

## **Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act Bulletin 028**

### **Under Review: B.C.'s Fuel Switch Protocol**

Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act (GGIRCA)

#### **Overview**

The Fuel Switch Offset Protocol (FSOP) was first published in 2018 and enables offset projects that reduce emissions through energy conservation, energy efficiency and switching to lower carbon fuels. This bulletin notifies offset project proponents and validation bodies that the FSOP is under review in accordance with the Offset Protocol Policy (OPP). Offset project proponents and validation bodies are recommended to postpone development or validation of new offset projects under the FSOP until this review is concluded.

#### **Background**

The Regulator monitors for changes in regulations and quantification best practices that relate to an approved protocol or that could apply to a proposed offset project to identify any risks or issues that may warrant a protocol review. The purpose of a protocol review is to assess whether it continues to be consistent with the intent of the Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act (GGIRCA) and if it continues to serve the shared interests of the offset program and project owners. The review will consider whether changes to the protocol are needed to ensure that an offset project based on it will produce real, quantifiable, verifiable, permanent, and additional emissions reductions and/or removals. A list of the factors that may cause the Regulator to review an approved protocol can be found on page 5 of B.C.'s [Offset Protocol Policy](#).

The Director under GGIRCA has determined that recent and proposed changes in regulations that support energy conservation, energy efficiency and switching to lower carbon fuels may impact the ability of FSOP to ensure that offset projects result in additional emission reductions beyond business as usual over a ten-year crediting period. Following the three-stage review outlined in the Offset Protocol Policy, the Director under GGIRCA will decide whether to amend and reissue or deactivate the FSOP. Those who would like to engage on the review process can contact the Emissions Mitigation Unit at [GHGRegulator@gov.bc.ca](mailto:GHGRegulator@gov.bc.ca).

## **Applicability**

Please note that a decision to amend or deactivate FSOP following a review would not apply to any previously accepted offset projects validated in accordance with the FSOP. Further information on the review and deactivation process for offset protocols can be found in the [Offset Protocol Policy](#). Please direct any concerns, comments, or questions to the Emissions Mitigation Unit at [GHGRegulator@gov.bc.ca](mailto:GHGRegulator@gov.bc.ca).