

# Afforestation Grant Scheme

*This fact sheet provides a summary of the Afforestation Grant Scheme (AGS). Further information is available in the Afforestation Grant Scheme Guidelines available at [www.maf.govt.nz/sustainable-forestry](http://www.maf.govt.nz/sustainable-forestry).*

*The operating details of the AGS may be altered from time to time with approval from the Minister of Forestry.*

## WHAT IS IT?

The AGS is a grant for establishing new forests on land that was not forested on 31 December, 1989 – often referred to as “post-1989 forest”.

The purpose of the AGS is to encourage the planting of Kyoto Protocol-compliant forest as a way of absorbing greenhouse gases while also providing other environmental benefits such as reducing erosion, nutrient leaching and flood peak levels, and increasing biodiversity.

## WHO IS IT FOR?

The AGS offers an easier and lower-cost alternative to the Emissions Trading Scheme (Forestry) that is suitable for smaller forestry projects, and farm foresters. It is available for the establishment of both exotic and indigenous forest.



## HOW DOES IT WORK?

Landowners enter a 10-year agreement with MAF, or a participating regional council, to establish and maintain a grant forest. The landowner owns the new forest.

For the duration of the agreement:

- › The Government retains the carbon units generated by the forest under the Kyoto Protocol.
- › The landowner must take all reasonable steps to protect the forest from damage or destruction. Harvesting and clearfelling are not permitted.

The landowner can make a claim for payment once the grant-aided forest has been deemed to be successfully established. For planted forests, this would normally be at least six weeks after the tree releasing operation in the spring following planting.

## ELIGIBILITY

Projects must be at least five hectares in size and must involve proactive establishment of forest on non-forest land. Shelter belts or riparian strips with an average width of less than 30 metres are not eligible.

AGS grant forests are not eligible for concurrent participation in the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme, Permanent Forest Sink Initiative, or any other government-aided afforestation scheme.

## WHAT HAPPENS AFTERWARDS?

After the end of the agreement, the landowner is free to do what they wish with the forest. They can enter a carbon forestry scheme, and/or earn income from the timber.

If the forest is accepted into the Emissions Trading Scheme or the Permanent Forest Sink Initiative, the person(s) with the rights to the forest(s) takes ownership of the carbon credits and liabilities from the date of registration into either of these schemes, along with all harvesting and deforestation liabilities under these schemes.

## HOW IS THE GRANT ADMINISTERED?

There are two funding pools under the AGS.

### 1. PUBLIC POOL:

The first pool is available to the public via a public tender process administered by MAF. Tenders are evaluated on price and the co-benefits of the proposal for example: soil conservation and flood risk management, improved water quality, and improved biodiversity.

Applications for grants under the Public Tender Pool of the Afforestation Grant Scheme close on 30 April and 31 October each year.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Website: [www.maf.govt.nz/sustainable-forestry/ags](http://www.maf.govt.nz/sustainable-forestry/ags)
- Email: [sustainableforestry@maf.govt.nz](mailto:sustainableforestry@maf.govt.nz)
- Phone: **0800 CLIMATE (254 628)**

Or to speak to a MAF adviser, contact one of the Sustainable Programmes regional offices:

- Whangarei 09 430 7850
- Gisborne 06 986 8691
- Hastings 06 974 8815
- Rotorua 07 921 3400
- Wanganui 06 348 7312
- Nelson 03 543 9183
- Christchurch 03 943 3700
- Dunedin 03 951 4725

### 2. REGIONAL COUNCIL POOL:

The second funding pool is available through participating regional councils as grants that are targeted to areas that help them meet local sustainable land management objectives. Contact your regional council, or check their website, for further information on their schemes.

For information on the regional council grants, contact one of the following participating organisations:

#### Northland Regional Council

[www.nrc.govt.nz](http://www.nrc.govt.nz)  
09 438 4639

#### Auckland Regional Council

[www.arc.govt.nz](http://www.arc.govt.nz)  
09 366 2000

#### Environment Bay of Plenty

[www.envbop.govt.nz](http://www.envbop.govt.nz)  
0800 368 267

#### Gisborne District Council

[www.gdc.govt.nz](http://www.gdc.govt.nz)  
06 867 2049

#### Hawkes Bay Regional Council

[www.hbrc.govt.nz](http://www.hbrc.govt.nz)  
06 835 9200

#### Taranaki Regional Council

[www.trc.govt.nz](http://www.trc.govt.nz)  
06 765 7127

#### Environment Waikato

[www.ew.govt.nz](http://www.ew.govt.nz)  
0800 800 401

#### Horizons Regional Council

[www.horizons.govt.nz](http://www.horizons.govt.nz)  
06 952 2800

#### Wellington Regional Council

[www.gw.govt.nz](http://www.gw.govt.nz)  
0800 496 734

#### Environment Canterbury

[www.ecan.govt.nz](http://www.ecan.govt.nz)  
03 353 9007

