



# PLASTIC PROGRAM ADVISORY GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE

## 1 Background

Verra's mission is to support climate action and sustainable development with standards and programs that credibly, transparently, and robustly assess environmental and social impacts and enable funding for sustaining and scaling up these benefits.

The Plastic Waste Reduction Program (Plastic Program), launched in 2021, is used for consistent accounting and crediting of a variety of plastic recovery and recycling activities. The Program allows vetted projects to turn their increased plastic waste collection and recycling into tradable Plastic Credits. More information on the Plastic Program can be found on the [Verra website](#).

Verra is establishing a Plastic Program Advisory Group (AG) to serve as a strategic and technical resource to the Plastic Program. The Plastic Program AG will help ensure that the Plastic Program can best meet the needs of the plastic credit market and is best positioned to enable the delivery of credible plastic waste reduction.

The purpose of this document is to define the objectives, composition, and scope of activities of the Plastic Program AG.

## 2 Objectives and Role

The objectives of the Plastic Program AG are to:

- Provide strategic guidance on the evolution of the Plastic Program;
- Provide recommendations for updates to the content of the Plastic Program rules;

- Provide insights into the needs of a range of Plastic Program stakeholders;
- Provide insights into similar and/or complementary initiatives;
- Advise on strategic issues that arise related to running of the Plastic Program; and
- Advise on existing and prospective market opportunities, such as those under extended producer responsibility schemes, voluntary corporate circularity commitments and plastic reduction commitments.

The Plastic Program AG will be a consultative body whose input and recommendations will be considered and used to guide thinking on developing and running the Plastic Program.

### 3 Membership Composition and Commitment

The Plastic Program AG intends to represent a balance of experience, expertise, and stakeholder interests to support the continued evolution of the Plastic Program. Participants in the Plastic Program AG should meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Possess strong knowledge of:
  - plastic waste management, including the collection and recycling of post-consumer plastics;
  - the packaging sector, including plastic materials/packaging, circularity and supply chains;
  - the role of governments in waste management;
  - third-party validation/verification processes; and/or
  - environmental standard setting and administration.
- Experience with the production and consumption of plastics, inclusive of raw material production, conversion, consumption and post-consumption disposal.
- Strong understanding of post-consumer plastic dynamics, including the supply and demand for recycled materials, corporate plastic reduction and neutrality goals, and state-regulated extended producer responsibility schemes.
- Be a user or other stakeholder of the Plastic Program.

Verra will endeavor to convene a Plastic Program AG that reflects a balance between various program stakeholders, including project proponents, corporate sustainability representatives, academics, civil society, intergovernmental organizations, standards organizations, auditors, and buyers and sellers of plastic credits. Members represent their organization’s perspectives, though Verra is open to members acting in their individual capacities, where necessary. Two of the members of the Plastic Program AG will come from the Verra Board of Directors.

Plastic Program AG members will commit a limited amount of time to contribute to, and support the development of, the Plastic Program. This will include participation in the Plastic Program AG via email and four to six (60-90 minute) conference calls each year. Members may be required to spend up to two hours preparing for conference calls, including, *inter alia*, reviewing proposed rule changes. No in-person meetings are expected, though side meetings at relevant conferences where members are participating may be organized.

Appointment of Plastic Program AG members shall occur annually. The terms of members shall be staggered. To initiate the staggering, initial members will be randomly assigned terms of two or three years to establish appropriate rotation of members. Thereafter, members shall serve a single three-year term with approximately half of the members appointed biennially, or thereafter, as the case may be. Such terms may be extended beyond three years in exceptional circumstances, as determined by Verra. Each person shall be a member of the Plastic Program AG until the meeting closest to the date on which their term expires and until their successor has been duly appointed. Former Plastic Program AG members may be reappointed where two years have passed since the expiry of their term. Appointment of Plastic Program AG members shall be at Verra's sole discretion.

## 4 Operation of the Advisory Group

The Plastic Program AG will be convened by Verra. Verra staff will be responsible for organizing and facilitating Plastic Program AG meetings, preparing and disseminating agendas and minutes, producing plans for ongoing Plastic Program development, developing any draft updates to Plastic Program rules and accompanying documents, organizing input and review by the Plastic Program AG, facilitating communication and consultation with other stakeholders and supporting the use of the Plastic Program. Verra may create smaller ad hoc groups for different aspects of Plastic Program development drawn from the Plastic Program AG and other stakeholders depending on needs, participant interest, availability and expertise.

Members of the Plastic Program AG will adhere to a confidentiality and conflict of interest policy.

Participation in the Plastic Program AG is on a voluntary (unpaid) basis. Limited stipends may be available where needed.

The working language of the Plastic Program AG will be English.

## 5 Termination

Plastic Program AG members or Verra may give notice of termination of member participation in the Plastic Program AG at any time. Verra reserves the right to terminate the Plastic Program AG at any time.

## 6 Application for Membership

Applicants are invited to apply for membership in the Plastic Program Advisory Group until 18 June 2021. An application form is available [here](#). Please send applications and a CV/resume to Plastic Program Lead, Maggie Lee, at [mlee@verra.org](mailto:mlee@verra.org).