

The most trusted, efficient, and experienced
carbon credit registry for global carbon markets

CLIMATE ACTION NEWS

December 2025

President's letter

Greetings,

As 2025 comes to a close, carbon markets remain resilient and continue to mature. The year started with a significant setback when the U.S. formally withdrew once again from the Paris Agreement, casting uncertainty over global climate policy and diplomacy. In the absence of U.S. federal involvement, subnational, international and voluntary carbon programs ramped up their efforts. California extended its Cap-and-Invest Program through 2045, offering long-term clarity for market participants and continued funding for mitigation, clean energy, and carbon removal initiatives. On the voluntary side, ICVCM's standards for governance and integrity continued to drive a market-wide shift toward high-quality credits, helping stabilize demand and bolstering confidence among carbon credit buyers.

The Reserve also marked several key milestones in 2025. We adopted the Argentina Landfill Protocol, our second for Argentina, further supporting high-integrity emissions reductions and removals in the Global South. We adopted Version 3.0 of the U.S. Nitric Acid Production Protocol, introducing updates that allow for combined secondary and tertiary projects and enable nitric acid plants to achieve 99 percent abatement efficiency at a lower cost. Five additional Reserve protocols received CCP approval from the ICVCM, and we launched

our permanence work program to modernize our approaches while maintaining environmental integrity with rigor and transparency. We also expanded opportunities for high-integrity carbon credits with the launch of development efforts for the India Nitric Acid Production, Chile Landfill, and U.S. Early Plugging of Marginal Oil & Gas Wells Protocols.

All told, while 2025 started with a major challenge to global climate action, carbon markets did not stagnate. Instead, the year was defined by meaningful progress: significant reductions and removals, growing investment in high-quality climate projects, and important reforms to address legacy weaknesses and strengthen market processes. As the year ends, the path ahead for carbon credits is clearer, more credible, and increasingly aligned with the ambition needed to meet global climate goals.

Kind regards,
Robin Rix
President

NACW 2026 conference



NACW
NORTH AMERICAN
CARBON WORLD

PRESENTED
BY



MARCH 31-APRIL 2, 2026 · SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

Connect and collaborate
to move carbon markets forward

[Check out sponsorship opportunities for NACW 2026](#)

The North American Carbon World (NACW) conference is the premier venue to connect with carbon colleagues and learn from sessions covering carbon

markets and finance, climate policy, climate action implementation, ambition and innovation. A sponsorship offers a unique opportunity to gain brand exposure among an active and engaged audience and also demonstrate your company's leadership in the low-carbon economy.

Become a sponsor to:

- Promote your solutions to a targeted audience
- Boost your visibility among leading climate actors
- Demonstrate industry leadership in an evolving carbon landscape
- Amplify your voice and impact at the premier carbon market event

Check out sponsorship levels

Reserve carbon credit program

Reserve launches process to develop the US Early Plugging of Marginal Oil and Gas Wells Protocol

The Reserve is developing the [U.S. Early Plugging of Marginal Oil and Gas Wells Protocol](#), which will address GHG emission reductions associated with the early plugging of marginal, productive, and economically viable oil and gas wells in the United States. Marginal wells make up less than 5% of U.S. oil and gas production but account for over 50% of the methane emissions from oilfields.

The Reserve held a scoping webinar on November 25, 2025 and applications for the workgroup were due by December 1, 2025. For more information on the development of this protocol, including local stakeholder engagement opportunities, please visit [our website](#).

Reserve establishes workgroup for permanence work program

The Reserve recently launched a [work program on permanence](#), one of the foundational tenets of carbon crediting, to explore approaches that uphold environmental integrity with rigor and transparency. We appreciate the strong

interest this initiative has generated among active and engaged professionals across the carbon market. The workgroup membership has now been finalized, and we are honored to convene a distinguished group of expert thought leaders to advance the program's objectives. [View workgroup members](#)

Reserve to increase credit issuance fee to \$0.20 in January 2026

Effective January 1, 2026, the Reserve's credit issuance fee will increase from \$0.19 to \$0.20 per credit to reflect inflation and increases in operating cost. This is the first issuance fee increase in over a decade, and the fee remains among the lowest in the sector. The \$0.20 fee will be applied to projects submitted to the Reserve from January 1, 2026 onward. The \$0.19 fee will continue to be applied to projects submitted to the Reserve prior to January 1, 2026.

The one cent increase will support a key characteristic the Reserve is well known for and that Reserve account holders value - high quality, detail-oriented and responsive customer support. In 2025, the average time for Reserve staff to initially process voluntary and compliance projects has been 15 calendar days. The average for secondary and tertiary reviews, when needed, has been under five calendar days. Looking at the full review cycle, the average time from project submittal to project registration/credit issuance has been 48 calendar days, which includes verifier and project developer response and review times.

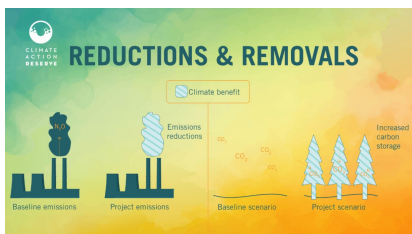
We are proud of these review times, which are among the world's fastest, in helping to bring reputable, compliance-quality credits to market. The efficiency and quality of the Reserve's programmatic work can be partly credited to thorough guidance in protocols and program documents, relationships with account holders and expertise of Reserve staff members. The Reserve greatly values its work with project developers and verification bodies and looks forward to continuing to drive climate action together through knowledgeable, thorough and timely initiatives.

We're growing our team! Learn about employment opportunities

We are [currently hiring](#) for the following positions. Please review each job announcement for details about qualifications, responsibilities, and application instructions.

- [Analista \(Forestal para México\)](#)
- [Analyst, Program Operations](#)
- [Lead, Financial Planning and Analysis](#)

Infographic: Reductions and removals under the Reserve



Carbon crediting activities fall into two classes: reductions and removals. Reductions are activities that lower GHG emissions below what would have occurred in the baseline scenario.

This includes prevention, avoidance, efficiency, or destruction of gases before they enter the atmosphere. Removals are activities that physically remove CO₂ from the atmosphere and store it in biomass, soils, geological formations, or durable materials.

[Check out our reductions and removals infographic](#)

Participate in the Reserve's protocol development process



We welcome your participation and feedback during the protocol development process. Check out our current protocol development efforts, including newly available workgroup meeting notices, recordings, presentations, and notes:

- [Chile Landfill Protocol v1.0](#)

- [India Nitric Acid Production Protocol v1.0](#)
 - [U.S. Early Plugging of Marginal Oil and Gas Wells Protocol v1.0](#)
 - [U.S. Soil Enrichment Protocol v2.0](#)
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Newly registered projects in the Reserve

Projects in the Climate Action Reserve achieve registered status upon successfully completing verification by an independent, accredited verification body.

[Proyecto Forestal de Captura de Carbono Ejido Salsipuedes](#)

Location: Localidad de Topia, Municipio de Topia, Durango, Mexico

CRTs issued: 6,648

[American Grasslands Heritage #1](#)

Location: Scott City, Kansas, US

CRTs issued: 4,110

[Bowen Harvested Fly Ash \(SCM\) Project](#)

Location: Cartersville, Georgia, US

CRTs issued: 105,246

SDG impact:

- 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure;
- 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities;
- 12. Responsible Consumption and Production;
- 13. Climate Action

[Captura de carbono forestal en la Comunidad Indígena Carpinteros](#)

Location: Zitácuaro, Michoacán, Mexico

CRTs issued: 6,222

SDG impact:

- 3. Good Health and Well-Being;
- 6. Clean Water and Sanitation;
- 7. Affordable and Clean Energy;
- 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth;
- 10. Reduced Inequalities;
- 13. Climate Action;
- 15. Life on Land

[Captura de carbono forestal en el ejido San Juan Zitácuaro](#)

Location: Zitácuaro, Michoacán, Mexico

CRTs issued: 10,990

SDG impact:

- 3. Good Health and Well-Being;
- 6. Clean Water and Sanitation;
- 7. Affordable and Clean Energy;
- 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth;
- 10. Reduced Inequalities;
- 13. Climate Action;
- 15. Life on Land

Captura de carbono forestal en el ejido El Paso

Location: El Paso, Ocampo, C.P. 61450, El Paso, Michoacán, Mexico

CRTs issued: 6,798

SDG impact:

- 3. Good Health and Well-Being;
- 6. Clean Water and Sanitation;
- 7. Affordable and Clean Energy;
- 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth;
- 10. Reduced Inequalities;
- 13. Climate Action;
- 15. Life on Land

Captura de Carbono Forestal, Pequeña Propiedad Rancho Chocua

Location: Carretera Angangueo -San José del Rincón, Mpio. San José del Rincón, Michoacán, Mexico

CRTs issued: 1,682

SDG impact:

- 3. Good Health and Well-Being;
- 6. Clean Water and Sanitation;
- 7. Affordable and Clean Energy;
- 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth;
- 13. Climate Action;
- 15. Life on Land

Tradewater ODS 64

Location: East Liverpool, Ohio, US

WA ROCs issued: 51,771

Proyecto Forestal de Carbono Comunidad San Mateo La Reforma II

Location: Comunidad San Mateo La Reforma II, municipio de San Pedro Yolo, Distrito de Ixtlán de Juárez, Oaxaca, Mexico

CRTs issued: 10,024

Proyecto Forestal de Captura de Carbono Comunidad San Francisco La Reforma

Location: Comunidad San Francisco La Reforma, municipio de San Pedro Yolo, Distrito de Ixtlán de Juárez, Oaxaca, Mexico

CRTs issued: 13,093

Proyecto Forestal de Captura de Carbono Comunidad Santa María Yalina

Location: Comunidad de Santa María Yalina, municipio del mismo nombre, Distrito de Villa Alta, Oaxaca, Mexico

CRTs issued: 18,015

Proyecto Forestal de Carbono Comunidad Santa María Totomoxtlá

Location: Comunidad de Santa María Totomoxtlá, Municipio de San Juan Quiotepec, Distrito de Ixtlán de Juárez, Oaxaca, Mexico

CRTs issued: 2,503

Proyecto Forestal de Captura de Carbono Comunidad Santiago Laxopa

Location: Comunidad Santiago Laxopa, municipio del mismo nombre, Distrito de Ixtlán de Juárez, Oaxaca, Mexico

[View public reports](#)

Reserve calendar

Join the Reserve at upcoming events



March 31-April 2, 2026

[North American Carbon World \(NACW\) 2026](#)

[Reserve calendar](#)



To invite a Reserve staff expert to speak at an event, please contact

events@climateactionreserve.org.

Quiz and query

Trivia time – Test your knowledge



The Reserve is developing the U.S. Early Plugging of Marginal Oil and Gas Wells Protocol, which will address GHG emission reductions associated with the early plugging of marginal, productive, and economically viable oil and gas wells in the United States. Marginal wells make up less than 5% of US oil and gas production but account for over 50% of the methane emissions from oilfields.

What percentage of methane emissions from oilfields is attributable to marginal wells?

Please send responses to:

newsletter@climateactionreserve.org. One response will be randomly selected to win a Reserve-branded prize!

[Ask us anything – Get your questions answered!](#)



Do you have questions about carbon credits or markets? We want to address myths and misunderstandings with facts and lessons learned from over 20+ years of experience and engagement in carbon markets. Send questions to newsletter@climateactionreserve.org.

ABOUT THE CLIMATE ACTION RESERVE

The **Climate Action Reserve** is the most trusted, efficient, and experienced offset registry for global carbon markets. A pioneer in carbon accounting, the Reserve promotes and fosters the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through credible market-based policies and solutions. As a high-quality offset registry for voluntary carbon markets, it establishes rigorous standards involving multi-sector stakeholder workgroup development and local engagement and issues carbon credits in a transparent and publicly available system. The organization also supports compliance carbon markets in California, Washington and internationally. The Reserve is an environmental nonprofit organization operating virtually with staff located around the world with a support office in Los Angeles, California. For more information, please visit www.climateactionreserve.org. *The Reserve is an equal opportunity provider.*

news@climateactionreserve.org

SUPPORT OUR WORK



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