

Voluntary Carbon Market Glossary

- ACCU – Australian Carbon Credit Unit. 1 ACCU = 1t of CO₂e.
- ACR – American Carbon Registry.
- Additionality – confirmation that a project would not have been financially feasible without carbon credit revenues.
- Afforestation – planting of new plants/trees/forests on land that has not previously hosted forests.
- ARR – Afforestation, Reforestation and Revegetation.
- Article 6 – a Paris Agreement provision that allows countries to co-operate with each other to achieve their NDCs.
- Avoidance/Reduction – credits generated by projects that reduce GHG emissions by using nature- or tech-based methods.
- BECCS – Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage: a technology to capture and store CO₂ from industrial processes turning biomass into fuels or directly burning it to generate energy.
- Biochar – charcoal-like carbon-rich material produced by heating biomass in an oxygen-limited environment (pyrolysis).
- Blue Carbon – carbon captured by living organisms, such as mangroves, in coastal and marine areas.
- CA – Corresponding adjustment: a label to ensure offsets are not double-counted by two countries towards their own NDCs.
- CAR – Climate Action Reserve, a carbon registry.
- Carbon Insetting – financing of climate protection projects across a company's own value chain.
- CCB – Climate, Community, and Biodiversity standards certifying a project is tackling climate change, while supporting local communities and biodiversity.
- CCP + AF – Core Carbon Principles + Assessment Framework: threshold standards (CCPs) and guidance (AF) set by the ICVCM to promote high-quality carbon credits.
- CCS – Carbon Capture and Storage: process to separate and store CO₂ from industrial and energy sources.
- CDM - Clean Development Mechanism: Kyoto Protocol's article 12 mechanism for supplying CERs to investors funding carbon projects in developing countries.
- CDR – Carbon Dioxide Removal.
- CER – Certified Emission Reduction: emission reduction certificate generated by CDM projects.
- COP – Conference of the Parties: annual conference of the parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- CORSIA – Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation.
- DACC+S – Direct Air Carbon Capture and Storage: a process to extract CO₂ from the atmosphere and permanently store it in geological formations.
- ERPA – Emission Reduction Purchase Agreement.
- ETS – emissions trading system; EU ETS – European Union Emissions Trading System.
- EUA - European Union Allowance: Europe's emission allowances which are tradable under the EU ETS. 1 EUA = 1t of CO₂e.
- GHG – greenhouse gas.
- GS – Gold Standard, a carbon registry.
- HFC – hydrofluorocarbon, a greenhouse gas
- ICVCM – Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market: an initiative to enforce standards of ethics, sustainability and transparency.
- ICROA – International Carbon Reduction and Offset Alliance.
- IETA – International Emissions Trading Association.
- IFM –Improved Forest Management.
- LDC – least developed country, classified by the United Nations.
- MRV – Monitoring, Reporting and Verification on carbon projects
- N₂O – nitrous oxide, a greenhouse gas.
- Nature-based carbon credit – generated from projects seeking to protect, restore or manage natural ecosystems.
- NDC – Nationally Determined Contribution: a climate action plan to cut emissions that applies to the Paris Agreement's parties.
- Permanence – The indefinite longevity of a project's emission reduction or removal as well as the guarantee that should there be any reversal this will be fully compensated.
- REDD+ – Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation.
- Reforestation – restoration of existing forests via tree planting on areas where the number of trees has been decreasing.
- Removal – credits generated from nature- or tech-based projects that remove GHG emissions from the atmosphere.
- Revegetation – replanting/rebuilding the soil of distressed land.
- Scope 1,2 & 3 Emissions – the scopes categorise/measure a company's greenhouse gas emissions.
- Scope 1 – direct emissions from sources owned or controlled by the organisation, such as a fleet of vehicles.
- Scope 2 – indirect emissions from the production of electricity purchased/consumed by the company.
- Scope 3 – any other indirect emissions not produced by the company or as a result of activities from assets owned by it.
- SDGs – Sustainable Development Goals: UN's 17 objectives to end poverty, reduce inequality and tackle climate change, for which carbon projects can apply to receive additional accreditation.
- t/CO₂e – tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent. 1 credit = 1t of CO₂e.
- Technology-based carbon credit – generated by the reduction or removal of emissions through the use of technologies.
- VCM – Voluntary Carbon Markets.
- VCMI – Voluntary Carbon Markets Integrity Initiative: aims to enhance integrity by providing guidelines on carbon credits' use.
- VCS – Verified Carbon Standard, a credit programme managed by Verra.
- VER – Voluntary Emissions Reduction.
- Verified Carbon Unit (VCU) – credit listed on the Verra registry.
- Verra – Non-profit organisation hosting VCS programme and a carbon registry.
- Vintage – year of CO₂e emission reduction or removal.
- VVB – Validation/ Verification Body, used by carbon registries.