

# Built on GHG Protocol Review Service

Policy Document, updated May 2023

## About Built on GHG Protocol

Greenhouse Gas Protocol, co-convened by World Resources Institute (WRI) and World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), develops GHG emissions accounting standards, guidance, and tools that are applicable to multiple organizations and sectors. In some cases, other organizations develop supplemental resources that build on GHG Protocol Standards.

Built on GHG Protocol is a review service provided by GHG Protocol to demonstrate that externally produced resources, including sector guidance, calculation tools, and programs, are in conformance with the requirements set forth in the relevant GHG Protocol standard. Resources that are determined to be in conformance will be granted permission to use the Built on GHG Protocol logo.

A list of resources that bear the Built on GHG Protocol logo will be provided on the GHG Protocol website. This list will be reviewed on a regular basis, and any resources that have become outdated or revised (without additional review or knowledge of the GHG Protocol) will be removed.

## Built on GHG Protocol Eligibility Criteria

While the GHG Protocol secretariat continues to determine a long-term strategy and approach, in the short term we have decided to narrow the focus of the review service to better align our capacity with the growing demand for such reviews.

Applications will be selected for review based upon the following eligibility criteria:

- The application is for a sector guidance document (this does not include calculation tools, platforms, or software),
- The sector guidance is in conformance with existing GHG Protocol standards and guidance,
- The sector guidance is provided to users for free,

### DEFINITION OF RESOURCES

**Standards** provide a uniform set of methodologies for businesses, governments and organizations looking to establish a GHG accounting and reporting system. GHG Protocol Standards must be the basis for any guidance documents, calculation tools or programs applying for the Built on GHG Protocol review service.

**Sector guidance** provides more tailored information to help users of GHG Protocol standards implement a standard in a specific sector. Sector guidance can be created for any published GHG Protocol standard and can include information on methodological choices, calculations, and data sources or default data specific to the sector. This includes Product Rules, a specific type of guidance developed for use with the GHG Protocol Product Life Cycle Accounting and Reporting Standard.

**Calculation tools** help users of GHG Protocol standards implement a standard, for example, by providing equations and default emission factors. Calculation tools can be developed for one activity within a standard (e.g., one scope 3 category like business travel or employee commuting), one sector (e.g. cement), or a full GHG Protocol standard.

**Programs** are developed by governments, trade associations, or NGOs to help companies and other organizations implement GHG Protocol standards, set and track GHG reduction goals, and/or report emissions inventory data.

- The sector guidance is not directly associated with the sale of products or services other than those related to GHG accounting, reporting, target setting, management, and related activities.

Among the applications that are eligible for review, the GHG Protocol secretariat will prioritize review of applications that facilitate an accurate and complete implementation of a GHG Protocol standard, are of high technical and presentation quality, and fill a key gap not covered by existing standards and/or guidance.

## Built on GHG Protocol Process

The review process varies on a case-by-case basis. The length of time necessary to complete the review will depend on its length and complexity. Please note, this process is currently undergoing review as the GHG Protocol determines a long-term strategy. The following is an example of the Built on GHG Protocol application and approval process:

- Applicant submits their application via online form
- GHG Protocol determines if the resource is eligible for review and whether to proceed
- GHG Protocol contacts applicant via email to initiate process and share the estimated cost of review
- GHG Protocol and applicant discuss and agree to review process and associated fees
- GHG Protocol, or third-party service provider approved to review on behalf of GHG Protocol, begins the review.
- GHG Protocol presents the review results to the applicant and discusses any changes that need to occur
- Applicant makes the changes necessary
- In keeping with the GHG Protocol principle of open and inclusive stakeholder consultation, GHG Protocol may follow an initial review with a public comment period and/or consultation with external technical experts and stakeholders identified by the GHG Protocol
- After the comment period, applicant and GHG Protocol review the submissions to assess the scope of changes needed
- Applicant makes the changes necessary and resubmits to GHG Protocol for final approval
- GHG Protocol conducts final review and, if all changes are made, approves use of the Built on GHG Protocol logo

## Built on GHG Protocol Review Service Cost

Applicants for the Built on GHG Protocol review service will be asked to reimburse GHG Protocol for the cost of the review, the terms of which will be specified and agreed to after an initial determination of review needs. There are no royalty fees associated with using the Built on GHG Protocol logo for products.

The cost of the review service varies depending on the scope of each individual review process. Typically, GHG Protocol conducts an initial review of the first draft of the guidance is accepted. A subsequent review is conducted after the final draft is completed, and a final review is performed to ensure all recommended revisions are completed. The timeframe and cost for the review process depends on the size and complexity of the document and stakeholder review, and the time needed to address the requested revisions. For some resources, external technical experts may be consulted, which can also increase the review time and cost.

## Built on GHG Protocol Logo Terms of Use

Once the Built on GHG Protocol review has been completed, and the resource being evaluated is determined to be in conformance with the requirements set forth in the relevant GHG Protocol standard, then that resource may use the Built on GHG Protocol logo. Completion of the Built on GHG Protocol review, and permission to use the Built on GHG Protocol logo, does not constitute permission to use the GHG Protocol organizational logo.

The Built on GHG Protocol logo may not be used for any other purpose than in connection with the reviewed resource. Use of the Built on GHG Protocol logo for any unapproved purpose or in a way that is misleading to users can result in immediate removal of logo permission.

A list of products that bare the mark or review claim will be provided on the GHG Protocol website. This list will be reviewed on a regular basis, and any documents or tools that have become outdated or revised (without additional review or knowledge of the GHG Protocol) will be removed. Use of the logo is applicable only to the version of resource that was reviewed by the GHG Protocol. If updates or changes are made to the resource, an additional review by the GHG Protocol team is required before logo may be used. The GHG Protocol reserves the right to review the status of resources that have been granted the Built on GHG Protocol logo to determine whether use of logo is still appropriate and up-to-date, whether the resource should undergo review for conformance, or whether use of logo should be discontinued.

GHG Protocol standards and guidance will also be updated over time. When an underlying GHG Protocol standard or guidance is updated, the Built on GHG Protocol logo (granted based on the previous version of a GHG Protocol standard or guidance) may no longer be used. Applicants should reapply to assess conformance with the updated standard or guidance.

GHG Protocol reserves the right to request that a product be updated if relevant GHG Protocol standards and/or guidance are revised, or additional accounting rules are issued. If this request is ignored or denied, WRI and WBCSD reserve the right to remove the document or tool from the GHG Protocol webpage and revoke logo rights.

GHG Protocol reserves the right to take legal action against any party that uses the Built on GHG Protocol logo or the GHG Protocol organizational logo without permission. GHG Protocol actively monitors the use of its logo in the marketplace. Reports of logo abuse may be submitted online by emailing Sarah Huckins at [sarah.huckins@wri.org](mailto:sarah.huckins@wri.org).

## Other Forms of Partnership

If the Built on GHG Protocol review service is inappropriate for a given resource (e.g. if the resource does not meet eligibility requirements, if stakeholder feedback cannot be obtained, or other reasons), GHG Protocol may on a case-by-case basis conduct a separate review of the resource to evaluate consistency with a GHG Protocol standard but without enabling use of the Built on GHG Protocol logo. These resources may not use the Built on GHG Protocol logo or the GHG Protocol organizational logo.

In some cases, GHG Protocol may be approached by one or more organizations to work directly with them to develop sector guidance or calculation tools and GHG Protocol may elect to pursue joint development. Often documents and tools that are created through a joint development process end with a co-branded document or tool that is made freely available on the GHG Protocol's and partners' websites.

## Greenhouse Gas Protocol Mission and Vision

*Greenhouse Gas Protocol, co-convened by World Resources Institute (WRI) and World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), provides the foundation for comprehensive measurement and management strategies to reduce emissions and drive more efficient, resilient, and profitable businesses and organizations. Our vision is to empower the world to avoid and respond to climate change through the wide use of internationally accepted greenhouse gas standards and practices. Reducing GHG emission is crucial to limiting global mean temperature increases and avoiding unpredictable and dangerous damage to people and ecosystems due to climate change. All standards and tools developed by the GHG Protocol are done so through an inclusive multi-stakeholder process*



