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**Carbon Sequestration/Biodiversity Management Program**

Ontario Power Generation is committed to the planting of genetically appropriate native trees and shrubs in areas of strategic conservation value in southern Ontario. This program is one component of our greenhouse gas management action plan to address global climate change, both in terms of mitigation as a carbon offset and climate change adaptation, by enhancing the resiliency of ecosystems to withstand the effects of climate change. It is also linked to our efforts to conserve biodiversity by strategically focusing on efforts to protect and restore a system of habitat cores and corridors across southern Ontario.

**Geographical Focus:**

Southern Ontario, south and east of the Shield

**Selection Criteria:**

- Project must be in southern Ontario (south and east of the Canadian Shield) and use regionally and genetically appropriate native plant stock, matched to local site conditions;
- Project must be linked to a natural heritage plan, such as the Big Picture 2002, or a regional or local enhancement of the same, that addresses habitat conservation needs for species at risk, or species threatened by woodland habitat loss and fragmentation;
- Projects addressing key provincial or regional conservation priorities will be favoured over local scale priorities;
- Project must identify biodiversity conservation objectives and measures that can be tracked and measured;
- Project must assure permanence, that is, the protection of land base to ensure woodland maturation for both carbon sequestration and biodiversity conservation goals (i.e. through public land ownership, or private lands held in trust, or otherwise protected for conservation purposes);
- Project must also assure criteria of additionality (more carbon is being sequestered because of the project than would have occurred without it) and prevention of leakage (assurance that forest is not being cut elsewhere, to compensate for new forest created by the project);
- Project must have on-going management and monitoring to measure and audit carbon sequestered and to determine survivorship and success relative to biodiversity conservation goals. Formal reporting will occur over the monitoring cycle of years 1,2,3,5,10, 15 and 25 of the project life cycle.
- Project will measure carbon sequestered in both the tree and shrub biomass, underground root biomass and soil carbon associated with the system;
- Project will use an adaptive management framework to optimize probability of success (learn and adapt);
- Project should include opportunities for local stewardship involvement, “ownership” and education;
- Project will include opportunities for recognition and profile to OPG;
- Project results will be conveyed through annual status reports;
- Projects, which leverage OPG funding with the funding of other partners, will be favoured.

**Program Coordinator:**

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