



Frequently Asked Questions

What is a carbon credit?

A single carbon credit represents one metric ton of carbon dioxide (CO₂). Some carbon credits decrease existing greenhouse gas emissions, as in when a chemical plant implements a CO₂ cutback program. This is called emissions reductions. Some carbon credits pull CO₂ out of the atmosphere and store it, as in a carbon planting project. This is referred to as carbon sequestration because CO₂ is sequestered into the living tissues of trees. Projects resulting in sequestration of carbon or reduction in emissions are verified by a registry which then issues carbon credits to the project operator.

What is a carbon registry?

A carbon registry is essentially a private body that develops and provides protocols, rules, and verification methods to carbon project operators. The registry also issues carbon credits when the project operator demonstrates that they have followed the registry's rules. City Forest Credits will also help project operators with project design, provide tools for assessing projects, and assist in finding carbon credit buyers.

Why were carbon credits developed in the first place?

Some companies, cities, or organizations have wanted to reduce their carbon footprint. To do that, they may choose to buy carbon credits that will offset their own carbon emissions. That's why carbon credits are often referred to as offsets, or offset credits. Other companies, like Coca-Cola, invest in projects that deliver quantified benefits to water quality or quantity, like storm water reductions. Still other companies or organizations want to make a sustainability or Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) contribution to their community. Our bundled credit allows them to do that reliably and efficiently.

Carbon credits have been developed for hundreds of different types of projects, from landfills to industrial plants to forests. We're adding urban forests to this list.

Will the Trump administration affect these carbon projects and credits?

We don't think so. The companies, cities, non-profits, and people who are buying carbon credits voluntarily are not required by any law or regulation to buy those credits. Companies do it to be good corporate citizens and to connect with the concerns of their customers. President Trump has also declared his intention to dismantle the Obama Clean Power Plan. But that relates to coal-fired power, not voluntary carbon credits. Withdrawal from the Paris Accord does not directly affect the purchase of voluntary carbon credits.

With the Trump Administration withdrawing from the climate change effort, many people see cities, towns, utilities, and the private sector as taking the lead in fighting global warming – thinking globally and acting locally.

Who is required to provide carbon offsets?

No one is required to offset their emissions other than regulated entities like gas or oil refineries and other industrial facilities that fall under California’s “Cap and Trade” policy. Most companies buying offsets or carbon credits do so voluntarily for corporate social responsibility.

Why should I do a carbon credit project?

Carbon credit projects are able to generate new revenue streams previously unavailable to you. With a carbon credit project, you would earn carbon credits from the City Forest Credits Registry and sell them to carbon buyers. Project Operators can find new funding partners while delivering all the benefits that urban trees bring to their communities.

Why should I register a carbon credit project with City Forest Credits?

City Forest Credits has created a unique carbon credit called a Carbon+ Credit that includes a full metric ton of CO₂ along with the quantified co-benefits of rainfall interception, energy savings, and air quality improvements. This Carbon+ Credit is available to our Project Operators by following either our Tree Planting Protocol or our Tree Preservation Protocol. City Forest Credits is prepared to assist Project Operators with project design, application, and setting projects up with carbon credit buyers. City Forest Credits has also created several credit calculation tools for project operators to use. These tools are based on the most recent peer-reviewed, scientific studies on carbon sequestration in North American forests and can enable Project Operators easily to calculate projected revenues from carbon projects.

What kind of projects does City Forest Credits register?

City Forest Credits registers two types of projects and both are capable of generating Carbon+ Credits. The first type follows the Tree Preservation Protocol and involves protecting stands of forested land located in urban areas from development and deforestation in order to allow it to continue sequestering carbon. These projects last from 40 to 100 years.

The second type of project follows the Tree Planting Protocol and involves planting trees to sequester carbon in an urban area. The Tree Planting Protocol lasts 25 years and can either involve single tree plantings in an open, park-like setting or canopy style plantings in which saplings are planted in high densities to generate a forested stand.

Who can register a carbon project with City Forest Credits?

Anyone can be a project operator as long as they are willing to take on the responsibilities of a project including implementation and maintenance. Most project operators for carbon sequestration projects so far are local, tree-based non-profits, but sometimes local government entities can serve this function. If a local government entity is the project operator, it can partner with a local, tree-based non-profit as the project manager to be responsible for implementation and maintenance. Project Operators manage and register urban tree planting or preservation projects and then receive the Carbon+ Credits produced by the project to

with as they see fit. The sale of Carbon+ Credits can generate new revenue streams previously unavailable to project operators.

Where can projects occur?

Trees can be planted in multiple areas within most urban settings. Any trees planted within the boundary of an urban area as defined by the US census are eligible, as are any trees planted within the boundary of incorporated or unincorporated cities or towns as defined by states law. Similarly, trees can be planted on land owned by quasi-government entities like utilities or transportation, power transmission, and utility right of ways that are contiguous with any of the previously mentioned categories.

What are the hard costs of creating a carbon sequestration project?

The Project Operator is responsible for the costs of creating and implementing a carbon sequestration project. Preservation projects can cost less than planting projects due to the nature of the projects themselves. Preservation project costs include staff time for development of the project, maintenance of the registered areas, and various minimal sampling methods to assess sequestration.

Planting projects require staff time for development, coordination of planting efforts, maintenance, and sampling. City Forest Credits can help project operators determine the costs of their particular projects in more detail including staff time.

How much money can a carbon sequestration project generate?

City Forest Credits has credit calculation tools that estimate the number of credits particular projects may generate. Carbon sequestration rates differ by region and this is reflected in City Forest Credits' tools, so carbon sequestration projects in the Midwest will sequester a different amount of carbon and generate a different amount of Carbon+ Credits than projects in the Pacific Northwest.

What types of co-benefits are measured in the Carbon+ Credit?

City Forest Credits quantifies rainfall interception, several types of atmospheric pollutant reduction, CO₂ emission avoidance, and energy savings in heating and cooling for local residents. These metrics are all expressed in Resource Units and in dollar amounts in an easy to understand table in our credit calculation tools.

How do I sell Carbon+ Credits generated through a carbon project?

Based on our first projects, carbon buyers are interested in locally produced credits, especially Carbon+ Credits that incorporate quantified co-benefits. City Forest Credits is prepared to assist project operators in finding carbon buyers for their Carbon+ Credits.

I still have more questions, are there more resources available?

We are working with a number of Early Adopter projects. Our processes are getting more efficient and we are learning a great deal from the implementation of these first projects. If you want to be an innovator, we're happy to discuss the unique opportunities and challenges in your city. Feel free to email us at info@cityforestcredits.com for more information.