

Afforestation Grant Scheme

1. About the Afforestation Grant Scheme

The Afforestation Grant Scheme (AGS) is a new initiative first flagged in the Sustainable Land Management and Climate Change: Options for a Plan of Action discussion document released in December 2006.

The AGS offers an alternative to the proposed New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) as a way to encourage greater levels of greenhouse gas absorption by increasing the area of Kyoto-compliant new forest in New Zealand.

Another objective of the AGS is to establish this new Kyoto-compliant forest in areas where it will help reduce the likely impacts of climate change and generate other environmental benefits, for example, where it will reduce soil erosion, nutrient leaching and flood peaks.

2. Who can apply?

Individuals, business entities and local government may apply for the AGS grant within the (state region), provided they own the land, or have the right to use the land for forestry.

Your Regional Council will, as required, carry out an inspection to confirm that the land is eligible to receive a grant. For further information, please refer to the guidelines

3. What land is eligible for a grant?

Land eligible for a grant must be land that:

- was not forest land on 31 December 1989; or
- was forest land on 31 December 1989 but;
- was deforested between 1 January 1990 and 31 December 2007; or
- was deforested on or after 1 January 2008; and in respect of which any liability to surrender units arising to the Crown under the Kyoto Protocol have been satisfied.

4. What land is not eligible for a grant?

Significant Natural Areas (SNAs), Sites of Special Wildlife Interest (SSWIs) and Recommended Areas for Protection (RAPs) are not eligible for an afforestation grant, except for indigenous afforestation applications that will enhance the protected area.

The AGS will not be available on land that has entered into the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme, the Permanent Forest Sink Initiative or the East Coast Forestry Project (ECFP). East Coast District landowners may apply for an AGS grant on any additional non-ECFP target land that cannot be accommodated in an ECFP application (an objective in the ECFP is that 50% of the total grant area is to be target land as assessed at a regional level).

Land owned or administered by central government agencies is ineligible.

5. What is the minimum application size?

The minimum application size is 5 hectares. This area may consist of multiple areas of at least 1 hectare. Shelter belts or riparian strips less than 30 metres wide (canopy-edge to canopy-edge) are not eligible. However afforestation on both sides of a waterway can be assessed as one riparian strip with the width of the waterway excluded from the width measurement.

6. What are the closing dates for applications?

Closing date for applications	31 March and 31 October
Provisional approval dates	30 April and 30 November

7. Tax Treatment

Grant payments are treated as grants to businesses under section DF1 of the Income Tax Act 2004. The grant is made by the Government under a contract at an approved value and is not a reimbursement of costs.

The administrator will advise the IRD of all grant payments.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

All grants are made on a GST-exclusive basis. GST is added to the grant payment and must be accounted for in the usual way.

8. Who will own the Carbon Credits?

The Crown will retain ownership of the Kyoto carbon credits and liabilities associated with the grant forest.

Afforestation Grant Scheme

Office use only:

Region: Date Received: Client No: Grant No:

Applicant Details

Enter agents contact details if applicable

Name:	
Postal Address:	Location and access road:
Phone:	Mobile:
Fax:	Email:

Land Information

Legal description of property:	Landholding
	<input type="radio"/> Freehold
	<input type="radio"/> Leasehold
	<input type="radio"/> Forestry rights
	<input type="radio"/> Other - please state: <input type="text"/>

Please tick which fund you wish to apply for:

<input type="radio"/> High Sequestration	<input type="radio"/> Low Sequestration	<input type="radio"/> Parts of both
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Site Description

Soil Type:	Annual rainfall:	Altitude (average) metres above sea level:
Current vegetation (must not meet the forest definition - refer AGS Guidelines):		
Other relevant site description details, e.g. wind, frost, snow:		

Environmental Benefits

Is more than 50 percent of the land to be planted, identified in the New Zealand Land Resource Inventory as Class VIIe or worse; or has more than 50 percent of the land been identified by Regional Councils as requiring an effective forest cover?	YES	NO
Has the Regional Council identified that the proposed planting is desirable to improve water quality of lakes and/or rivers?	YES	NO
Is the land in a riparian strip?	YES	NO
Will the proposed planting greatly increase the number of indigenous plant species present, improve habitat for indigenous wildlife, increase the ecological complexity of the land use or add linkages/corridors between existing protected natural areas?	YES	NO
AGS points scored? (refer to page 8 of the guidelines)	<input type="text"/>	

Application details

Sequestration rate category
(please refer to the Guidelines)

<input type="radio"/> High <input type="radio"/> Low	Application amount	
	(\$ per hectare high sequestration)	<input type="text"/>
	(\$ per hectare low sequestration)	<input type="text"/>
	TOTAL	<input type="text"/>

Note: Eligibility criteria, other grant conditions and the procedure for ranking grants are described in the AGS Guidelines.

Site Plan (refer to page 4)

Please append an interim site plan (map, plan or aerial photo) with a map reference (easting/northing) to assist location showing the area to be planted and any areas of ineligible land.

Species and proposed management

This is the intended management plan showing the species to be planted and the intended management:

Planted forest				
Species	Area (ha)	Year (s) of planting	Planted stocking rate (stems per hectare)	Details of proposed forest management: (e.g. pest control, fencing, planting, thinning, pruning, fertiliser)

Assisted natural reversion			
Species/forest type	Area (ha)	Year (s) of operations	Details of proposed operations (supplementary planting, fencing, wild animal control etc.)

Declaration and use of information

I/we hereby declare that the above statements and particulars are correct and complete, and that the information supplied by me/us shall form the basis of an Afforestation Grant Agreement. I/we consent to information contained in this application being used to inform New Zealand's international reporting and accounting under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol (or equivalent international agreement).

Signed by applicant:	Date:
Status:	
<input type="radio"/> Registered landowner	<input type="radio"/> Forestry right holder
<input type="radio"/> Lessee Trustee	<input type="radio"/> Other authorised signatory (please specify) <input type="text"/>

For assistance in completing this application form please refer to contacts on page 4.

Site Plan (attach or draw here)

Blank area for drawing or attaching a site plan.

Forward completed form to:
Afforestation Grant Scheme
Environment Bay of Plenty
P O Box 364
WHAKATANE 3158

