



INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP.
NATURAL SOLUTIONS.
SHARED PROSPERITY.



ALBERTA

EMISSION OFFSET SYSTEM



REGULATED CARBON MARKET & OFFSET CREDITS



REGULATED MARKET

Operating under Alberta's
TIER regulation to reduce
greenhouse gas emissions.



VERIFIED RESULTS

Projects follow
approved protocols and
independent verification
standards.



EMISSION REDUCTIONS

Generating real,
measurable reductions
across a wide range of
eligible activities.



OFFSET CREDITS

Registered credits
used by facilities to
meet compliance
obligations.

REAL CLIMATE ACTION. REAL ECONOMIC VALUE.

BUILDING A LOW-CARBON FUTURE
FOR ALBERTA AND INDIGENOUS NATIONS.



FORESTS & LAND

Sustainable land
management and
conservation.



CLEAN ENERGY

Renewable energy
and energy efficiency
solutions.



AGRICULTURE & WASTE SOLUTIONS

Lower emissions from
agriculture, waste
and industry.



TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY

Public registry ensures
integrity, transparency
and trust.

BIRCHCARBONPROGRAM.COM





BIRCH CARBON PROGRAM

INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP. NATURAL SOLUTIONS.
SHARED PROSPERITY.

BIRCH CARBON PROGRAM SUMMARY

KEY INSIGHTS. REAL IMPACT. STRONGER COMMUNITIES.

Birch Carbon Program Summaries provide Indigenous Nations with quick, easy-to-understand insights from important resources — highlighting what matters most and how it can support environmental stewardship, community priorities, and long-term prosperity.

WHAT YOU'LL FIND INSIDE



KEY TAKEAWAYS

The most important points from the original resource.



INDIGENOUS FOCUS

Why it matters to your Nation, your lands, and your future.



BIRCH CARBON PERSPECTIVE

Our insights on opportunities, benefits, and real-world impact.



COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

How this information can create value for your people and territory.



ORIGINAL SOURCE

Direct links to the full document and official resources.



OUR COMMITMENT

We are committed to making complex information accessible and relevant for Indigenous Nations so you can make informed decisions, protect your lands, and build prosperity for future generations.



PROTECT
OUR LANDS



SUPPORT
OUR PEOPLE



BUILD
PROSPERITY



SECURE OUR
FUTURE

[BIRCHCARBONPROGRAM.COM](https://www.birchcarbonprogram.com)

BIRCH CARBON PROGRAM SUMMARY

About This Summary

The Alberta Emission Offset System allows eligible projects in Alberta that voluntarily reduce or sequester greenhouse gases to generate **emission offset credits**.

Those reductions must follow an Alberta-approved quantification protocol, satisfy the TIER Regulation and provincial standards, and pass independent third-party verification before offsets can be registered.

Original Publication

Alberta Emission Offset System

Government of Alberta

Framework

Technology Innovation and Emissions Reduction (TIER) Regulation.

THE STARTING POINT

Why This Matters

Alberta shows how an environmental outcome becomes a recognized financial asset.

It is the largest and longest-operating regulatory carbon market in Canada, dating back to 2007. That gives it nearly two decades of practice at the thing every Nation eventually has to answer: what turns carbon on the land into a credit somebody can buy.

WHY IT MATTERS TO INDIGENOUS NATIONS

The opportunity is real, but it has to be evaluated carefully. Holding carbon-rich land is the starting point, not the qualification.

CONTENTS

What's Inside

01	At a Glance	7
02	How the System Works	8
03	What Is a Quantification Protocol?	9
04	Approved Project Types	10
05	Verification & Credibility	11
06	A Forest Carbon Caution	13
07	Our Perspective	14
08	The Key Takeaway	15



KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED



AT A GLANCE

At a Glance

Regulated Market

Operates inside Alberta's framework for industrial greenhouse-gas emissions.

Verified Credits

Government-approved methodologies, independently verified claims.

Public Registry

Offsets are registered and publicly listed on the Alberta Emissions Offset Registry.

Compliance Demand

Regulated facilities can submit eligible credits toward TIER obligations.

KEY CONCEPT 01

How the System Works

- An eligible project reduces or sequesters greenhouse gases
- The benefit is calculated under an approved protocol
- Measurement and quantification follow that protocol
- An independent third party verifies the claim
- Qualifying offsets are serialized and registered
- Credits enter the compliance market

NEARLY TWO DECADES OF PRACTICE

As of 30 April 2025, Alberta reported roughly 96 million tonnes of offsets registered since the system began, and more than 26 million tonnes active.

KEY CONCEPT 02

What Is a Protocol?

A quantification protocol sets the rules for how reductions from a particular type of project are calculated. It names the eligible activities and gives the procedures for monitoring, measurement and quantification.

THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT IDEA HERE

An environmental benefit does not automatically become a carbon credit. There has to be an approved methodology capable of demonstrating and quantifying it.

KEY CONCEPT 03

Approved Project Types

Alberta lists protocols covering a wide range of activities:

- Carbon capture and permanent geologic sequestration
- Renewable energy, wind and solar
- Energy efficiency and waste heat recovery
- Biogas, biomass and landfill gas
- Agricultural emission reductions and methane reduction

CHECK BEFORE YOU ASSUME

The list changes as protocols are developed, revised, replaced, flagged or withdrawn. The provincial website is the source of truth.

KEY CONCEPT 04

Verification & Credibility

Project developers follow the **Standard for Greenhouse Gas Emission Offset Project Developers**. Independent verification is governed by Alberta's **Standard for Validation, Verification and Audit**.

4

STEPS THAT MAKE A CREDIT

Measure it. Document it. Verify it. Register it. Without credible measurement and independent verification, a reduction does not become an Alberta compliance offset.



Birch Carbon INSIGHTS



READ THIS CAREFULLY

A Forest Carbon Caution

Alberta previously had a protocol called **Direct Reductions in Greenhouse Gas Emissions Arising from Changes in Forest Harvest Practices**.

Alberta currently lists that protocol as **withdrawn**, which means new projects cannot presently be started under it.

WHAT THIS ACTUALLY MEANS

The existence of Alberta's carbon market does not mean a new forest conservation project qualifies to generate TIER offsets today. Eligibility depends on a current approved protocol.

BIRCH CARBON PROGRAM PERSPECTIVE

Potential Is Not the Same as Eligible

A Nation may steward landscapes holding enormous stored carbon. That is a real starting point for understanding a territory's climate value.

Turning that potential into a marketable credit needs a recognized methodology and an appropriate market pathway.

WHAT ALBERTA SHOWS IS REQUIRED

Standards, protocols, measurement, verification, a registry, and buyers. All six, in that order.

THE KEY TAKEAWAY

Carbon becomes a marketable asset when a measurable outcome meets the rules of a recognized system.

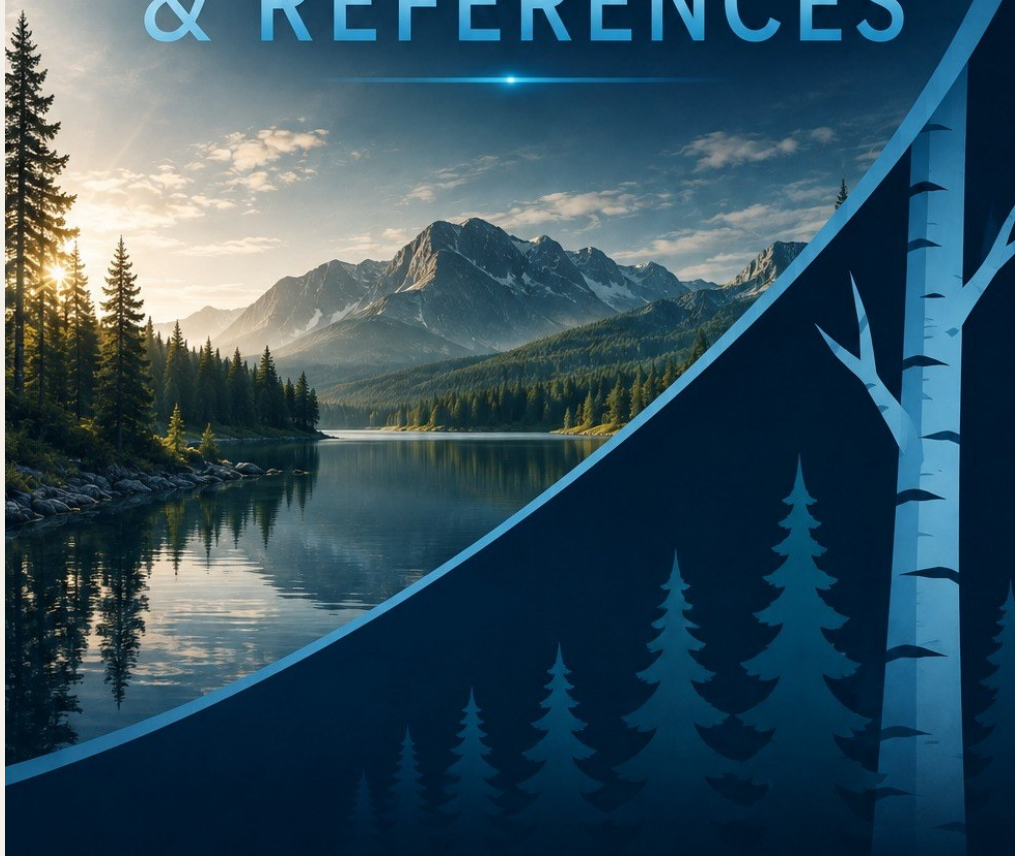
The stronger question for a Nation is not only how much carbon sits on the territory. It is which activities can generate measurable, verifiable and market-recognized climate outcomes, and which market provides the pathway.

THE ORDER OF OPERATIONS

Identify the natural asset. Determine the eligible activity. Find the applicable protocol. Measure the benefit. Verify the outcome. Then choose the market.



RESOURCES & REFERENCES



ORIGINAL SOURCE

Resources & References



GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

Alberta Emission Offset System

[Read the original publication ↗](#)



GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA · REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Technology Innovation and Emissions Reduction Regulation

[Open the TIER Regulation page ↗](#)

Attribution. *Alberta Emission Offset System* is a publication of the Government of Alberta. All rights in the original publication remain with the Government of Alberta.

About this summary. This Birch Carbon Program Summary has been prepared as an educational companion to the original publication. It is intended to improve accessibility and understanding while encouraging readers to consult the complete Government of Alberta resource for full technical guidance. It is not legal, financial, or technical advice.



INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP.

NATURAL SOLUTIONS.

SHARED PROSPERITY.

Part of the Indigenous Carbon Knowledge
Centre. Plain-language summaries of the
publications that matter most to Nations.

BIRCHCARBONPROGRAM.COM