The Climate, Carbon, and Governance Framework

A Global Reference for Carbon Markets, Standards, Climate Policy, and Sustainability Systems

Image courtesy of The Climate Reality Project

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Foreword

The transition to a low-emissions global economy has led to the rapid development of climate policies, carbon markets, sustainability standards, and environmental governance systems across multiple jurisdictions. As these systems have expanded, so too has the volume and complexity of the terminology used to describe them.

The Climate, Carbon and Governance Framework has been developed to provide a structured reference for this evolving landscape. It consolidates key concepts, standards, regulatory systems, and scientific terminology into a single organised lexicon intended to support clearer understanding and more consistent use of language across policy, markets, and technical practice.

This publication reflects the authors' ongoing engagement in climate policy development, carbon markets, and land-sector climate solutions, including early participation in consultations surrounding the **Carbon Farming Initiative in 2011** and current involvement as **expert reviewers for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Seventh Assessment Report (AR7)**.

The framework is intended as a practical reference for policymakers, regulators, researchers, project developers, and investors working across the rapidly evolving field of climate governance.

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How to Use This Framework

This document provides a coherent structure for understanding how international climate agreements, regulatory systems, carbon markets, measurement standards, and corporate governance frameworks interact.

The Tag Legend and Tag Matrix in the document explains how the classification system works and how terms are grouped across policy, science, markets, and governance domains.

- As a teaching and orientation tool for professionals entering the climate and sustainability sector.
- As a technical support document for carbon project developers, researchers, and regulators.
- As a policy and governance reference for organisations developing climate strategies or sustainability reporting systems.
- As a reference guide when encountering unfamiliar terminology in climate, sustainability, or carbon market documentation.

The framework can be used in several ways:

Each glossary entry includes classification tags which identify the domain in which the term is primarily used. These tags allow readers to quickly understand whether a concept relates to science, regulation, markets, governance, finance, or environmental systems.

The glossary tables form the core of the document. Each entry is organised alphabetically and provides a concise definition of a key concept used in climate governance, carbon markets, sustainability reporting, and environmental management.

This framework is designed as a structured reference system for navigating the complex landscape of climate policy, carbon markets, environmental governance, and sustainability standards.

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Core Reference Tables

The information is laid out in table form with defined terms, classification tags, and detailed descriptions. Due to the complex, multi-disciplinary nature of sustainability, climate governance, and carbon markets, many concepts overlap regulatory, scientific, financial, and social domains.

Accordingly, individual entries may be associated with multiple thematic tags to reflect their relevance across policy, compliance, measurement, governance, and market contexts.

[A6] – Paris Agreement Article 6 Mechanisms, Including ITMOs, Cooperative Approaches, and International Crediting Frameworks

[ACCU] – Australian Carbon Credit Units, ERF/ACCU Methodologies, and Clean Energy Regulator Frameworks

[AGRI] – Agriculture, Land Management, Soil Systems, and Biomass Production

[AU] – Australian Regulatory, Policy, And Market Context, Including Safeguard Mechanism and Domestic Climate Law

[BIOCHAR] – Biochar Production, Stability, Feedstocks, Pyrolysis Systems, and Carbon Storage Pathways

[CM] – Compliance and Regulated Carbon Markets

[CORP] – Corporate Governance, Strategy, Management, and Communications

[E] – Environmental Impact, Climate Systems, and Resource Management

[FIN] – Financial Markets, Instruments, and Investment Structures

[HEALTH] – Environmental Health, Contaminants, Toxicity, And Human or Ecological Exposure Risks

[HEMP] – Industrial Hemp Cultivation, Processing, Carbon Sequestration, and Biomaterial Systems

[ISO] – International Organization for Standardization

[MRV] – Measurement, Reporting, Verification, and Assurance Systems

[NATURE] – Biodiversity, Ecosystems, Natural Capital, and Nature-Based Solutions

[POL] – Public Policy, Government Programs, and International Agreements

[REG] – Regulatory, Legal, and Compliance Obligations

[RISK] – Risk Management, Controls, and Exposure Assessment

[S] – Social Impact, Human Rights, Labour Standards, and Community Engagement

[VCM] – Voluntary Carbon Market Structures, Standards, and Governance

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TERM	TAGS	DESCRIPTION
A6.2 (Article 6.2)	[A6][REG]	Cooperative approaches using international transfers under the Paris Agreement.
A6.4 (Article 6.4)	[A6][REG]	UN-Supervised Crediting Mechanism under the Paris Agreement.
A6.4ER (Article 6.4 Emission Reduction)	[A6][REG]	Emission Reduction Unit issued under the Paris Agreement.
ACB (Aboveground Carbon Biomass)	[SOIL][HEMP]	Carbon Stock in Aboveground Plant Biomass (often used as a carbon cool descriptor).
ACCU (Australian Carbon Credit Unit)	[ACCU][AU][CM] [MRV][REG]	Australian Domestic Carbon Credit Unit issued under the ACCU Scheme.
ACCU Scheme	[ACCU][AU][CM] [MRV][REG]	Australia's Carbon Crediting Framework under the CFI Act and related rules.
ACR (American Carbon Registry)	[MRV][STD][VCM]	Carbon Credit Registry and Standard.
Additionality	[MRV][VCM][CM]	Requirement that abatement occurs beyond Business-As Usual.
Additionality (Crop)	[HEMP][SOIL] [MRV]	Additionality Test applied to crop rotations and management changes.

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AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry, And Other Land Use)	[AGRI][HEMP] [MRV][SOIL]	Land Sector Category for emissions and removals.
AGB (Above-Ground Biomass)	[AGRI][HEMP] [MRV][SCI][SOIL]	Biomass above the soil surface used in carbon stock calculations.
AIF (Alternative Investment Fund)	[FIN][CORP]	Pooled investment vehicle including private equity and infrastructure funds.
AIFMD (Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive)	[REG][FIN]	EU regulatory framework for alternative investment fund managers.
AIM (Asset Integrity Management)	[CORP][RISK]	Management system to maintain safety and integrity of physical assets.
Allometric Equation	[SCI][MRV]	Formula for estimating biomass from tree dimensions.
ALM (Agricultural Land Management)	[AGRI][MRV][SCI] [SOIL][VCM]	Practice-Based Framework for soil and farm emissions.
ANREU (Australian National Registry of Emissions Units)	[AU][MRV][VCM]	Australian Registry for issuance, holding, transfer, and surrender of units.
Application Emissions	[SCI][MRV][E] [NATURE]	Energy use and greenhouse gas emissions associated with applying biochar to soils or incorporating it into products.

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ARR (Afforestation, Reforestation, Revegetation)	[AU][MRV]	Tree-Based Sequestration activity category.
ART (Architecture For REDD+ Transactions)	[VCM]	Crediting Framework for REDD+ programs and jurisdictional REDD+.
ASA (Australian Sustainability Assurance)	[AU][CORP][MRV]	Assurance practice covering sustainability information (generic term).
Ash Content	[AGRI][BIOCHAR] [MRV][SCI]	Inorganic Fraction of biochar affecting carbon fraction and agronomic properties.
Authorisation (Host Country Authorisation)	[A6]	Host Government Approval for international transfer or use of mitigation outcomes.
B Corp (B Corporation)	[CORP]	Certification framework for verified social and environmental performance.
Baseline	[MRV]	Reference Level against which abatement or removals are quantified.
BAU (Business as Usual)	[MRV]	Baseline Scenario without the project or practice change.
BD (Bulk Density)	[AGRI][MRV][SCI] [SOIL]	Soil Mass Per Unit volume used to convert concentrations into stocks.

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BET SSA (Specific Surface Area)	[AGRI][BIOCHAR] [MRV][SCI]	Surface Area Metric linked to adsorption and soil function.
BGB (Below-Ground Biomass)	[HEMP][SOIL]	Root and Subsurface Biomass used in carbon allocation calculations.
BioCCS (Biogenic Carbon Capture and Storage)	[SCI][REG][MRV] [E]	Capture and permanent storage of CO_2 originating from biomass, resulting in net atmospheric carbon removal.
Biochar	[AGRI][BIOCHAR] [MRV][SCI]	Carbon-Rich Solid produced by pyrolysis intended for long-term carbon storage and/or soil improvement.
Biochar Carbon Removal (BCR)	[SCI][NATURE] [MRV][REG]	Carbon removal achieved by converting biomass into stable biochar and storing it in soils or long-lived products.
Biochar Production Facility	[SCI][MRV][E]	Infrastructure and equipment used to process biomass into biochar including energy generation and treatment systems.
Biogenic Carbon	[MRV][HEMP] [BIOCHAR]	Carbon originating from atmospheric CO_2 fixed by biomass.

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Biomass Supply Emissions	[SCI][MRV][E]	Emissions from production, harvesting, collection, and transport of biomass feedstock.
Blended Finance	[FIN][RISK]	Public–private risk-sharing financing structure.
BNP (Biodiversity Net Positive)	[E][NATURE][SCI]	Commitment to deliver net positive outcomes for biodiversity.
BT (Baseline-And-Trade)	[CM]	Trading with facility baselines and trading of outcomes.
Buffer Account / Buffer Pool	[AU][MRV][RISK] [VCM]	Risk-Mitigation reserve used to manage reversal risk.
CA (Corresponding Adjustment)	[A6]	Accounting Adjustment applied to avoid double counting between parties.
Cancellation (Credits)	[VCM][MRV]	Removal of credits from circulation without offset claim.
Capital Emissions	[SCI][MRV][E] [RISK]	Lifecycle emissions arising from construction, installation, and commissioning of carbon removal infrastructure.
CAR (Climate Action Reserve)	[MRV][VCM]	Registry and Protocol Operator in the Voluntary Carbon Market.
Carbon Derivatives	[FIN][RISK]	Futures and options based on carbon credits.

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Carbon Fraction	[SCI][MRV]	Coefficient representing carbon content of biomass.
Carbon Half-Life	[SCI][MRV]	Persistence indicator of stored carbon.
Carbon Neutrality	[CORP][MRV][STD][REG]	Condition in which residual emissions are offset or neutralised to achieve a net zero balance.
Carbon Price Risk	[FIN][RISK]	Exposure to volatility in carbon credit prices.
Carbon Removal Activity (CRA)	[REG][MRV][SCI][E]	Activity designed to remove atmospheric CO_2 and store it durably subject to certification criteria including additionality and quantification.
Carbon Removal Certification Framework (CRCF)	[REG][MRV][POL]	EU regulatory framework establishing quality criteria and certification methodologies for permanent carbon removal activities.
CBAM (Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism)	[CM]	Border Measure applying carbon cost to imports. EU CBAM in force 2026.
CCA (Climate Change Authority)	[AU]	Australian Statutory Authority advising on climate policy.

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CCB (Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standards)	[E][NATURE][SCI][STD][S][VCM]	Certification standard for community and biodiversity co-benefits.
CCER (Chinese Certified Emission Reduction)	[CM]	Domestic Carbon Credit Unit used in China's policy context.
CCP (Core Carbon Principles)	[VCM]	Integrity Benchmarks for Voluntary Carbon Credits.
CCS (Carbon Capture and Storage)	[CM][MRV]	Capture and Geological Storage of CO_2 to prevent atmospheric release.
CCUS (Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage)	[CM][MRV]	CCS with a Utilisation Pathway prior to storage.
CDM (Clean Development Mechanism)	[CM]	Kyoto Protocol Crediting Mechanism.
CDR (Carbon Dioxide Removal)	[MRV][BIOCHAR]	Removal of atmospheric CO_2 with long-term storage.
CDSB (Climate Disclosure Standards Board)	[CORP][MRV][REG][STD]	Framework historically used for climate and environmental disclosure.
CEC (Cation Exchange Capacity)	[AGRI][BIOCHAR][MRV][SCI][SOIL]	Soil/Biochar property influencing nutrient retention.

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CER (AU) (Clean Energy Regulator)	[ACCU][AU][MRV][REG]	Australian Regulator administering ACCU Scheme, NGER, Safeguard, and Renewable Energy Schemes.
CER (Certified Emission Reduction)	[CM]	CDM Credit Unit under Kyoto.
CFI Act (Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Act 2011)	[ACCU][AGRI][AU][MRV][REG]	Core Commonwealth Legislation underpinning ACCU crediting.
CFI Rule (Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Rule 2015)	[ACCU][AGRI][AU][MRV][REG]	Subordinate Legislative Rules supporting ACCU scheme operation.
CHRM (Corporate Human Rights Management)	[CORP][REG]	Systems to identify, prevent, and remediate human rights impacts.
CH_4 (Methane)	[MRV]	Greenhouse Gas with high near-term warming potential.
Circular Economy	[E][CORP][POL][FIN]	Economic system aimed at eliminating waste through reuse, recycling, remanufacturing, and regenerative design.
Climate Neutral	[CORP][MRV][STD]	Claim that climate impacts are balanced through mitigation and offsetting measures.

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Confirmation of CO_2 Origin	[MRV][SCI][RISK][REG]	Verification that captured CO_2 is atmospheric or biogenic, often using isotope testing to prevent fossil carbon misattribution.
Conservatism Factor (FC)	[MRV][SCI][RISK]	Adjustment applied to carbon removal estimates to account for measurement uncertainty and ensure conservative reporting.
Continuous Disclosure (ESG)	[CORP][REG]	Ongoing obligation to disclose material ESG information.
COP (Conference Of the Parties)	[A6]	UNFCCC Governing Conference.
Corporate Insetting	[CORP][MRV]	Reductions/removals used inside a company's value chain rather than purchased offsets.
CORSIA (Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation)	[CM]	ICAO Scheme for International Aviation Offsetting.
CO_2 (Carbon Dioxide)	[MRV]	Primary Anthropogenic Greenhouse Gas.
CO_2e (Carbon Dioxide Equivalent)	[MRV][STD]	Standardised Unit converting GHGs using GWPs.

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Cradle to Cradle (C2C)	[E][STD][SCI] [CORP]	Design framework promoting products that can be perpetually cycled through biological and technical systems.
CRC (Carbon Reduction Commitment)	[CM]	UK Policy Instrument (historical/legacy ETS-style program).
Credit Pooling	[VCM][FIN]	Aggregation of credits for portfolio sale.
Credit Tagging / Labelling	[VCM][MRV]	Application of attributes and labels to carbon units.
Crediting Period	[MRV][AU][VCM]	Period during which credits may be issued under a method.
Crop-Based Methodology	[HEMP][SOIL] [MRV]	Method Framework for annual/short-rotation crops (non-forestry).
CRtotal (Total Carbon Removals)	[MRV][SCI]	Calculated quantity of net removals derived from permanence, carbon content, and biochar mass variables.
CSDDD (Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive)	[REG][CORP]	EU directive on sustainability and human rights due diligence.
CSO (Chief Sustainability Officer	[CORP]	Executive responsible for sustainability.

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CSRD (Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive)	[REG][CORP]	EU directive mandating sustainability reporting.
DAC (Direct Air Capture)	[BIOCHAR][MRV]	Capture of CO_2 directly from ambient air.
DACCS (Direct Air Capture with Carbon Storage)	[SCI][REG][MRV] [E] [BIOCHAR]	Technology capturing CO_2 directly from ambient air and storing it permanently underground.
DCCEEW (Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water)	[AU]	Australian Department Leading Climate Policy and Method Development.
Decay Constant	[SCI][MRV]	Rate of organic matter decomposition.
DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion)	[CORP]	Workplace and leadership practices supporting inclusion and fairness.
DMA (Double Materiality Assessment)	[CORP][MRV]	Process to assess financial and impact materiality.
Double Claiming	[A6][VCM]	Same abatement claimed by two entities (e.g., host and buyer).

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Double Counting	[A6][VCM][MRV]	Same abatement issued/used more than once across systems.
E&S (Environmental and Social)	[CORP][RISK]	Combined environmental and social risk management category.
EBA (European Banking Authority)	[FIN][REG][RISK]	EU banking regulator issuing ESG risk guidance.
EBC (European Biochar Certificate)	[AGRI][BIOCHAR] [MRV][SCI]	Quality and traceability certification scheme for biochar.
EC (Electrical Conductivity)	[AGRI][BIOCHAR] [MRV][SCI][SOIL]	Salinity Indicator for soil/biochar suitability.
EED (Energy Efficiency Directive)	[REG][E]	EU directive on energy efficiency requirements.
EHS (Environment, Health, and Safety)	[CORP][RISK]	Operational management system for HSE risks.
Electricity Attribution Methods	[MRV][SCI][REG]	Approaches used to assign emissions factors to electricity consumed in carbon removal activities.
End of Life (EoL)	[E][MRV][STD] [CORP]	Final stage of a product's life cycle including disposal, recycling, or recovery.
Enforcement Action (ESG)	[CORP][REG]	Penalties for misleading or non-compliant disclosures.

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EP (Equator Principles)	[FIN][REG][RISK]	Risk framework used by financial institutions for project finance.
EPD (Environmental Product Declaration)	[MRV][SCI][STD]	Standardised third-party verified product environmental declaration.
ERAC (Emissions Reduction Assurance Committee)	[ACCU][AU][MRV][REG][STD]	Integrity Advisory Committee for ACCU methods (offsets integrity standards).
ERF (Emissions Reduction Fund)	[ACCU][AU][MRV][REG]	Australian Policy Program historically associated with ACCU purchasing/contracting.
ESG (Environment, Social and Governance)	[CORP][REG]	Environmental, social, and governance framework for sustainability assessment.
ESRS (European Sustainability Reporting Standards)	[MRV][REG][STD]	Detailed standards under CSRD.
ETS (Emissions Trading System)	[CM]	Cap-And-Trade System for allowances.
EU Taxonomy	[REG][FIN]	EU classification system for environmentally sustainable activities.
F-Gases (Fluorinated Gases)	[MRV]	Synthetic High-GWP Gases (HFCs, PFCs, SF_6, NF_3).

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FAIRR (Farm Animal Investment Risk and Return)	[AGRI][FIN][RISK][S]	Investor network focused on animal agriculture ESG risks.
FC (Fixed Carbon)	[BIOCHAR]	Stable Carbon Fraction remaining after pyrolysis.
FCA (Financial Conduct Authority)	[CORP][FIN][REG]	UK financial regulator including sustainability disclosure rules.
FD (Financial Disclosure)	[CORP][REG]	Reporting of material financial information to markets.
Fiduciary duty	[CORP][REG]	Duty to act in best interests of beneficiaries or shareholders.
First Transfer	[A6][REG]	Defined trigger for certain Article 6.2 accounting/reporting consequences.
Forward Offtake Agreement	[FIN][VCM]	Pre-purchase contract for future carbon credit delivery.
Fperm (Permanence Fraction)	[SCI][MRV][RISK]	Proportion of carbon expected to remain stored over the long term in a carbon removal reservoir.
FPIC (Free, Prior and Informed Consent)	[REG][STD][S]	Indigenous Peoples' consent standard for land and resource projects.
Gasification	[BIOCHAR]	Thermal Conversion with limited oxygen producing syngas and residuals.

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GBPs (Green Bond Principles)	[FIN]	ICMA voluntary principles for green bond issuance.
GHG (Greenhouse Gas)	[MRV]	Gas contributing to radiative forcing.
GHG Protocol	[CORP][MRV][REG][STD]	Widely used corporate and value chain accounting standards.
GHGmaterials	[MRV][SCI][E]	Emissions associated with production of materials used in construction of carbon removal facilities.
Global Circularity Protocol	[E][STD][POL][CORP]	Framework for measuring and reporting circular material flows and resource use.
GO (Guarantee of Origin)	[AU][MRV]	Scheme for certifying attributes of low-emissions products (e.g., hydrogen).
Gold Standard (GS)	[MRV][REG][STD][VCM]	Global voluntary carbon standard emphasising sustainable benefits.
GPP (Gross Primary Production)	[HEMP][SOIL]	Total photosynthetic carbon fixation metric.
Green bond	[FIN]	Debt instrument financing eligible environmental projects.

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Greencrowding	[CORP][RISK]	Copying peer claims and targets without demonstrating performance.
Greenhushing	[CORP][RISK]	Deliberate under-communication of sustainability action to avoid scrutiny.
Greenlighting	[CORP][RISK]	Promoting minor initiatives to distract from material impacts.
Greenrinsing	[CORP][RISK]	Repeatedly resetting targets to reduce accountability.
Greenshifting	[CORP][RISK]	Shifting responsibility for impacts onto consumers.
Greenwashing	[CORP][REG]	Misleading or unsubstantiated sustainability claims.
GRI (Global Reporting Initiative)	[CORP][MRV][STD]	Global sustainability reporting standards.
GS (Gold Standard)	[MRV][STD][VCM]	Voluntary Standard for crediting and sustainable development impacts.
GWP (Global Warming Potential)	[MRV]	Metric converting GHGs to CO_2e over a defined time horizon.
H/Corg Ratio	[AGRI][BIOCHAR] [MRV][SCI]	Hydrogen-To-Organic Carbon Ratio used as a biochar stability proxy.

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Halo effect	[CORP][RISK]	One positive initiative distorting overall sustainability perception.
Harvest Index (HI)	[HEMP]	Ratio of harvestable yield to total biomass.
Harvested Biomass Carbon	[HEMP][MRV]	Carbon stored in harvested products (potentially short- or long-lived).
Heat Emission Factors	[MRV][SCI]	Standardised emissions intensities applied to heat consumption based on energy source and efficiency.
HEMP Carbon Sequestration	[AGRI][HEMP] [MRV][SCI][SOIL]	Carbon uptake by hemp including biomass and potential soil inputs.
Hempcrete	[AGRI][HEMP] [MRV][SCI]	Hemp-Lime Composite Material with potential substitution and carbon storage benefits.
HIR (Human-Induced Regeneration)	[ACCU][AU][MRV] [REG]	Regeneration of native forest through managed land use under ACCU Method families.
Holding Account (Registry)	[MRV][VCM]	Account for storing carbon credits in a registry.
Host Country Authorisation	[A6][REG]	Government approval for transfer/use of outcomes as ITMOs or for other purposes.

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HREDD (Human Rights and Environmental Due Diligence)	[REG][CORP]	Due diligence processes for rights and environmental impacts.
HTL (Hydrothermal Liquefaction)	[BIOCHAR]	High-Pressure Biomass Conversion in water producing bio-crude and residuals.
ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization)	[CM]	UN Agency administering CORSIA.
ICMA (International Capital Market Association)	[FIN]	Industry body producing green and sustainability bond principles.
ICROA (International Carbon Reduction and Offset Alliance)	[VCM][CORP]	Industry body establishing best-practice guidance for corporate carbon offsetting.
ICVCM (Integrity Council for the VCM	[VCM]	Body establishing CCPs and integrity benchmarks.
ICVCM Assessment Framework	[VCM][REG]	Framework for assessing Carbon Principle eligibility.
IETA (International Emissions Trading Association)	[CM][VCM]	Industry Association for Carbon Markets.
IFM (Improved Forest Management)	[MRV][AU]	Sequestration/Emissions Management through forest practice changes.

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IGES (Institute for Global Environmental Strategies)	[A6]	Climate Policy Research Institution.
ILO (International Labour Organization)	[REG][STD][S]	UN agency setting international labour standards.
Impact investing	[FIN][S][E]	Investment intended to generate measurable social or environmental impact.
Impact washing	[CORP][REG]	Overstating or misrepresenting social or environmental impact.
Implied certification	[CORP][REG]	Suggesting external approval without authorization.
Industrial Hemp	[AGRI][HEMP][SCI]	Low-THC Cannabis Sativa cultivated for fibre, grain, And biomass.
Input Emissions	[SCI][MRV][E]	Emissions generated in the production and supply of inputs used within carbon removal processes.
IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change)	[MRV]	Source of global climate science and GHG inventory guidance.

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ISO 14001	[ISO][STD][MRV][REG][E]	International standard specifying requirements for environmental management systems to improve environmental performance.
ISO 14021	[MRV][REG][STD]	Self-declared environmental claims standard.
ISO 14024	[MRV][REG][STD]	Type I environmental labelling (third-party) standard.
ISO 14025	[MRV][REG][STD]	Type III environmental declarations (EPDs) standard.
ISO 14040	[ISO][MRV][REG][STD]	Life Cycle Assessment principles and framework.
ISO 14044	[ISO][MRV][REG][STD]	Life Cycle Assessment requirements and guidelines.
ISO 14064-1	[ISO][MRV][REG][STD]	Organisation-Level GHG quantification and reporting.
ISO 14064-2	[ISO][MRV][REG][STD]	Project-Level GHG quantification, monitoring, and reporting.
ISO 14064-3	[ISO][MRV][REG][STD]	Validation and Verification of GHG Statements.
ISO 14067	[ISO][MRV][REG][STD]	Carbon Footprint of products quantification and reporting.

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ISO 14068-1	[CORP][ISO][MRV][REG][STD]	Carbon neutrality framework requirements and guidance.
ISO 26000	[CORP][MRV][REG][STD]	Guidance on social responsibility.
ISO/TR 14069	[ISO][MRV][REG][STD]	Guidance for organisation GHG inventories (technical report).
ISSB (International Sustainability Standards Board)	[CORP][MRV][REG][STD]	IFRS body issuing global sustainability disclosure standards.
Issuance (Carbon Credits)	[MRV][VCM]	Creation of verified carbon credits in a registry.
ITMO (Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcome)	[A6][REG]	Outcome/Unit transferred internationally for NDC or other uses.
Just Transition	[S][POL]	Fair transition to a low-carbon economy for workers and communities.
JV (Joint Venture)	[MRV]	Project development partnership structure.
KPIs (Key Performance Indicators)	[CORP][MRV]	Quantitative measures to track performance
LAI (Leaf Area Index)	[HEMP]	Canopy Metric used in growth modelling and remote sensing.

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Land-Use Change (LUC)	[MRV][HEMP] [SOIL]	Emissions from conversion between land uses.
LCA (Life Cycle Assessment)	[ISO][MRV]	Quantification of environmental impacts across a product life cycle.
Leakage	[MRV][VCM][CM]	Emissions increases outside project boundary caused by the project.
LLPs (Long-Lived Products)	[HEMP][MRV]	Products storing carbon over long durations (e.g., building materials).
Localwashing	[CORP][RISK]	Exaggerating local, community, or Indigenous benefits.
LULUCF (Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry)	[MRV]	UNFCCC sector category for land-based emissions/removals.
MAP (Mean Annual Precipitation)	[SOIL]	Climatic driver used in stratification and modelling.
MAT (Mean Annual Temperature)	[SOIL]	Climatic driver used in stratification and modelling.
Materiality	[CORP][MRV]	Issues that substantively affect enterprise value or stakeholders.
Method Determination	[ACCU][AU][MRV] [REG]	Legislative Instrument setting ACCU Method Rules.

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Method Proponent	[AU][MRV]	Entity developing a crediting method.
Methodology Approval Panel (MAP)	[MRV][REG]	Body responsible for approving carbon crediting methodologies.
Misrepresentation (Sustainability)	[REG][CORP]	Legal classification of false or misleading sustainability claims.
Mitigation Hierarchy	[REG][MRV][CORP]	Framework prioritising avoidance, reduction, substitution, and neutralisation of emissions.
MRT (Mean Residence Time)	[SOIL][BIOCHAR]	Average time carbon remains in a pool.
MRV (Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification)	[MRV]	Measurement and assurance system for crediting integrity.
NDC (Nationally Determined Contribution)	[A6][REG]	National Climate Target under the Paris Agreement.
Net Zero	[CORP][MRV][REG] [RISK]	State in which an entity's greenhouse gas emissions are balanced by removals and neutralisation within defined boundaries.
Net Zero Target	[CORP][MRV][REG]	Publicly stated commitment to achieve net zero emissions by a specified date.

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Neutralisation (Emissions)	[MRV][VCM] [CORP]	Use of removals to counterbalance residual greenhouse gas emissions.
NFRD (Non-Financial Reporting Directive)	[REG][CORP]	EU predecessor to CSRD on non-financial reporting.
NGER (National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting)	[AU][MRV]	Australian Corporate Emissions and Energy Reporting Framework.
NPP (Net Primary Production)	[ACCU] [REG] [HEMP][MRV]	Net biomass accumulation after plant respiration.
N_2O (Nitrous Oxide)	[AGRI][MRV][SCI] [SOIL]	High-GWP GHG associated with nitrogen inputs and soils.
O/Corg Ratio	[BIOCHAR]	Oxygen-To-Organic Carbon Ratio used as a durability proxy.
OECD Guidelines	[REG][CORP]	Guidelines for responsible business conduct and due diligence.
Offsets Integrity Standards (OIS)	[ACCU][AU][MRV] [REG][STD]	Integrity Principles applied in ACCU Method Assessment.
OIMP (Other International Mitigation Purposes)	[A6]	Use Category for international mitigation beyond NDCs.
OMGE (Overall Mitigation in Global Emissions)	[A6][REG]	Net Atmospheric Benefit Requirement Concept under Article 6.4.

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OTC (Over-the-Counter Carbon Trading)	[VCM][FIN]	Bilateral trading of carbon credits outside formal exchanges.
PA (Paris Agreement)	[A6][REG]	International Climate Treaty adopted in 2015.
PAHs (Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons)	[AGRI][BIOCHAR] [MRV][SCI][STD]	Contaminant Class measured in biochar quality standards.
PAI (Principal Adverse Impacts)	[REG][FIN]	EU SFDR adverse impact indicators.
PCR (Product Category Rules)	[MRV][SCI]	Rules defining how to develop EPDs for a product category.
Permanence	[MRV][AU][VCM]	Longevity of carbon storage over required time.
Permanence Discount	[BIOCHAR][MRV] [RISK]	Risk-Adjusted Reduction in creditable volume.
Permanence Obligation (25-Year / 100-Year)	[ACCU][AU][MRV] [REG]	Required carbon storage period under ACCU rules for certain methods.
Permanent Carbon Removal	[SCI][REG][MRV] [RISK]	Carbon removal delivering long-term storage with minimal reversal risk including DACCS, BioCCS and biochar pathways.
PETS (Performance Emissions Trading System)	[CM]	Sector/Performance benchmark trading system.

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PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances)	[E][SCI][REG][RISK] [HEALTH]	PFAS are a large group of synthetic fluorinated chemicals, commonly referred to as “forever chemicals”.
Primary Market (Carbon Credits)	[VCM][CM][FIN]	Initial issuance and first sale of credits from project developers.
Prospectus Liability (ESG)	[REG][FIN]	Legal liability for sustainability statements in capital raising.
Purpose washing	[CORP][RISK]	Claiming social purpose without operational evidence.
Pyrolysis	[AGRI][BIOCHAR] [MRV][SCI]	Thermal Decomposition of biomass in low/no oxygen producing biochar and co-products.
Qbiochar	[MRV][SCI]	Mass of biochar applied or incorporated during a certification period expressed on a dry-matter basis.
Recalcitrant Carbon	[BIOCHAR][SOIL]	Highly stable carbon fraction resistant to decomposition.
REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation Plus)	[VCM][A6]	Framework for Forest Emissions reduction with co-benefits.

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Registry Account Holder	[CM][MRV][VCM]	Entity authorised to hold, transfer, or retire units in a carbon registry.
REI (Renewable Energy Indicator)	[MRV]	Metric used in renewable energy tracking.
Residual Emissions	[MRV][CORP] [RISK]	Remaining greenhouse gas emissions after implementation of feasible abatement measures.
Retirement (Credit Retirement)	[VCM][CM][MRV] [CORP]	Permanent cancellation of a credit to enable a valid emission reduction or removal claim.
Reversal	[MRV][AU][VCM]	Loss of previously credited stored carbon.
Reversal Risk	[AU][MRV][RISK] [VCM]	Likelihood and consequence of carbon storage loss.
RMSE (Root Mean Square Error)	[SOIL][MRV]	Model Performance Metric.
Root Exudates	[AGRI][HEMP] [MRV][SCI][SOIL]	Carbon compounds released by roots contributing to soil carbon inputs.
Root-to-Shoot Ratio	[SCI][MRV]	Biomass allocation metric between roots and shoots.
RPS (Renewable Portfolio Standard)	[CM][STD]	Policy requiring a share of energy from renewables

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Safeguard Mechanism	[AU][CM][REG]	Australian Large-Emitter baseline and compliance system.
SASB (Sustainability Accounting Standards Board)	[CORP][MRV][STD]	Industry-specific sustainability accounting standards.
SBSTA (Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice)	[A6][MRV][REG] [STD]	UNFCCC Technical Advisory Body.
SBT (Science-Based Targets)	[CORP]	Targets aligned with climate science pathways.
SBTi (Science-Based Targets Initiative)	[CORP]	Organisation validating corporate targets.
Science-Based Net Zero (SBNZ)	[CORP][MRV][STD]	Net zero target aligned with science-based pathways and validated by recognised bodies.
Science-based targets	[MRV][CORP]	Emissions targets aligned with climate science pathways.
Scope 1	[CORP][MRV]	Direct Emissions from owned or controlled sources.
Scope 2	[CORP][MRV]	Indirect Emissions from purchased energy.
Scope 3	[CORP][MRV]	Indirect Value-Chain Emissions (Upstream/Downstream).

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Scope 4	[CORP][MRV]	Avoided Emissions concept (not a formal GHG protocol scope).
SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals)	[CORP]	UN Goals often used for co-benefit framing.
Secondary Market (Carbon Credits)	[VCM][CM][FIN]	Resale and trading of previously issued credits.
Selective transparency	[CORP][RISK]	Publishing only positive sustainability information.
Serial Number (Carbon Credit)	[VCM][CM][MRV]	Unique identifier assigned to each issued carbon unit for traceability.
SFDR (Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation)	[CORP][FIN][REG]	EU regulation requiring sustainability disclosures for financial products.
SLB (Sustainability-Linked Bond)	[CORP][FIN]	Bond linked to sustainability performance targets.
SLCFs (Short-Lived Climate Forcers)	[SCI][E][POL] [MRV][RISK]	Compounds remaining in the atmosphere for short periods but having a strong warming effect.
SLL (Sustainability-Linked Loan)	[CORP][FIN]	Loan with pricing linked to sustainability performance targets.
SLO (Social Licence to Operate)	[S][CORP]	Community acceptance of activities and projects.

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SMCs (Safeguard Mechanism Credits)	[ACCU][AU][CM] [MRV][REG]	Credits issued under safeguard (distinct from ACCUs).
SOC (Soil Organic Carbon)	[AGRI][MRV][SCI] [SOIL]	Organic Carbon stored in soil (core soil accounting variable).
SOM (Soil Organic Matter)	[AGRI][MRV][SCI] [SOIL]	Broader organic fraction often derived from SOC using a conversion factor.
Source Separated Organic Waste	[AU][MRV]	Organics diversion concept used in waste crediting.
Stakeholder engagement	[CORP]	Structured consultation with affected or interested parties.
Stranded Assets	[FIN][RISK]	Assets losing value due to climate policy and transition.
Supervisory Body (Article 6.4 Supervisory Body)	[A6][MRV][REG] [STD]	Governing Body for Article 6.4 Mechanism.
Systemic Risk	[RISK][FIN][REG] [CORP]	Risk of collapse or disruption affecting entire financial, economic, or environmental systems.
Target washing	[CORP][RISK]	Promoting targets without credible implementation frameworks.
tC (Tonnes of Carbon)	[MRV]	Carbon Mass Unit for stocks (convertible to CO_2 using 44/12).

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TCFD (Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures)	[CORP][MRV][REG][RISK]	Framework for climate risk and opportunity disclosure.
tCO_2e (Tonnes Of CO_2 Equivalent)	[MRV][STD]	Standard Unit for emissions and removals.
TCR (The Climate Registry)	[MRV][VCM]	Emissions Reporting Organisation (North American context).
Third-party endorsement misuse	[CORP][REG]	Misrepresenting external validation or endorsement.
Tidal Restoration (Blue Carbon)	[AU][MRV]	Restoration of tidal flows to enhance coastal carbon sequestration.
TNFD (Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures)	[CORP][E][MRV][NATURE][REG][RISK]	Framework for nature risk and opportunity disclosure.
Torrefaction	[BIOCHAR]	Mild Thermal Treatment (typically 200 to 300°C) to improve biomass fuel properties.
Transfer (Registry)	[MRV][VCM]	Movement of credit ownership between registry accounts.

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Transition Finance	[E][FIN]	Capital supporting decarbonisation and transition activities.
Transition Plan	[CORP][REG][RISK][FIN]	Strategic roadmap for aligning business activities with climate targets and policy pathways.
Transition risk	[E][RISK]	Risk arising from policy, technology, and market shifts in decarbonization.
Transparency	[AU][CORP][MRV][REG][VCM]	Public disclosure of methods, data, monitoring, and governance.
Uncertainty Thresholds	[MRV][SCI][RISK]	Statistical limits governing measurement reliability beyond which removal units may be discounted.
UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)	[A6]	UN Climate Treaty hosting the COP process.
Value Chain	[CORP][MRV][E][FIN]	Range of activities and relationships involved in delivering a product or service.
Value Chain Emissions	[CORP][MRV][E]	Total upstream and downstream emissions associated with goods and services (primarily Scope 3).

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VCM (Voluntary Carbon Market)	[VCM]	Market for non-compliance carbon credits and removals.
VCMI (Voluntary Carbon Markets Integrity Initiative)	[VCM][CORP]	Guidance for credible corporate use and claims.
VCMI Claims Code	[CORP][REG]	Guidance governing corporate voluntary carbon offset claims.
VCS (Verified Carbon Standard)	[MRV][STD][VCM]	Global voluntary carbon crediting standard administered by Verra, providing methodologies, validation, verification, and registry infrastructure for issuance of Verified Carbon Units (VCUs).
VCU (Verified Carbon Unit)	[MRV][VCM]	Unit issued under Verra's VCS Program.
VER (Verified Emission Reduction)	[VCM]	Generic term for Verified Voluntary Credits.
Verification avoidance	[MRV][REG]	Failure to obtain independent validation of claims.
Verra (VCS Program / Verra Registry)	[MRV][STD][VCM]	Registry and Standard Operator for VCS Credits.
Verra Registry	[MRV][VCM]	Registry platform hosting VCS and CCB crediting programs.

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Vintage (Carbon Credit)	[VCM][CM][MRV]	Year in which emission reductions or removals underlying a credit occurred.
VM (Volatile Matter)	[BIOCHAR]	Lab measure linked to reactivity and potential emissions.
WCI (Western Climate Initiative)	[CM]	Regional Carbon Market cooperation and linkages.
WMO (World Meteorological Organization)	[A6]	UN Meteorological Organisation supporting climate monitoring.
δ13C (Delta Carbon-13)	[MRV][REG][SOIL][STD]	Isotopic Tracer used for carbon source attribution and turnover.
δ15N (Delta Nitrogen-15)	[MRV][REG][SOIL][STD]	Isotopic Tracer used in nitrogen cycling and SOM dynamics.
ΔSOC (Change in Soil Organic Carbon)	[AGRI][MRV][SCI][SOIL]	Net change in SOC stock over time used for crediting.

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Focused attention has been given to ensuring this document reflects current best practice in carbon markets and climate policy. Underpinning this work is a commitment to accuracy, transparency, and methodological integrity. Considerable consultation has been undertaken with industry bodies, farmers, researchers, and regulatory stakeholders. Key frameworks, standards, and compliance mechanisms have been carefully reviewed and integrated. All content has been structured to support practical application and informed decision-making. High standards of professional diligence have guided the preparation process throughout. Continuous improvement remains central to the ongoing development and refinement of this work.

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