/pc_plasticstandard)

# Registering to view the document

[Log in](#)



1: Part of 1st consultation  
2: Part of a subsequent consultation

If you have any questions regarding the *Plastic Standard* or its development process, please visit the [Verra website](#) or send an email to [SBalasubramanian@verra.org](mailto:SBalasubramanian@verra.org).

Enter your email address \*

Submit



# Your view in Collaborase

Dashboard My Products Plastic Rec... Sneha

## Plastic Recovery and Recycling Project Accounting Standard

Content Comments Resources Activities Manage Public Page

Note to Reviewers
1 Introduction
2 Plastic Accounting Program Specific Issu
3 Project Requirements
4 Assessment Requirements
5 Appendix 1 Program Definitions
6 Appendix 2 Acknowledgements

### Note to Reviewers

Updated 3 days ago by Sneha Balasubramanian

Edit History Comments 1

Welcome to the *Plastic Standard* - thank you for taking the time to review the Standard.

We invite you to provide all and any feedback you have on the Standard. Some questions you may bear in mind while reading the Standard include:

- Do you have any general feedback on the Standard?
- Do you think the Standard will help meet the needs of relevant stakeholder groups (e.g., corporates looking to use the Standard for project accounting or to purchase credits, potential recovery or recycling project developers)?
- Are the requirements of the Standard straightforward and easy to interpret? Are there requirements missing or some that might be too burdensome on projects?

### 1 Introduction

Updated 3 days ago by Sneha Balasubramanian

Edit History Comments 0

The *Plastic Recovery and Recycling Project Accounting Standard (Plastic Standard)* provides a global standard for plastic waste recovery

# How to comment in Collaborase

(1 of 3)

The screenshot shows the Collaborase user interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Dashboard' and 'My Products' on the left, and 'Plastic Rec...' and 'Sneha' on the right. A sidebar on the left contains a 'Note to Reviewers' section with a list of items: '1 Introduction', '2 Plastic Accounting Program Specific Issues', '3 Project Requirements', '4 Assessment Requirements', '5 Appendix 1 Program Definitions', and '6 Appendix 2 Acknowledgements'. The main content area displays the document '1 Introduction', updated 3 days ago by Sneha Rajeshwaram. Below the title are three buttons: 'Edit', 'History', and 'Comments 0', with the 'Comments' button highlighted by a red box. The document text discusses the 'Plastic Standard' and its role in plastic waste recovery and recycling projects. A 'Feedback' button is visible on the right side of the document content.

Dashboard My Products Plastic Rec... Sneha

Note to Reviewers

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Plastic Accounting Program Specific Issues
- 3 Project Requirements
- 4 Assessment Requirements
- 5 Appendix 1 Program Definitions
- 6 Appendix 2 Acknowledgements

## 1 Introduction

Updated 3 days ago by Sneha Rajeshwaram

Edit History Comments 0

The *Plastic Recovery and Recycling Project Accounting Standard (Plastic Standard)* provides a global standard for plastic waste recovery and recycling projects. The *Plastic Standard* is operationalized by the Plastic Recovery and Recycling Project Accounting Program (Plastic Accounting Program) to enable the validation of plastic recovery and recycling projects, and the verification of recovered and/or recycled plastic waste. The three principal documents of the program are the *Plastic Recovery and Recycling Project Accounting Program Guide (Plastic Accounting Program Guide)* (to be developed), the *Plastic Standard* and the *Plastic Recovery and Recycling Project Accounting Methodology Requirements (Plastic Accounting Methodology Requirements)* (to be developed). The *Plastic Accounting Program Guide* describes the rules and requirements governing the Plastic Accounting Program and further describes the constituent parts of the program such as the project registration process, the Verra registry system, the methodology approval process and the accreditation requirements for validation/verification bodies. The *Plastic Standard* provides the requirements for developing projects, as well as the requirements for the validation, monitoring and verification of projects that recover and/or recycle plastic waste. The *Plastic Accounting Methodology Requirements* document provides the rules and requirements for developing new plastic recovery and recycling methodologies.

The *Plastic Standard* can also be used by plastic waste recovery and/or recycling projects that intend only on accounting for the results of their recovery and/or recycling activities, and are not interested in issuing plastic recovery units or plastic recycling units (plastic units). Projects using the *Plastic Standard* solely for accounting purposes are not eligible to issue plastic units. Therefore, requirements pertaining to the issuance of plastic units and eligibility requirements for crediting are not applicable to such projects and are noted as such.

The *Plastic Standard* has been developed with the support of the 3R Initiative (3RI) (see Appendix 2 for the full list of acknowledgements).

*Note to readers - All documents cited as "to be developed" are subsequently referred to throughout this draft as documents that are already developed to avoid edits to language in future drafts. The documents are currently under development and will be part of the Plastic Accounting Program launch in 2021.*

Feedback

# How to comment in Collaborase

(2 of 3)

The screenshot displays the Collaborase user interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Dashboard' and 'My Products' menus, and a user profile for 'Sneha'. On the left, a sidebar menu titled 'Note to Reviewers' lists sections 1 through 6. The main content area shows a document titled '1 Introduction', updated 3 days ago by Sneha Balasubramanian. Below the title are buttons for 'Edit', 'History', and 'Comments' (with a '0' count). A 'Comments' section below shows '0 Open', '0 Closed', and sorting options 'Both' and 'Newest'. A 'New comment' button is highlighted with a red box. To the right of this button is a 'Feedback' button. The text of the document is visible below, starting with 'The Plastic Recovery and Recycling Project Accounting Standard (Plastic Standard) provides a global standard for plastic waste recovery and recycling projects.'



# How to comment in Collaborase

(3 of 3)

## 3.6 Project Crediting Period

Updated 3 days ago by Sneha Balasubramanian

Edit History Comments 0

### Comments

New comment

0 Open 0 Closed Both Newest

Refresh Close

No Comments Yet

### Add a comment

Tags:

Technical  
Editorial

Notify Me  Anonymous

Visibility:  Authors  Authors and Reviewers

Issue\* - brief description of a problem:

Why are there two crediting period options?

Proposal - suggested change or solution to the problem:

Rich text editor toolbar with icons for undo, redo, link, unlink, bold, italic, strikethrough, bulleted list, numbered list, and image.

Don't offer the option of a ten year fixed crediting period option. Projects will prefer to use a crediting period of seven years, twice renewable.

POWERED BY TINYMCE

Highlight text in Section as Reference for your Comment

Get Selection

Publish

Cancel

# How to view comments in Collaborase

## 2.1 Scope of Plastic Accounting Program

Updated 3 days ago by Sheha Balasubramanian

[Edit](#) [History](#) [Comments 1](#)

### Comments

New comment

1 Open 0 Closed Both Newest

Refresh Close



7 type of plastics is no longer useful - we need more polymers and granularity in our codes

#2

Reviewer Comment opened by Aly Khalifa 1 day ago on version 6

Report Like Reply

#### 2.1.1 The scope of the Plastic Accounting Program includes:

1. The seven types of plastic<sup>2</sup> : Polyethylene Terephthalate (PETE or PET), High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE), Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC), Low-Density Polyethylene (LDPE), Polypropylene (PP), Polystyrene or Styrofoam (PS) and Other Plastics (O).
2. Composite materials containing the plastic types listed above.
3. Project activities supported by a methodology approved under the Plastic Accounting Program through the methodology approval process.

The scope of the Plastic Accounting Program does not currently include project activities that undertake the reduction or reuse of plastic waste. The program may be expanded to include the reduction and/or reuse of plastic waste in the future. Plastic waste sorting can be considered as part of a recovery or a recycling project depending on its position in the value chain, and plastic units shall be issued accordingly.

# How to reply to comments

## Answers to questions #3



- 1) The standards appear to straightforward and adaptable within our recycling network. A simplistic overview of all standards in the form of a "check-box" table might help clarification.
- 2) Yes, to the best of our current knowledge.
- 3) See 1, a condensed overview would help clarification.

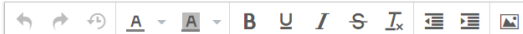


Your reply

Tags:

Technical  
Editorial

Notify Me  Anonymous



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Publish

Cancel











# How to vote on comments

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3 results



Section	Comment	Stakeholder	Country	Ref.
0	 Answers to questions <small>opened by Bosse Rothe about 8 hours ago on version 4</small>	Service Provider	Germany	#3
			 0  0  0	
2.1	 7 type of plastics is no longer useful - we need more polymers and granularity in our codes <small>opened by Aly Khalifa 1 day ago on version 6</small>	Service Provider	Australia	#2
			 0  0  0	

Sneha Balasubramanian, [sbalasubramanian@verra.org](mailto:sbalasubramanian@verra.org)

Julianne Baroody, [jbaroody@verra.org](mailto:jbaroody@verra.org)

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