



CDM Fact Sheet – Standardized Baselines



What is a standardized baseline?

All projects aiming to generate certified emission reductions under the CDM must follow similar steps to register a project. An early step requires project participants to set a baseline, which identifies the level of emissions that would have occurred without the CDM project. This is a vital step in proving the project is additional, i.e. emission reductions occurring due to the project would not have occurred otherwise. Identifying a baseline and proving additionality are the two most resource-intensive aspects of registering a CDM project, often requiring the expertise of hired consultants.

Standardized baselines (SBs) allow a baseline to be calculated only once for an entire class of project or industry sector, as opposed to being calculated separately for each CDM project. Once an SB is approved, project participants can apply this ready-made baseline to their own similar projects.

What are the benefits of standardized baselines?

- Reduced transaction costs for project participants
- Reduced time to market for CDM projects
- Increased regional distribution due to lower transaction costs and greater simplicity, benefiting underrepresented countries where resources are limited
- Enhanced transparency: SBs are fully vetted and are available for public comment

How can I submit a standardized baseline?

- Parties, project participants, international industry organizations and admitted observer organizations can submit SBs through the designated national authority (DNA) in their country
- All submissions are vetted by designated operational entities (DOEs) in each country, and then passed to the CDM Executive Board for assessment

Where can I find more information?

- For the list of global DNAs: <http://cdm.unfccc.int/DNA/index.html>
- For the list of global DOEs: <http://cdm.unfccc.int/DOE/index.html>
- For information about SBs, submission procedures and a list of proposed and approved SBs: http://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies/standard_base/index.html

For general questions about SBs, please e-mail CDM-info@unfccc.int.



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