



INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP.
NATURAL SOLUTIONS.
SHARED PROSPERITY.



QUÉBEC

OFFSET CREDIT SYSTEM



REGULATED CARBON MARKET & CARBON CREDITS

Turning real climate actions
into **verified carbon credits**
within Québec's cap-and-trade
carbon market.



ELIGIBLE PROJECTS. VERIFIED RESULTS. REAL CLIMATE IMPACT.



ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Landfill methane, halocarbon destruction, afforestation & reforestation, agriculture, and more.



APPROVED PROTOCOLS

Projects follow government-approved regulations and methodologies.



MEASURED & VERIFIED

Independent validation and verification ensure accurate, additional climate outcomes.



OFFSET CREDITS

1 credit equals 1 tonne of CO₂e reduced or removed.



REGULATED MARKET

Credits are issued by Québec and used by regulated companies to meet compliance obligations.



TRANSPARENT REGISTRY

Projects and credits are publicly registered in Québec's offset credit registry.



STRONGER CLIMATE.
STRONGER COMMUNITIES.
STRONGER FUTURES.

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



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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

Québec's system lets individuals and companies voluntarily undertake eligible projects in sectors **not covered** by the province's carbon market.

Where those projects produce qualifying reductions or removals, the Government of Québec can issue offset credits. Those credits can then be sold to companies regulated under the provincial market and used toward their compliance obligations.

Original Publication
Offset Credits
Government of Québec

Framework
Québec's cap-and-trade system for greenhouse gas emission allowances.

THE STARTING POINT

Why This Matters

Three provinces, three different systems.

Alberta, British Columbia and Québec do not run identical carbon markets. Each has its own rules, eligible activities, protocols, registries and compliance structures.

WHY IT MATTERS TO INDIGENOUS NATIONS

Carbon development should not start from the assumption that one model works everywhere in Canada. It starts with the territory and the Nation's objectives, then finds the right pathway.

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KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED



AT A GLANCE

At a Glance

1 Credit = 1 Tonne

One credit is one tonne of greenhouse gas reduced or removed.

Regulated Market

Credits are issued inside Québec's formal cap-and-trade system.

Approved Projects

Projects must follow a regulation or protocol approved by Québec.

Public Registry

Project information, verification reports and issued credits are documented publicly.

KEY CONCEPT 01

How the System Works

- An eligible project is undertaken
- Under an approved regulation or protocol
- The greenhouse gas benefit is measured
- The claim is verified
- Government issues the credits
- Credits enter the market and reach a regulated buyer

THE CRITICAL DISTINCTION

Reducing emissions or storing carbon does not automatically create a carbon credit. The activity must qualify under an approved Québec regulation or protocol first.

KEY CONCEPT 02

Eligible Project Types

- Landfill methane
- Halocarbon destruction
- Afforestation and reforestation
- Agricultural methane
- Coal-mine methane
- Manure anaerobic digestion

AN OPERATING MARKET, NOT A PROPOSAL

As of 8 July 2026 Québec reports 2,328,518 credits issued: 1,383,270 from landfill methane and 945,248 from halocarbon destruction.

KEY CONCEPT 03

Afforestation & Reforestation

Québec's listed land-based pathway concerns carbon sequestration through afforestation or reforestation **on privately owned land**.

READ THIS CAREFULLY

That is not the same as issuing credits for an existing standing forest because it stores a lot of carbon. The project must involve an eligible activity and meet Québec's regulatory requirements.

KEY CONCEPT 04

Compliance Creates Demand

These are not voluntary environmental certificates. Companies regulated by the provincial carbon market can buy eligible credits to help meet legal obligations.

8%

OF TOTAL EMISSIONS

The current ceiling on how much regulated companies may cover with offset credits, preserving the incentive to cut emissions directly rather than buy their way out.



Birch Carbon INSIGHTS



MARKET INTEGRITY

Verification & Transparency

Québec maintains a public Register of Offset Credit Projects carrying project information, project reports, verification reports and the credits issued for each project.

AN INTEGRITY MECHANISM WORTH NOTING

Of the credits issued for a project, 97 per cent go to the promoter. The remainder is placed in the Minister's environmental integrity account.

BIRCH CARBON PROGRAM PERSPECTIVE

Two Separate Questions

A Nation's natural carbon potential and its eligible carbon-credit opportunity are not the same question. A territory may hold enormous carbon in forests, soils and wetlands. The next step is narrower.

- What activity is eligible?
- Which protocol or regulation applies?
- Who holds the rights and authority?
- What benefit can be demonstrated, measured and verified?
- Which market can recognize the resulting credits?

THE KEY TAKEAWAY

Natural carbon becomes a marketable credit only when an eligible outcome satisfies the rules of a recognized system.

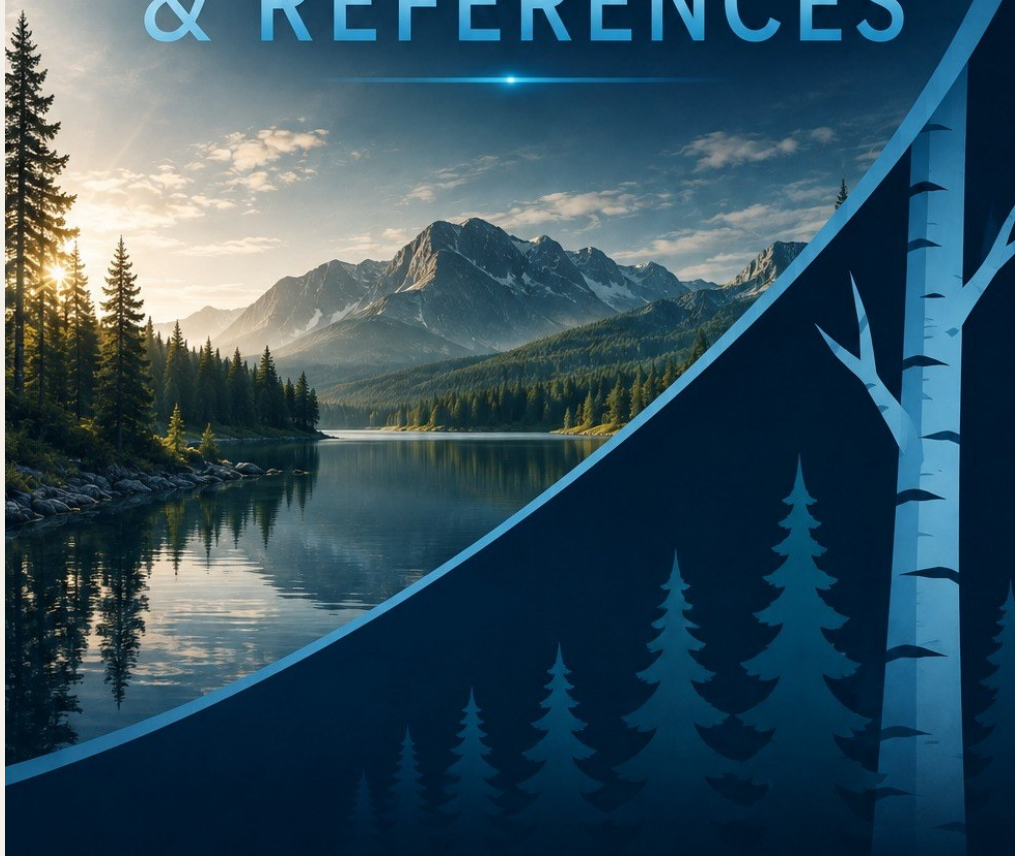
The same lesson Alberta and British Columbia teach, from a third set of rules.

A LIVE DEVELOPMENT

Québec consulted on changes to its cap-and-trade system, including reducing the overall limit on offset-credit use and reserving part of it for Québec-issued credits. The consultation closed 3 July 2026 and comments were being analyzed.



RESOURCES & REFERENCES



ORIGINAL SOURCE

Resources & References



GOVERNMENT OF QUÉBEC

Offset Credits

[Read the original publication ↗](#)



GOVERNMENT OF QUÉBEC · PUBLIC
REGISTRY

Register of Offset Credit Projects

[Open the register ↗](#)

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About this summary. This Birch Carbon Program Summary has been prepared as an educational companion to the original publication. Rules, ceilings and eligible protocols change, so readers should consult the provincial resource directly. 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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