



INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP.
NATURAL SOLUTIONS.
SHARED PROSPERITY.



CANADA'S GREENHOUSE GAS OFFSET SYSTEM

A national framework for high-integrity,
environmental outcomes and climate action.



HIGH-INTEGRITY CREDITS

Credible, rigorous
standards that ensure
real, measurable
climate impact.



ROBUST STANDARDS

Projects verified
to meet Canada's
strict environmental
requirements.



CANADIAN BUILT

Designed to drive
innovation, jobs, and
a cleaner, stronger
economy.



FOR PEOPLE. FOR NATURE. FOR THE FUTURE.

Supporting Indigenous
leadership, communities,
and natural climate
solutions.

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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

Canada's Greenhouse Gas Offset Credit System is the federal framework that lets eligible projects generate verified offset credits by reducing emissions or removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Established under the **Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act**, it creates a regulated pathway for projects that produce measurable environmental benefit while generating credits that may be sold into Canada's compliance carbon market.

Original Publication
Canada's Greenhouse Gas Offset Credit System

Environment and
Climate Change Canada

This Edition

An educational companion prepared by the Birch Carbon Program for Indigenous Nations.

THE STARTING POINT

Why This Matters

Indigenous Nations steward some of Canada's largest intact forests, wetlands and peatlands.

Those landscapes hold carbon and support biodiversity. The federal system creates a route for qualifying projects to generate recognized credits while Nations retain ownership and stewardship of their lands.

WHY IT MATTERS TO INDIGENOUS NATIONS

Understanding how the federal system works is what lets a community evaluate a carbon opportunity rather than take someone else's word for it.

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KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED



AT A GLANCE

A National Compliance Market

The federal system supports projects that reduce emissions or increase removals, and provides a transparent framework for issuing compliance-grade credits.

It sets consistent national rules for project registration, monitoring, verification, credit issuance and tracking.

KEY CONCEPT 01

The Six Requirements

Every reduction has to be all six of these before a credit can be issued:

- Real
- Additional
- Quantifiable
- Independently verified
- Unique
- Permanent

KEY CONCEPT 02

Federal Offset Protocols

Projects follow an approved protocol specific to their type. Each protocol establishes:

- Eligibility requirements
- Measurement methods
- Monitoring requirements
- Reporting procedures
- Verification standards

WHY PROTOCOLS EXIST

They make a tonne mean the same thing from one project to the next, anywhere in Canada.

KEY CONCEPT 03

Credit Tracking

All issued credits are recorded in Canada's **Credit and Tracking System**, a public registry.

WHAT THAT PREVENTS

Double counting. A credit sold once cannot be sold again, and the whole chain is visible. That is what buyers are paying for.

KEY CONCEPT 04

What the System Guarantees

Consistent national rules from registration through to tracking, so that every federal offset credit represents a real, measurable, additional, verified and permanent environmental benefit.

WHY IT MATTERS TO INDIGENOUS NATIONS

That rigour is what makes a credit worth something. It also sets the standard a Nation's project has to meet, which is why capacity and data come first.



Birch Carbon INSIGHTS



THE OPPORTUNITY

What It Can Mean for a Nation

For many Nations, a qualifying project can create the conditions for:

- Long-term environmental revenue
- Stronger land stewardship
- Support for Guardians programs
- Local employment
- Protection of culturally significant landscapes
- Economic reconciliation through conservation

BIRCH CARBON PROGRAM PERSPECTIVE

The Federal Layer of the Picture

This is the national frame that sits alongside the provincial systems in Alberta, British Columbia and Québec. Each has its own rules, and the right pathway depends on the territory, the activity and the Nation's objectives.

WHERE TO START

Not with a market. With the land, the rights and the governance, then the activity, then the protocol that fits it.

THE KEY TAKEAWAY

Every credit has to be real, additional, quantifiable, verified, unique and permanent.

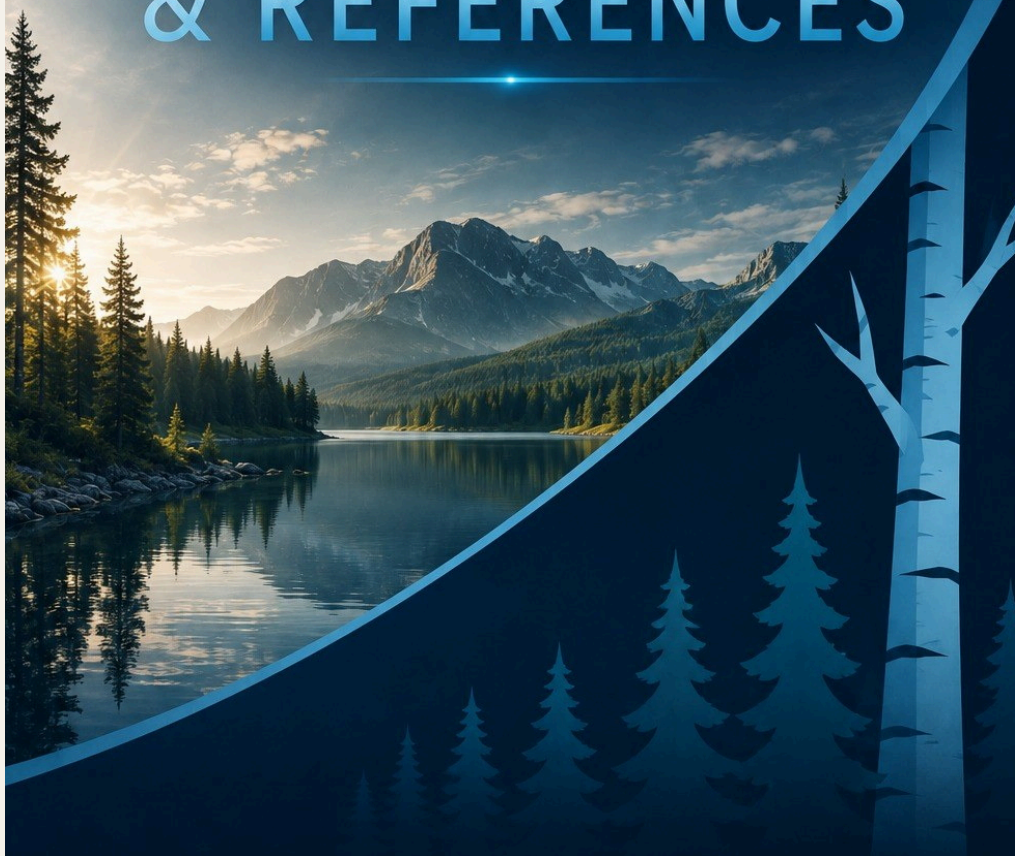
Those six words are the whole system. They explain why protocols exist, why verification is independent, why the registry is public, and why holding carbon-rich land is a starting point rather than a qualification.

READ ALONGSIDE

The five toolkit summaries in this library, which walk the same system step by step, and the provincial summaries for comparison.



RESOURCES & REFERENCES



ORIGINAL SOURCE

Resources & References



ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE
CANADA

Canada's Greenhouse Gas Offset Credit System

[Read the original publication ↗](#)



GOVERNMENT OF CANADA · PROTOCOLS
AND REGISTRY

Federal offset protocols, and the Credit and Tracking System

[Open the 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 Government of Canada 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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