



UKCCC Governance structure and rules and long term plans V2.1 26/09/23

Introduction

The UKCCC is governed by a formal structure that can be viewed by following this link [Governance - UK Carbon Code of Conduct \(UKCCC\)](#)

The Advisory board (AB) meets on a monthly basis and is responsible for the development of the code and its version cycles. All changes within the code are scrutinised by the AB and then approved by majority vote.

The Scientific Board (SB) advise the AB on all matters, ensuring that the best available scientific data and evidence is informing the development of the code.

The Board of directors manage the business on a day to day basis ensuring all of its fiduciary responsibilities are met.

The UKCCC commissioner reports to the CEO and the two plus the operations and delivery team are responsible for all scheme administration, queries and complaints.

UK Carbon Code of Conduct (UKCCC) Administration Strategy

1. Purpose of the Document

This document outlines the administrative strategy for the long-term implementation, governance, and oversight of the UK Carbon Code of Conduct (UKCCC). It defines the processes, structures, and responsibilities needed to ensure that the UKCCC remains effective, transparent, and adaptable to future challenges in carbon management.

2. Vision and Objectives

The UKCCC aims to drive the UK towards achieving its carbon neutrality goals by establishing clear, enforceable guidelines for carbon emission reductions and removals. This document serves to:

- Ensure the continuous application and refinement of the UKCCC.
- Maintain robust governance and accountability frameworks.
- Foster collaboration with stakeholders across industries, government, and civil society.



- Enable adaptability to new technologies and scientific developments in carbon reduction.
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3. Governance Structure

3.1 Oversight Body: UKCCC Advisory Board

A governing body, the UKCCC Advisory Board, has been established to oversee the implementation and evolution of the UKCCC. The council consists of representatives from:

- The UK Government (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero) TBC
- Environmental agencies TBC
- Key industries affected by the code
- Climate science experts
- NGOs and civil society organizations

Key Responsibilities of the UKCCC Council:

- Monitor compliance with the UKCCC.
- Review and update the code periodically to reflect new scientific developments.
- Engage with stakeholders to address challenges and innovations in carbon management.
- Ensure transparency and publish annual reports on the UK's progress toward carbon reduction.

3.2 Operations and delivery Office

An Operations and delivery Office has been set up under the UKCCC Council. Its key functions include:

- Day-to-day management of UKCCC activities.
- Liaising with industries and stakeholders.
- Data collection, monitoring, and reporting.
- Running compliance checks and managing enforcement measures.
- Coordinating public engagement and education on carbon management.

3.3 Scientific and other specialist Boards

As well as the Scientific Board Further specialized advisory panels will be formed to guide the UKCCC Advisory Board on specific areas such as:



- Latest scientific data and evidence
 - Renewable Energy and Innovations
 - Industrial Emissions and Offsetting Mechanisms
 - Carbon Accounting and Reporting Standards
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4. Compliance and Enforcement Mechanisms

4.1 Mandatory Reporting

All companies and organizations subject to the UKCCC such as project developers are required to submit annual reports on their carbon emissions and reduction strategies. These reports must adhere to standardized carbon accounting methods set out by the UKCCC.

4.2 Third-Party Auditing

Independent third-party auditors will be appointed to verify the accuracy of reported data and compliance with the UKCCC. Auditors will submit findings to the UKCCC Advisory Board for review.

4.3 Incentives and Penalties

The UKCCC will establish a balanced system of incentives and penalties to encourage compliance and deter non-compliance:

- **Incentives:** Organizations that exceed carbon reduction targets will be eligible grants, and public recognition.
- **Penalties:** Non-compliant entities will face financial penalties, legal enforcement, and restrictions on operations.

4.4 Complaints, Appeals and Dispute Resolution

A clear appeals process is in place for organizations to contest compliance rulings or penalties. Disputes will be handled by a dedicated tribunal, which will include representatives from the UKCCC Advisory Board and independent experts.

5. Adaptability and Innovation

5.1 Regular Review and Updates



The UKCCC will be reviewed every year to adapt to new scientific knowledge, technological advancements, and shifts in industry practices. The UKCCC Board will invite public and stakeholder feedback to guide these reviews.

5.2 Emerging Technologies Task Force

A dedicated task force will monitor developments in carbon-reduction technologies such as green hydrogen, advanced energy storage, and bioenergy, advising the UKCCC Advisory Board on integration into future updates of the code.

6. Stakeholder Engagement and Communication

6.1 Public Outreach and Education

The UKCCC will maintain a strong focus on public awareness and education through:

- **Public campaigns** highlighting the importance of carbon reduction and individual responsibility.
- **Workshops and webinars** for industry leaders to understand compliance requirements and explore best practices in carbon management.
- **Partnerships with schools and universities** to foster a future generation of climate-conscious citizens.

6.2 Industry Collaboration

The UKCCC will foster continuous engagement with industries through:

- **Sector-specific working groups:** These groups will focus on the unique challenges faced by different industries, such as construction, transport, and manufacturing.
 - **Annual UKCCC Conferences:** These conferences will serve as a platform for stakeholders to share best practices, innovations, and challenges in carbon reduction.
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7. Data Collection and Reporting

7.1 Centralized Data System



A centralized data management system will be developed to gather, store, and analyse carbon emissions data. This system will provide a secure platform for organizations to submit their reports and track their progress.

7.2 Public Reporting

An annual report on the UKCCC's overall progress and compliance levels will be published to ensure transparency. The report will include:

- National carbon reduction achievements.
- Industry-specific carbon management progress.
- Updates on the development of new technologies and best practices.
- An overview of penalties, incentives, and compliance cases.

8. Financial Sustainability

8.1 Funding Mechanisms

To ensure the long-term viability of the UKCCC, funding will come from multiple sources, including:

- **Government and philanthropic grants and budget allocations:** For the development, administration and enforcement of the UKCCC.
- **Industry contributions and project approval fees:** Based on the UKCCC fee scale related to project size and carbon emissions.
- **Public-private partnerships:** For specific projects, such as research into innovative carbon reduction technologies.
- **Credit sales fee:** These shall be levied on every transaction and shall represent a cost of sale and management of the registry. The fee shall be reviewed annually and published as part of the UKCCC fee structure.

8.2 Budget Planning

The UKCCC Advisory Board will oversee annual budget planning, ensuring that resources are allocated efficiently to administrative, compliance, research, and outreach activities.

9. Future Provisions



9.1 Long-Term Strategy

To ensure the UKCCC's relevance over time, a 10-year and 20-year strategic plan has been developed, outlining the code's future priorities, including:

- Long-term carbon neutrality goals.
- Integration of future technologies.
- Alignment with international standards and agreements (e.g., Paris Agreement).
- Collaboration with global carbon management initiatives.

9.2 International Cooperation

The UKCCC will actively participate in global carbon management forums, ensuring alignment with international best practices and contributing to global efforts to combat climate change.

10. Conclusion

The UKCCC Administration Strategy provides a robust framework to ensure the UK's long-term carbon management goals are met. By establishing a strong governance structure, transparent compliance processes, and regular stakeholder engagement, the UKCCC aims to drive meaningful progress towards a carbon-neutral future.



UKCCC Grievance and complaints procedure

All UKCCC projects are designed by approved project developers and then forwarded to the UKCCC for comment validation and approval.

Projects are always designed in partnership between the project host, project developer and any identified and consulted interested parties.

The first port of call for any grievance is to discuss and consult between the parties. This can be facilitated by the UKCCC commissioners' office.

Grievances and complaints against a project developer, project host or an interested party shall follow the procedure below:

All expenses, internal and external, incurred by The UKCCC in handling complaints and appeals shall be paid by the entity filing the complaint or appeal. Prior to initiation of the handling process, The UKCCC will inform the entity filing the complaint or appeal of its estimated handling cost. Where the outcome of a complaint or appeal is to overturn an earlier decision made by the UKCCC, the entity filing the complaint or appeal will not be liable for covering such expenses.

1 COMPLAINTS

A complaint is an objection to a decision taken by UKCCC or an aspect of how it operates a program(s) managed by the UKCCC, or a claim that relevant program rules have had an unfair, inadvertent or unintentional adverse effect. All complainants are provided with the following procedure:

1) The complaint shall include the following information:

- a) Name of the complainant.
- b) Name of organization, where relevant.
- c) Contact information for the complainant.
- d) Details of the complaint.
- e) Declaration of any conflict of interest in submitting the complaint.

2) The complaint shall be addressed to the UKCCC Commissioner and emailed to info@ukcarboncode.org the word *complaint* in the subject line. An email response is provided to the complainant from The UKCCC acknowledging receipt of the complaint.



- 3) The UKCCC Commissioner appoints an appropriate person to handle the complaint, who will organize an analysis (involving external experts, as required) and determine any appropriate action required.
- 4) The UKCCC prepares a written response and provides this to the complainant. The response to the complaint is brought to the attention of and approved by the UKCCC Commissioner
- 5) All information submitted by the complainant with respect to the complaint is kept confidential by the UKCCC.

Complaints by stakeholders about a project proponent or its partners shall be pursued with the respective entity. Similarly, complaints about entities (by the clients of such entities) that provide services under the relevant UKCCC program, such as assessors, shall be pursued via the respective entity. In either of the cases above, where the complaint is not resolved to the satisfaction of the complainant and the complaint is in relation to the respective entity's interpretation of the relevant program rules, the complainant may submit a complaint to the UKCCC. Note that other stakeholders may also choose to submit complaints to entities providing services under the relevant program where such entities have complaints procedures for third parties (i.e., non-clients).

2 APPEALS

Where a complaint, submitted as set out in Section 1 above, has not been resolved to the satisfaction of the complainant, complainants are provided with the following appeals procedure:

- 1) The appeal shall include the following information:
 - a) Name of the appellant.
 - b) Name of the organization, where relevant.
 - c) Contact information for the appellant.
 - d) Details of the appeal, including reference to the original complaint.
- 2) The appeal shall be addressed to the UKCCC Commissioner with the word *appeal* in the subject line. An email response is provided to the appellant from the Commissioner acknowledging receipt of the appeal.
- 3) The Commissioner presents the appeal to the UKCCC Advisory Board, which organizes an analysis, involving external experts (as required).
- 4) The UKCCC Advisory Board prepares a written response and the UKCCC Commissioner provides this to the appellant. The UKCCC Board's decision is final and binding.



5) All information submitted by the appellant with respect to the appeal is kept confidential by The UKCCC and the UKCCC Board.



UK Carbon Code of Conduct (UKCCC) Conflict of Interest Protocol

1. Purpose

The purpose of this protocol is to outline the policies and procedures that ensure the avoidance of conflicts of interest between the UK Carbon Code of Conduct (UKCCC), project developers, Validation and Verification Bodies (VVB), the UKCCC registry, and carbon credit customers. This protocol aims to foster transparency, fairness, and trust across all aspects of the carbon credit system while maintaining the integrity of the UKCCC.

The UKCCC by design has been developed in such a way as to remove, as far as possible any conflict of interest. The UKCCC is a standalone community interest company that exists purely to further the standards within the voluntary carbon market.

Project developers are independent businesses as are the VVB providers. Each stage of the process is separately accountable.

Aside from transaction fees to cover the cost of transferring each credit when bought and retired, the UKCCC makes no economic gain from issuing credits, each stage is separately costed and invoiced to the various parties.

2. Scope

This protocol applies to:

- The UKCCC Advisory Board and its members
- Project developers involved in carbon reduction or offsetting projects
- The UKCCC Registry and its management
- Carbon credit customers, including individuals, corporations, and governments purchasing credits

3. Definitions

- **Conflict of Interest:** A situation in which an individual or organization has competing interests or loyalties that could improperly influence their decisions related to the UKCCC.



- **UKCCC Advisory Board:** The governing body responsible for overseeing the implementation and management of the UKCCC.
 - **Project Developers:** Entities that create and manage carbon reduction or offsetting projects eligible under the UKCCC.
 - **UKCCC Registry:** The official record-keeping system for registering, tracking, and retiring carbon credits.
 - **Carbon Credit Customers:** Buyers of carbon credits, either for compliance or voluntary purposes, to offset their carbon emissions.
 - **Validation and verification bodies**
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4. General Principles

- **Transparency:** All parties involved in the UKCCC must conduct their operations with openness and disclose any potential conflicts of interest in a timely and complete manner.
 - **Accountability:** Individuals and entities are responsible for identifying, disclosing, and managing any conflicts of interest that arise.
 - **Impartiality:** The UKCCC Council, project developers, the registry, and carbon credit customers must maintain impartiality in their roles and avoid actions that may unduly influence or appear to influence the conduct of the UKCCC system.
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5. Identifying Conflicts of Interest

5.1 Common Areas of Conflict

- **Financial Interest:** A member of the UKCCC Advisory Board or registry may have a financial stake in a project developer or in the sale of carbon credits, potentially influencing decisions in favour of that party.
 - **Dual Roles:** Individuals or organizations may hold multiple roles within the UKCCC system (e.g., a project developer who also holds a position on the UKCCC Council).
 - **Preferential Treatment:** Favouritism shown to certain project developers or carbon credit buyers due to personal relationships or other biases.
 - **Regulatory Capture:** The risk that project developers or large customers exert undue influence over the UKCCC Council or registry, skewing policy and compliance measures to their advantage.
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6. Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

6.1 Disclosure Requirements

- **UKCCC Advisory board Members:** All members must submit a Conflict of Interest Declaration annually and update it promptly if any new conflicts arise. Declarations must include financial interests, relationships with project developers, carbon credit customers, and any other potential conflicts.
 - **Project Developers:** Project developers must disclose any relationships they have with council members, the registry, or major carbon credit customers, especially if there is potential for financial gain or preferential treatment.
 - **Registry Officials:** Individuals managing or overseeing the UKCCC registry must disclose any personal or financial ties with project developers or carbon credit customers.
 - **Carbon Credit Customers:** Large or recurring customers must disclose any personal or professional relationships with UKCCC Council members, project developers, or registry officials that could influence the purchasing or pricing of carbon credits.
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7. Managing Conflicts of Interest

7.1 Conflict Resolution Procedures

- **Recusal:** Any individual or entity with a conflict of interest must recuse themselves from discussions, decision-making, and voting related to the area where the conflict arises. This includes members of the UKCCC Council, registry officials, and others involved in the governance process.
 - **Independent Oversight:** For decisions involving a potential conflict of interest, an independent third party (e.g., an ethics committee) will be appointed to oversee the decision-making process, ensuring impartiality and fairness.
 - **Rotation of Roles:** To prevent entrenched relationships or undue influence, key roles within the UKCCC, such as registry officials and council members, will rotate regularly. Project developers will also be subject to independent audits, and regular reviews will be conducted to ensure compliance.
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8. Safeguards for Registry Independence

8.1 Separation of Duties



- The UKCCC registry must operate independently of project developers and carbon credit buyers. Staff members of the registry must not have any financial or business interests in any projects or organizations buying credits.
- Registry officials must also be prohibited from advising project developers or buyers on specific projects in which the registry is involved to maintain impartiality.

8.2 External Audits

- The UKCCC registry will undergo annual independent audits to ensure compliance with conflict-of-interest policies and that it operates transparently and impartially.
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9. Oversight and Compliance

9.1 Monitoring

- A **Compliance and Ethics Committee** will be established to oversee the proper application of the conflict-of-interest protocol. This committee will review annual conflict declarations, monitor registry activities, and investigate complaints of improper conduct.
- The committee will consist of independent experts in ethics, environmental law, and carbon markets to ensure that conflicts of interest are managed effectively.

9.2 Reporting Mechanism

- A confidential whistleblower mechanism will be established for reporting conflicts of interest or any unethical behaviour. All reports will be investigated by the Compliance and Ethics Committee.
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10. Consequences for Breach

10.1 Penalties for Non-Compliance

- Any breach of this protocol will result in disciplinary action, which may include:
 - **Removal from the UKCCC Advisory Board or Registry:** Individuals found to be in breach of conflict-of-interest policies may be removed from their positions.
 - **Fines:** Financial penalties may be imposed on project developers or carbon credit customers who fail to disclose or improperly manage conflicts of interest.



- **Suspension of Projects or Credits:** Projects found to be benefitting from undisclosed conflicts of interest may be suspended, and credits related to those projects may be invalidated or revoked.

11. Training and Awareness

11.1 Education on Conflicts of Interest

- All stakeholders involved with the UKCCC, including Council members, project developers, registry officials, and carbon credit customers, will undergo mandatory training on recognizing, disclosing, and managing conflicts of interest.
- Training will be provided upon onboarding and on an annual basis to ensure continued awareness and compliance with the protocol.

12. Review and Updates

12.1 Regular Review of Protocol

- This Conflict-of-Interest Protocol will be reviewed every two years by the Compliance and Ethics Committee to ensure its continued effectiveness and relevance to evolving practices within the carbon market and environmental governance.
- Stakeholder feedback will be sought to refine and update the protocol as necessary.

13. Conclusion

The integrity of the UK Carbon Code of Conduct is fundamental to its success in addressing the challenge of carbon reduction. This protocol ensures that all participants—UKCCC officials, project developers, the registry, and carbon credit customers—operate within a framework that eliminates or mitigates conflicts of interest, fostering trust, transparency, and accountability across the system.



UK Carbon Code of Conduct (UKCCC) Project Novation Protocol

1. Purpose

This protocol outlines the procedures for novating (transferring) carbon reduction or offset projects registered under the UK Carbon Code of Conduct (UKCCC) to other approved carbon codes in the unlikely event that the UKCCC is dissolved. The protocol aims to ensure a smooth transition, continuity of carbon credits, and integrity of projects during this process.

2. Scope

This protocol applies to:

- Project developers who have active or registered projects under the UKCCC.
 - Carbon credit buyers holding credits issued by the UKCCC.
 - Approved carbon codes or standards that may accept novated projects.
 - The UKCCC Advisory Board or its appointed representatives during the dissolution process.
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3. Definitions

- **Novation:** The legal process of transferring the rights, obligations, and benefits of a carbon project from the UKCCC to another approved carbon standard or code.
 - **Project Developer:** The entity responsible for creating and managing a carbon reduction or offsetting project under the UKCCC.
 - **Approved Codes:** Recognized and accredited carbon codes or standards that may accept novated projects, such as the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS), Gold Standard, or other recognized national and international carbon codes.
 - **Carbon Credit Holders:** Individuals, corporations, or governments that have purchased carbon credits generated by a UKCCC project.
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4. Trigger for Novation

The novation process will be initiated if the UKCCC is formally dissolved due to:



- Legislative changes.
- Financial insolvency.
- Merger or acquisition with another carbon registry or body.
- Any other circumstance leading to the formal cessation of the UKCCC's operations.

The UKCCC Executive Board will formally notify all stakeholders—including project developers, credit holders, and partner organizations—of the dissolution and provide guidance on the novation process.

5. Principles for Novation

5.1 Continuity of Carbon Credits

The primary objective of the novation process is to ensure that the carbon credits generated by UKCCC projects remain valid, verifiable, and tradable within the new code. Project developers and credit holders will retain the value and integrity of their credits throughout the transition.

5.2 Transparency and Stakeholder Engagement

All stakeholders involved—project developers, carbon credit holders, and approved codes—will be kept fully informed throughout the novation process. Clear communication will be maintained regarding timelines, procedures, and any actions required from project developers and credit holders.

5.3 Compliance with the Receiving Code's Standards

All projects transferred from the UKCCC must comply with the requirements, methodologies, and verification standards of the receiving code. Wherever possible, the receiving code will seek to recognize existing UKCCC-approved methodologies to minimize disruption to project developers.

6. Approved Carbon Codes for Novation

6.1 Criteria for Approved Codes



The UKCCC will recognize certain established and accredited carbon codes as eligible to accept novated projects. To be considered an approved code, the carbon standard must meet the following criteria:

- Be internationally recognized and accredited (e.g., VCS, Gold Standard, Climate Action Reserve).
- Align with or approved by the ICVCM or BSI
- Have a robust and transparent governance structure.
- Offer methodologies and verification processes similar to or compatible with the UKCCC.
- Ensure the continuity of carbon credits without devaluing their environmental integrity.

6.2 List of Potential Approved Codes

- **Verified Carbon Standard (VCS):** A globally recognized standard for voluntary carbon projects, managed by Verra.
- **Gold Standard:** A widely respected voluntary carbon offset program focused on high-integrity climate and development outcomes.
- **Climate Action Reserve (CAR):** A US-based standard known for its rigorous protocols, also recognized internationally.
- **Other National Codes:** Depending on the location and nature of the projects, national codes such as the Woodland Carbon Code or Peatland Code in the UK, or other relevant national schemes.

The UKCCC Executive Board will provide an updated list of approved codes at the time of dissolution.

7. Novation Process

7.1 Formal Notification of Novation

- Upon the formal decision to dissolve the UKCCC, the UKCCC Council will send a **Novation Notice** to all project developers and carbon credit holders. This notice will include:
 - The proposed date for the novation process to commence.
- A list of approved codes eligible to receive novated projects.
- Instructions for selecting a receiving code and initiating the transfer.



- Project developers must acknowledge receipt of this notice and confirm their intent to novate their projects within a specified time frame (e.g., 60 days).

7.2 Selection of Receiving Code

- Project developers will be responsible for selecting a receiving carbon code from the approved list. The UKCCC Executive Board will offer guidance and facilitate initial contact with the receiving code.
- The receiving code will review the project's current methodologies, documentation, and verification history. A preliminary assessment will determine the eligibility of the project for novation.

7.3 Project Transfer Agreement

- Once a receiving code is identified and the project is deemed eligible, a **Project Transfer Agreement** will be drawn up. This agreement will:
 - Transfer all rights, responsibilities, and benefits associated with the project from the UKCCC to the receiving code.
 - Establish the receiving code's responsibility for ongoing monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) of the project.
 - Ensure that carbon credits already issued by the UKCCC are recognized and honoured by the receiving code.
- Both the project developer and the receiving code must sign the agreement, along with a representative of the UKCCC Council or its dissolution team.

7.4 Carbon Credit Holders Notification

- Carbon credit holders will be informed of the novation of the project and the transfer to the new registry. They will receive:
 - Confirmation that their credits remain valid and transferrable under the receiving code.
 - Updated documentation or registry access credentials for the receiving code's system.

7.5 Registry Update and Transfer of Credits

- The UKCCC Registry will facilitate the transfer of project documentation, credit balances, and verification records to the receiving code's registry system.
- The UKCCC registry will remain operational for a limited transition period (e.g., 12 months) to assist with the novation process and ensure all transfers are completed.



8. Compliance with Receiving Code

8.1 Verification and Methodology Alignment

- Projects novated to the receiving code will be required to undergo a verification process under the receiving code's standards to ensure compliance. This may include:
 - A review of the project's baseline emissions.
 - An audit of the monitoring and reporting practices.
 - Any necessary adjustments to methodologies to align with the receiving code's framework.
- Wherever possible, the receiving code will streamline this process by recognizing UKCCC-approved methodologies, thus minimizing additional burdens on project developers.

8.2 Transitional Verification Support

- During the novation process, the UKCCC will work with independent verifiers to facilitate the transition and ensure that the project's existing verification status is accepted by the receiving code, where applicable.

9. Dispute Resolution

9.1 Disputes Between Parties

In the event of disputes arising from the novation process (e.g., eligibility of a project for novation, carbon credit recognition), the following steps will be taken:

1. **Mediation:** A mediator will be appointed to work with both the project developer and the receiving code to resolve the issue.
2. **Independent Review:** If mediation fails, an independent third-party reviewer with expertise in carbon markets and standards will be appointed to make a final determination on the dispute.
3. **Final Appeal:** Any party dissatisfied with the independent review may submit a final appeal to the UKCCC Executive Boards dissolution team or the receiving code's governing body for consideration.

9.2 Stakeholder Grievances



Carbon credit holders or other stakeholders who believe their interests have been harmed during the novation process may file grievances through a formal complaint mechanism established by the receiving code or UKCCC dissolution team.

10. Record-Keeping and Documentation

10.1 Archival of UKCCC Records

- All project and registry records from the UKCCC will be securely archived by a designated custodian (e.g., a third-party administrator or governmental body) to ensure data is preserved for future reference.
 - The custodian will maintain access to these records for a minimum of 10 years, allowing stakeholders to retrieve historical data if needed.
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11. Conclusion

The UKCCC Novation Protocol is designed to ensure that, in the unlikely event of dissolution, carbon projects registered under the UKCCC are successfully transferred to other approved carbon codes, ensuring the continued validity of carbon credits. This protocol ensures transparency, fairness, and minimal disruption for project developers, carbon credit holders, and other stakeholders involved in the carbon market.



UK Carbon Code of Conduct: 10-Year and 20-Year Strategy and Development Plan

Introduction

The **UK Carbon Code of Conduct (UKCCC)** aims to establish a world-leading carbon credit framework that supports the UK's climate goals by ensuring the integrity, transparency, and sustainability of carbon credits. This **10-Year and 20-Year Strategy and Development Plan** outlines the key objectives, initiatives, and milestones that the UKCCC will pursue to guide the development and growth of the carbon market. The strategy is designed to align with the UK's **Net Zero by 2050** targets while addressing evolving global climate challenges and market dynamics.

10-Year Strategy (2024 - 2034)

Vision for the Next Decade

By 2034, the UKCCC will have become a recognized global leader in carbon market governance, ensuring that all carbon credits issued under its code are of the highest environmental and social integrity. The carbon credit market will play a pivotal role in achieving the UK's interim climate targets, supporting carbon sequestration, emissions reductions, and sustainable development across the nation.

Strategic Objectives (2024 - 2034)

1. **Strengthening the Integrity of Carbon Credits**
 - **Objective:** Ensure that all carbon credits issued under the UKCCC are credible, verifiable, and compliant with international standards.
 - **Initiatives:**
 - Regularly update and strengthen the UKCCC's **Measure-Report-Verify (MRV)** protocols.
 - Introduce stricter penalties and oversight mechanisms for non-compliance.
 - Collaborate with international carbon standards bodies to align with best practices.
2. **Expanding Carbon Sequestration and Emissions Reduction Projects**
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- **Objective:** Support the growth of a wide range of carbon sequestration and emissions reduction projects, from afforestation and peatland restoration to new, innovative solutions like direct air capture (DAC).
 - **Initiatives:**
 - Create funding mechanisms, such as **green bonds** or carbon credit investment funds, to encourage private sector involvement.
 - Develop guidelines for integrating new technologies, like **enhanced rock weathering**, into carbon credit generation.
 - Promote the expansion of **nature-based solutions** (e.g., reforestation, agroforestry, wetlands) in both rural and urban settings.
- 3. Promoting Social and Environmental Co-Benefits**
- **Objective:** Ensure that UKCCC carbon credit projects contribute to social, economic, and biodiversity co-benefits, particularly for vulnerable communities.
 - **Initiatives:**
 - Integrate **gender equality, human rights, and anti-slavery** provisions into all project requirements (based on the UKCCC’s human rights and gender equality policy).
 - Partner with local communities to promote fair distribution of benefits from carbon credit revenues.
 - Support biodiversity enhancement by mandating projects to protect and restore local ecosystems.
- 4. Fostering Market Transparency and Growth**
- **Objective:** Build a transparent, efficient, and trusted carbon market in the UK that is accessible to businesses, investors, and governments.
 - **Initiatives:**
 - Develop a **public carbon registry** where all credits can be tracked and audited in real time.
 - Collaborate with financial institutions to facilitate **carbon credit trading platforms** and derivative markets.
 - Increase awareness and education among stakeholders on the value of carbon credits and climate finance mechanisms.
- 5. Building Global Partnerships**
- **Objective:** Position the UK as a leader in the global carbon market by forging strategic partnerships and contributing to international climate frameworks.
 - **Initiatives:**
 - Partner with **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** and other international bodies to align the UKCCC with global carbon standards.
 - Collaborate with **developing countries** to facilitate carbon credit projects that deliver social and environmental benefits.



- Play an active role in the development of global **Article 6** mechanisms under the Paris Agreement to promote international carbon trading.
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Milestones (2024 - 2034)

- **By 2024:**
 - Launch a fully operational **UKCCC public carbon registry**.
 - Sell the first set of **UK-certified carbon credits**.
 - Develop comprehensive **guidance for nature-based solutions**.
 - Achieve accreditation to the ICVCM Core Carbon Principles
 - **By 2028:**
 - Expand the UKCCC's reach to over **500 active carbon credit projects**.
 - Introduce **green bond investment mechanisms** for carbon sequestration projects.
 - Publish a revised **UKCCC MRV protocol** for emerging technologies.
 - **By 2030:**
 - Achieve at least **30% of UK's carbon reduction** targets through voluntary carbon credits and market-based approaches.
 - Develop a global **carbon market partnership network**, engaging with key stakeholders across Europe and the Global South.
 - Ensure all carbon credit projects demonstrate measurable **social and environmental co-benefits**.
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20-Year Strategy (2024 - 2044)

Vision for the Next Two Decades

By 2044, the UKCCC will have established a resilient, highly integrated carbon credit market that is pivotal in helping the UK and international partners achieve **Net Zero by 2050**. The market will have scaled significantly, with advanced technologies and methodologies for carbon sequestration, a solid foundation in nature-based solutions, and an inclusive framework that prioritizes both climate justice and biodiversity.

Strategic Objectives (2024 - 2044)

1. **Accelerating Innovation in Carbon Sequestration and Reduction**



- **Objective:** Drive innovation in carbon sequestration and reduction technologies to scale emissions reductions rapidly and effectively.
- **Initiatives:**
 - Create a research and development fund to support **carbon capture technology**, soil carbon improvements, and novel carbon sinks.
 - Foster **public-private partnerships** to integrate carbon capture into industrial processes and agricultural systems.
 - Facilitate deployment of **carbon capture and storage (CCS)** at industrial sites and encourage its inclusion in project development.
- 2. **Scaling the Carbon Credit Market Globally**
 - **Objective:** Scale the UK carbon market by linking it with international carbon markets, enhancing liquidity and accessibility.
 - **Initiatives:**
 - Develop frameworks for **international carbon market linkages** under the **Paris Agreement Article 6**.
 - Establish the UK as a hub for **carbon finance**, connecting global investors to UK-based carbon projects.
 - Support the development of regional carbon credit schemes, expanding into **Africa, Asia, and Latin America**.
- 3. **Pioneering Climate Justice and Equity**
 - **Objective:** Ensure that the benefits of the carbon credit market are equitably distributed and contribute to climate justice and human rights.
 - **Initiatives:**
 - Ensure all carbon credit projects include **free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC)** for indigenous and local communities.
 - Mandate that at least **30% of revenues** from carbon credits in nature-based solutions be reinvested into **community development** programs.
 - Promote equitable access to the carbon market for smallholder farmers and landowners by simplifying participation processes.
- 4. **Achieving Ecological Restoration at Scale**
 - **Objective:** Scale up ecosystem restoration efforts to protect and regenerate critical habitats and biodiversity.
 - **Initiatives:**
 - Aim to restore at least **5 million hectares** of degraded land by 2044 through carbon credit projects.
 - Expand projects that focus on **wetland, peatland, and forest restoration** as key carbon sinks.
 - Create financial incentives for private landowners to protect biodiversity through carbon credit generation.
- 5. **Long-Term Market Stability and Resilience**



- **Objective:** Ensure the carbon market remains robust, transparent, and resilient in the face of future climate and market challenges.
 - **Initiatives:**
 - Develop long-term policies that safeguard the integrity of carbon credits and prevent **market speculation**.
 - Continue to improve the **buffer pool system** for carbon reversals, ensuring it evolves with the market.
 - Build a **compliance market linkage** for sectors subject to national emissions trading systems, ensuring alignment with **voluntary carbon markets**.
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Milestones (2024 - 2044)

- **By 2035:**
 - Implement **global carbon market linkages** for UKCCC credits with other carbon markets under Article 6.
 - Restore **5 million hectares** of degraded land via carbon credit initiatives.
 - Establish the **UKCCC Research and Innovation Fund** to drive advancements in carbon sequestration technologies.
 - **By 2040:**
 - Ensure that at least **50% of UK carbon credits** are linked to projects with significant **community and biodiversity co-benefits**.
 - Achieve **Net Zero in key sectors** (e.g., agriculture, manufacturing) through carbon credits and market mechanisms.
 - Develop a fully **automated carbon registry** with integrated monitoring tools to ensure data transparency and real-time reporting.
 - **By 2044:**
 - Restore **5 million hectares** of ecosystems through carbon credit projects.
 - Expand the UKCCC to cover **10,000 active projects** globally.
 - Ensure that the UKCCC plays a central role in helping the UK achieve its **2050 Net Zero goal**.
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Conclusion

The UKCCC's **10-Year and 20-Year Strategy and Development Plan** is designed to position the UK as a global leader in carbon markets, while fostering a carbon credit system that is transparent, equitable, and impactful. By prioritizing environmental integrity, social co-



benefits, and innovation, the UKCCC will continue to play a vital role in combating climate change and ensuring a sustainable, low-carbon future.