



carboNZero programme^{Cert™} and CEMARS[™] version 1.2

Guiding principles

The carboNZero programme (the Programme) is an internationally recognised greenhouse gas emissions measurement, reduction and certification scheme offering optional mitigation strategies through the provision of credible and verified offsets or carbon credits. The Programme includes carboNZero certification and its ingredient brands CEMARS (Certified Emissions Measurement and Reduction Scheme) and SEC (Small Enterprise Certification). Our principles are designed to guide the management and governance of the Programme and are maintained and implemented through our annual business planning process.

Provision of greenhouse gas certification services

1. We understand impartiality and commit to providing impartial and transparent verification services for the certification of greenhouse gas assertions. We manage interests that have influence on impartiality and ensure that our certification activities are objective.
2. The Programme will allow access to its services in a flexible, practical, non-discriminatory manner for all organisations regardless of size, complexity, membership, affiliations or other certificates already issued.
3. The Programme will not restrict its services unreasonably but reserves the right to decline registration to organisations where the claim of certification could damage the credibility and integrity of the Programme.
4. Organisations may be declined certification where there is evidence of non-compliance with environmental legislation and international conventions ratified by the New Zealand government or other relevant jurisdiction.

Reduce emissions to the atmosphere

5. The main focus of the Programme is greenhouse gas emissions reduction. All organisations wishing to participate in the Programme will be encouraged to commence on a journey to measure, manage and reduce greenhouse gas emissions before any optional mitigation or offsetting of remaining unavoidable emissions.

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6. The Programme will encourage staff and contractors closely involved in the management and operation of the Programme to actively reduce greenhouse gas emissions arising from their work and home activities.

Practical business solutions built on credible science

7. The Programme is committed to providing professional services based on credible science to organisations seeking certification through the Programme.
8. Quality, credibility, integrity and value for money underpin the Programme and the standards to which we operate.

Trusted expert able to withstand utmost scrutiny

9. The Programme shall be based on standards, codes of practice, guidance and tools representing international best practice for greenhouse gas emissions measurement, management, mitigation, reporting, verification and certification of greenhouse gas assertions.
10. The Programme shall be advised on policy, technical and ethical matters by an independent advisory panel representing key stakeholders in the Programme, namely: government, business and industry, consumers, the scientific community and local communities.
11. The Programme will seek and maintain appropriate external endorsement, recognition or accreditation to ensure that its own claims are independently substantiated.
12. The Programme's managers, staff and contracted verifiers shall maintain appropriate and current competencies for the roles performed.

Arrowhead for research

13. The Programme will identify the need for and encourage others to collaborate in research to improve greenhouse gas measurement, management and mitigation practices.
14. The Programme will participate in research activities that provide the underpinning science for greenhouse gas methodologies and make ongoing expert input into national and international forums involved in the development of greenhouse gas standards.

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