



# UK Carbon Code of Conduct: Corporate and Social Responsibility Charter

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## Introduction

The UK Carbon Code of Conduct (UKCCC) is dedicated to fostering a carbon credit market that not only drives emissions reductions and carbon removal but also upholds high standards of corporate and social responsibility. This **Corporate and Social Responsibility (CSR) Charter** outlines the UKCCC's commitment to ethical practices, environmental stewardship, and the well-being of communities involved in or impacted by its activities. The UKCCC aims to be a responsible organization that supports sustainable development, human rights, and positive community outcomes alongside its climate goals.

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## 1. Core Principles of Corporate and Social Responsibility

The UKCCC adheres to the following core principles as part of its CSR commitments:

1. **Sustainability:** All carbon credit projects under the UKCCC aim to promote environmental sustainability, minimize harm to ecosystems, and enhance biodiversity.
2. **Ethical Governance:** UKCCC conducts its operations with integrity, transparency, and accountability, ensuring that all actions align with best practices in ethical governance.
3. **Respect for Human Rights:** The UKCCC respects and upholds the human rights of all individuals involved in or impacted by its projects, ensuring that projects do not infringe upon rights to livelihood, health, or property.
4. **Community Empowerment:** The UKCCC supports the active involvement and empowerment of local communities in its projects, providing opportunities for capacity building and inclusive development.
5. **Transparency and Accountability:** The UKCCC maintains a transparent approach to its operations, regularly reporting on its activities, impacts, and progress towards its goals.

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## 2. Commitment to Environmental Stewardship

### 2.1 Promoting Sustainable Practices

The UKCCC is committed to supporting carbon credit projects that uphold sustainability, focusing on:

- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions through nature-based solutions.



- Enhancing biodiversity through projects that protect and restore natural ecosystems.
- Using sustainable resource management practices that reduce waste and pollution.

## 2.2 Addressing Climate Change

The UKCCC plays a proactive role in combating climate change by:

- Supporting projects that contribute to the UK's Net Zero targets.
- Promoting climate resilience in vulnerable communities through ecosystem restoration and sustainable land management practices.
- Encouraging innovation in carbon removal and emissions reduction technologies.

## 2.3 Ecological Integrity and Biodiversity

Every UKCCC project must:

- Conduct an environmental impact assessment to identify and mitigate potential negative effects on local ecosystems.
- Implement strategies that protect and enhance local biodiversity, with a preference for native species and ecosystem restoration.
- Monitor ecological impacts over time to ensure long-term sustainability and adaptation as necessary.

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## 3. Commitment to Social Responsibility

### 3.1 Respect for Human Rights

The UKCCC ensures that all its projects adhere to international human rights standards. This includes:

- Avoiding practices that may result in forced displacement or violations of land rights.
- Obtaining **free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC)** from Indigenous peoples and local communities for any projects affecting their land or resources.
- Establishing a formal complaints and grievance mechanism, allowing affected individuals to raise concerns and seek redress.

### 3.2 Supporting Gender Equality

The UKCCC promotes gender equality and inclusivity across all its projects, by:

- Ensuring that women and marginalized genders have equal access to opportunities, benefits, and decision-making roles within projects.
- Considering gender impact and implementing strategies to address any identified inequalities.



- Reporting on gender-related outcomes and striving to achieve measurable progress toward gender equality.

### **3.3 Empowering Local Communities**

The UKCCC is committed to empowering local communities through:

- Active participation in project planning, implementation, and monitoring to ensure that community voices are heard and respected.
  - Providing training and capacity-building programs to equip community members with skills and knowledge for long-term sustainability.
  - Ensuring that a fair share of the economic benefits from carbon credits supports local development projects, infrastructure, and livelihoods.
  - Encouraging direct project engagement with local communities.
  - Creating social value baselines to include metrics on the project's impact upon local health, education, economy, community cohesion, and environment.
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## **4. Ethical Governance and Accountability**

### **4.1 Transparency in Operations**

The UKCCC maintains transparency in its operations by:

- Regularly publishing reports on its carbon credit projects, including data on environmental impacts, social benefits, and financial performance.
- Providing public access to project documentation, methodologies, and verification results through an online registry.
- Engaging with stakeholders to gather feedback and address concerns regarding its operations and impacts.

### **4.2 Integrity in Business Practices**

The UKCCC upholds the highest standards of integrity in all business practices by:

- Avoiding conflicts of interest and ensuring fair and ethical decision-making processes.
- Adhering to anti-corruption laws and implementing internal controls to prevent fraud or misconduct.
- Establishing a code of ethics for employees, contractors, and partners, with clear guidelines on professional conduct, sustainability, and social responsibility.

### **4.3 Accountability to Stakeholders**

The UKCCC holds itself accountable to its stakeholders, including:

- Investors, buyers, and partners who rely on the credibility and integrity of UKCCC-certified carbon credits.



- Communities and individuals directly affected by UKCCC projects, who are entitled to fair treatment, engagement, and benefits.
- The broader public, who depends on the UKCCC to contribute meaningfully to the fight against climate change.

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## **5. Social and Environmental Impact Reporting**

### **5.1 Regular Reporting and Disclosure**

The UKCCC is committed to providing comprehensive and transparent reports on its social and environmental impacts, including:

- Annual reports detailing progress toward sustainability goals, community benefits, and key performance metrics.
- Project-specific reports on environmental impacts, carbon sequestration, and biodiversity outcomes.
- Disclosure of financial allocations to projects, including a breakdown of funds dedicated to social, environmental, and administrative expenses.

### **5.2 Independent Verification**

All UKCCC projects undergo third-party verification to ensure compliance with environmental, social, and governance standards. Verification includes:

- Independent assessments of environmental impacts and emissions' reductions.
- Social audits to confirm that projects adhere to human rights, gender equality, and anti-slavery commitments.
- Regular updates to verification protocols based on stakeholder feedback and emerging best practices.

### **5.3 Grievance Mechanisms and Feedback Loops**

The UKCCC maintains accessible complaints and grievance mechanisms, allowing stakeholders to report any concerns regarding environmental or social impacts. The UKCCC:

- Provides multiple channels for submitting complaints and grievances, including online forms, in-person meetings, and anonymous reporting options.
- Conducts prompt and thorough investigations of all complaints and grievances and takes corrective actions as needed.
- Publishes an annual summary of complaints and grievances received, actions taken, and outcomes achieved.



## **6. Continuous Improvement and Adaptation**

### **6.1 Commitment to Learning and Adaptation**

The UKCCC is dedicated to continuously improving its CSR practices by:

- Regularly reviewing and updating this charter to reflect evolving standards and stakeholder expectations.
- Investing in research and development to enhance the sustainability and social impact of carbon credit projects.
- Conducting periodic audits of CSR performance and incorporating lessons learned into future projects.
- Continually evolving and improving The Standard and adopting the principle of ‘learning by doing’.

### **6.2 Interested Parties’ Engagement and Collaboration**

The UKCCC actively engages with Interested Parties to strengthen its CSR commitments, including:

- Holding annual forums and consultations to gather input from communities, investors, and environmental organizations.
- Collaborating with industry partners, NGOs, and academic institutions to develop best practices and innovations in sustainable development.
- Promoting partnerships that align with the UKCCC’s CSR goals, focusing on long-term sustainability and positive community outcomes.