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Guidelines for Local myclimate Projects

Guidelines for Local myclimate Projects 3.1

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History

Version 1.0	Released on 24 January 2023 by Martin Jenk
Version 1.1	Released on 30 January 2023 by Susan Gille
Version 1.2	Renamed “myclimate Guidelines for Domestic Projects”, 7 March 2023
Version 2.0	Introduction adapted to new myclimate claims, SDG monitoring update, various minor amendments (Martin Jenk 14 February 2024, revised and approved by Susan Gille on 19 March 2024)
Version 2.1	Introduction revised, adaptation to Kp. 2.4.1 Financial additionality
Version 3.0	Merger of “myc ER" and “myc VER", renamed “Guidelines for Local myclimate Projects"
Version 3.1	Addition of "Dealing with sink projects". Clearer division into certified projects and local myclimate projects (released 11 February 2026)

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Introduction

myclimate has many years of experience in identifying and developing international and local climate protection projects. myclimate has been supporting projects in Switzerland since 2007, in Germany since 2020 and in Austria and Liechtenstein since 2023. These projects bring quantifiable CO_2 emission reductions in the respective countries (domestic = DACHLI region) for the voluntary and mandatory CO_2 market. myclimate also helps companies to select, review and quantify customer-specific projects to reduce CO_2 both within and beyond their domestic value chain. We distinguish between two types of projects or programmes in the DACH region:

Domestic climate protection projects certified by myclimate "approved" standards with the myclimate label "CO_2 calculated – Carbon projects funded" for the voluntary and mandatory CO_2 market

In Switzerland, a comprehensive set of rules issued by the Federal Offices for the Environment (FOEN) and Energy (SFOE) has been in place since 2012, having been introduced as part of the CO_2 Act for the mandatory market. This approach, referred to below as the **FOEN/SFOE Guidelines**[1], has been used by myclimate since its introduction for projects in the mandatory Swiss CO_2 market and – where possible – has also been taken into account in the voluntary market.

Two regional standards have been established in Germany: the **MoorFutures Standard** and the **German Forest Climate Standard**. Both meet myclimate's quality requirements for domestic projects and are therefore **recognised as "approved" standards**. The same applies to regional projects certified according to the **Gold Standard**.

In Austria and Switzerland, there is also a long-established **methodology devised by Waldklimaschutz/SilvaConsult** for the development of forest climate protection projects. Although this is not a formal standard, myclimate regards it as an established approach that has been independently quality-assured. Accordingly, projects based on this methodology are also categorised as projects with an "approved" standard.

myclimate also considers the **Carbon Standards International** (CSI) to be "approved" for certified sink projects in the DACH region that specifically remove CO_2 from the atmosphere.

This results in the following **myclimate-approved standards** and approaches for projects in the DACHLI region for generating CO_2 certificates with the myclimate label "CO_2 calculated – Carbon projects funded":

- the Swiss FOEN/SFOE Guidelines
- the Gold Standard
- the MoorFutures Standard
- the German Forest Climate Standard
- the recognised SilvaConsult/ Verein Waldklimaschutz methodology for the development of forest climate protection projects
- Carbon Standards International (CSI)

[1] https://www.bafu.admin.ch/en/offsetting-in-switzerland

Local myclimate projects for the voluntary CO_2 market

For domestic climate protection projects that do not fall under one of these “approved’ standards for various reasons – for example because

- it is not possible to develop them under one of the above standards,
- the project size is too small,
- the project is of a type that is not (yet) permitted under existing standards,
- the project involves a new approach without available methodology,

there is the option of developing these according to the “**Guidelines for Local myclimate Projects**” described in this document.

Rather than being traditionally certified climate protection projects designed to offset the company’s own CO_2 emissions, local myclimate projects are **innovative projects for climate contributions and donations in the DACH region that are eligible for funding**. Instead of traditional CO_2 certificates, these projects generate transparently and robustly calculated climate impacts that are financed and supported by our customers as a climate contribution. Climate contributions can also be made independently of a company's own CO_2 emissions (not “1 ton per ton”, “money for ton” approach). To guarantee high quality, the “Guidelines for Local myclimate Projects’ have been developed based on the strict requirements of the Gold Standard and the FOEN/SFOE Guidelines.

All local myclimate projects must be verified by an external auditor in order to generate or report the climate impact in the **unit “1 myc VER = 1t CO_2"**. This does not apply to very small projects that extract less than 5,000 t CO_2 over the duration of the project, for which an internal myclimate audit is sufficient.

If customers also want the myclimate label “CO_2 calculated – Carbon projects funded” for local myclimate projects, they can secure this by purchasing additional GS VERs (international Gold Standard certificates) for each “myc VER’ (emission reduction achieved in local projects) (backup). This ensures that the label is only awarded to projects certified by “approved’ standards.

We will be happy to send you the full guidelines on request.