



INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP.
NATURAL SOLUTIONS.
SHARED PROSPERITY.



BRITISH COLUMBIA OFFSET PROGRAM



CARBON PROJECTS & VERIFIED OFFSET UNITS



REAL REDUCTIONS.



RIGOROUS STANDARDS.



LASTING IMPACT.



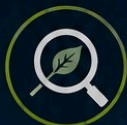
ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

A wide range of activities that reduce or remove greenhouse gas emissions.



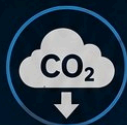
APPROVED PROTOCOLS

Projects follow B.C.-approved protocols and established rules.



MEASURED & VERIFIED

Independent validation and verification ensure credible, accurate climate outcomes.



OFFSET UNITS

One B.C. Offset Unit equals one tonne of CO₂e reduced or removed.



MARKET SOLUTIONS

Offset units support compliance and voluntary climate commitments.

BUILDING A
LOW-CARBON
FUTURE FOR
BRITISH
COLUMBIA



TRANSPARENCY
Public registry,
open information.



INTEGRITY
Strong standards,
independent
oversight.



PARTNERSHIP
Working together for
healthy lands and
strong communities.



RESILIENCE
Healthy forests,
clean air, strong
futures.

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

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BIRCH CARBON PROGRAM SUMMARY

About This Summary

British Columbia operates a regulated system that allows qualifying greenhouse-gas reduction and removal projects to generate **B.C. Offset Units**.

One unit represents one tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent either removed from the atmosphere or prevented from entering it, through eligible action that goes beyond business as usual.

Original Publication

Greenhouse Gas Emission Offset Projects

Province of British
Columbia

Framework

Greenhouse Gas
Industrial Reporting and
Control Act.

THE STARTING POINT

Why This Matters

B.C. gives forest carbon a formal regulatory pathway.

The Province publishes a dedicated Forest Carbon Offset Protocol, with project-plan and validation templates and specific guidance on additionality in forest projects.

WHY IT MATTERS TO INDIGENOUS NATIONS

British Columbia holds some of Canada's most important examples of Indigenous participation in forest carbon, including the Great Bear Forest Carbon Project.

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KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED



AT A GLANCE

At a Glance

1 Unit = 1 Tonne

Each issued unit is one verified tonne of reduction or removal.

Regulated

Provincial legislation, regulations and approved offset protocols.

Independently Checked

Accredited third parties validate plans and verify outcomes.

Public Registry

Projects and units are administered through the BC Carbon Registry.

KEY CONCEPT 01

How a Project Works

- Assess feasibility against the rules
- Develop the project plan
- Validate, then obtain project acceptance
- Monitor and report
- Verify the reported outcomes
- Offset units issued, then transferred or sold

THE DISTINCTION THAT MATTERS

Having carbon stored on a landscape is not the same as having carbon credits. A project must create qualifying reductions or removals and demonstrate them under an applicable protocol.

KEY CONCEPT 02

The Project Plan

Every proposed project needs a detailed plan setting out its purpose, boundaries, baseline scenario and the relevant greenhouse-gas sources, sinks and reservoirs. It also establishes the period in which the project can generate offsets.

Up to 25 years

Crediting period for sequestration projects.

Up to 10 years

For other project types, unless the protocol says otherwise.

KEY CONCEPT 03

Validation & Verification

The plan is independently validated by an accredited body before it goes to the BC Carbon Registry for provincial review and acceptance. Once operating, project reports are independently verified before units can be applied for.

5

STEPS THAT MAKE A CREDIT

Measure it. Document it. Validate it. Verify it.
Register it.

KEY CONCEPT 04

Additionality

A project must show its climate benefit is beyond what would have happened anyway under the applicable baseline and regulatory framework.

WHY IT MATTERS TO INDIGENOUS NATIONS

A forest holding millions of tonnes of stored carbon represents enormous natural climate value. That stock does not automatically become millions of saleable credits. The project must establish the qualifying incremental reduction or removal.



Birch Carbon INSIGHTS



WHY B.C. STANDS OUT

Forest Carbon in B.C.

The Province provides dedicated **Forest Carbon Offset Protocol** project-plan and validation templates, plus specific guidance on demonstrating additionality in forest projects.

Forest projects can involve activities that reduce emissions or increase removals associated with forest sinks and reservoirs. That gives forest management and conservation a formal route to recognized climate outcomes.

REAL, PERMANENT, ADDITIONAL

B.C. describes qualifying outcomes as needing to be all three, with accredited third parties validating and verifying both the project and its results.

GOVERNANCE COMES FIRST

Rights & Atmospheric Benefits

B.C. has a history of addressing Indigenous interests in forest carbon and what the Province calls **atmospheric benefits**: reductions in atmospheric greenhouse gases from avoided emissions or increased removals.

Its forest-carbon materials also include policy for situations where several First Nations hold traditional territories within one proposed project area.

WHY IT MATTERS TO INDIGENOUS NATIONS

Rights, title, jurisdiction, agreements and project ownership belong alongside the carbon science and economics, not after them.

THE KEY TAKEAWAY

The sequence matters more than the size of the carbon stock.

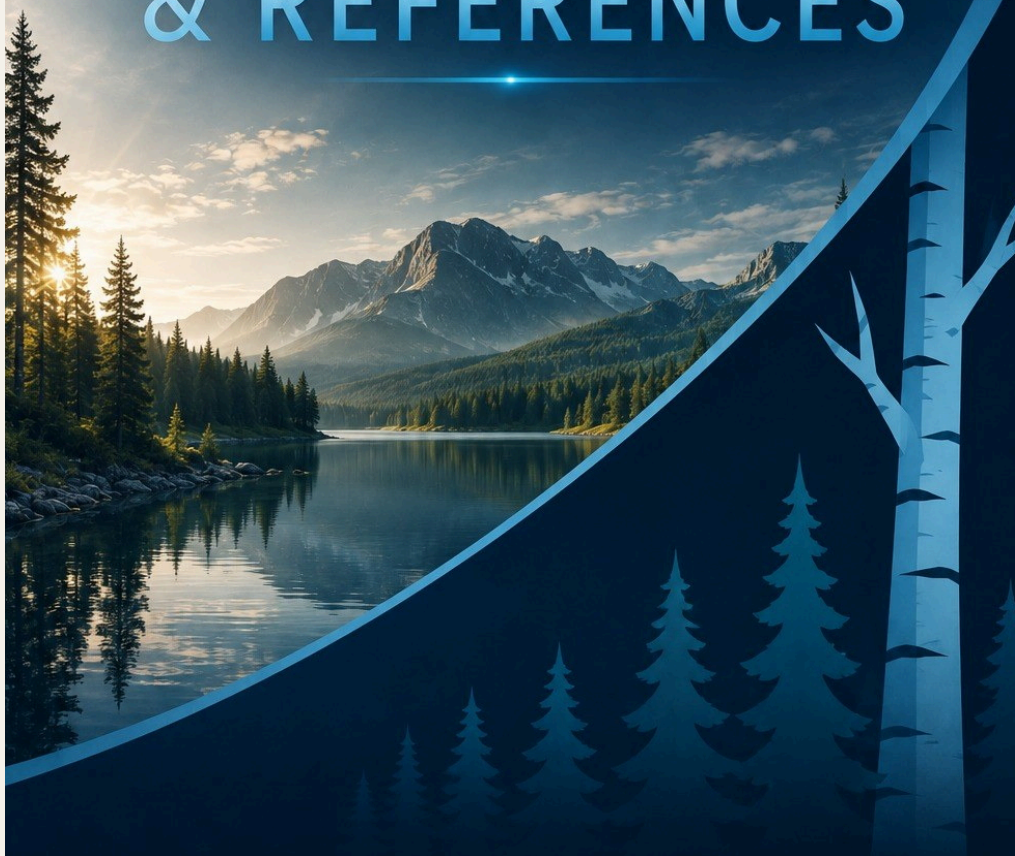
Land and natural assets, then Indigenous governance, then eligible activity, protocol, baseline, measurement, validation, monitoring, verification, carbon units, market. In that order.

THE QUESTION WORTH ASKING

A preliminary estimate shows the scale of a natural asset. The more important question is what portion of it can be developed into measurable, additional, verifiable and market-recognized credits.



RESOURCES & REFERENCES



ORIGINAL SOURCE

Resources & References



PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Greenhouse Gas Emission Offset Projects

[Read the original publication ↗](#)

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA · GUIDANCE

Developing a project, and approved offset protocols

[Open the offset protocols page ↗](#)

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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 provincial resource for full technical guidance. It is not legal, financial, or technical advice.



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

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