

Strict quality criteria

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Climate Neutral Group guarantees that every carbon credit you purchase will actually reduce CO₂ in the atmosphere. Each credit represents a verified reduction of one thousand kilos of CO₂ (Verified Emission Reductions VERs). Verification is conducted by independent, internationally recognised organisations. They check whether the projects comply with precise standards.

The CDM Standard



The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) standard was established to include projects from outside the European Union in the European emissions trading system. It enables European countries to do part of their offsetting (emission compensation) in developing countries. This is a direct result of the commitments made in the Kyoto Protocol. Although the CDM standard was developed for the market in obligatory offsetting, it is also applied to voluntary projects. The standard is strict, and includes the following requirements:

The CO₂ reductions must be additional, measurable, permanent, verifiable and unique. The test for additionality is especially tough. It entails establishing the project's financial viability without funding from carbon credits. This prevents projects that were already taking place receiving arbitrary extra funding. It was several years after the introduction of the CDM standard before the first carbon credits were issued. The complexity of the procedures led to a heavy administrative burden for those initiating projects.

The Verified Carbon Standard (VCS)



The VCS is the most common standard for voluntary carbon reduction projects. Its development was driven primarily by the carbon offset industry (project developers, verifiers, etc.) with support from the World Economic Forum (WEF) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD). The primary goal was to reduce the administrative burden of the CDM standard. The criteria are similar to the CDM standard.

The Gold Standard (GS)



The Gold Standard is the strictest standard for CO₂ reduction projects. It was developed by a group of NGOs, led by the World Wildlife Fund, to support projects that not only meet the standard CDM but also make a measurable contribution to sustainable development. In other words, carbon credits under this standard are both reliable and benefit the local population.



If you have questions or would you like more information, please call us on +31 (0)30-2326175 or send an email to info@climateneutralgroup.com

Detailed information about all our services and the four steps towards sustainable business can be found on our website or in our general brochure.
