



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

CLIMATE ACTION NEWS

January 2026

President's letter

Greetings,

We are very excited to kick off the new year with a new addition to our team. Veteran carbon market expert Komal Sinha has joined the Reserve as Regional Head (Asia), Market Development, where she will be responsible for advancing the Reserve's strategic policy, partnerships, and engagement across the Asia-Pacific region. She is the Reserve's first staff member in Asia, which is poised to be a significant player for carbon markets with tremendous potential for emissions reductions and removals. The Reserve currently has a protocol in China and is developing one for India, and we look forward to advancing opportunities for high-quality, high impact carbon credits into new sectors and jurisdictions.

Looking ahead to 2026, the voluntary carbon market is expected to enter a more [mature and disciplined](#) phase of growth, driven by strategic corporate climate ambition, approval of additional standards and protocols under integrity frameworks, expanded collaboration across global and regional initiatives - including compliance programs such as Article 6 and CORSIA, and continued innovation to improve the feasibility and efficiency of emerging project types. These developments will support the growing supply of high-quality credits,

strengthening market resilience and enabling credible climate action in the transition to a low-carbon economy.

For deeper insight into the latest market trends and updates, join climate leaders at the annual [North American Carbon World](#) (NACW) conference, taking place March 31-April 2, in San Diego, California. NACW 2026 will deliver in-depth insights on the integrity, growth, and opportunities shaping carbon markets today. Attendees will have unparalleled networking opportunities to connect with peers and leaders advancing innovative climate solutions across North America. By engaging with the most current thinking on climate and carbon policy, participants will be well positioned to spark new ideas and identify creative, impactful approaches to addressing the climate challenge. Register by January 30 to benefit from early bird rates.

Kind regards,

Robin Rix

President

NACW 2026 conference



[Early bird registration is now open for NACW 2026](#)

Register now for [North American Carbon World \(NACW\) 2026](#), taking place March 31–April 2, 2026, and join the carbon community at one of the sector's

most influential events. For more than 20 years, NACW has been a trusted forum for convening leaders from policy, markets, and industry to advance credible climate action. The 2026 conference will offer a critical forum for meaningful collaboration and timely discussions exploring market innovations in technology, the evolution of standards, the growing role of finance, and foundational topics such as permanence.

Enjoy the best rates for the conference by registering under the early bird rates through **Friday, January 30, 2026**.

[Register now](#)

Reserve carbon credit program

Komal Sinha joins the Reserve as Regional Head (Asia), Market Development



Komal Sinha has joined the Reserve as Regional Head (Asia), Market Development, where she will be responsible for advancing the Reserve's strategic policy, partnerships, and engagement across the Asia-Pacific region. Komal brings unique expertise and experience in Asia, a region poised to be a significant player for carbon

markets. She is a dedicated carbon markets and climate policy leader with over 16 years of experience in advancing high-integrity carbon crediting programs across the Global South.

[Read more](#)

Join us January 7 for the first workgroup meeting for 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 will be holding the first workgroup meeting for the protocol on January 7, 2026. Interested stakeholders may register to observe the workgroup meeting [here](#). The workgroup meeting recording, presentation slides, and notes and takeaways will be posted following the completion of the meeting. For more information, please visit the [protocol development webpage](#).

Credit issuance fee increased to \$0.20 in January 2026

Effective January 1, 2026, the Reserve's credit issuance fee increased 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 is being applied to projects submitted to the Reserve from January 1, 2026 onward. The \$0.19 fee was applied to projects submitted to the Reserve prior to January 1, 2026.

The one cent increase supports 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 was 15 calendar days. The average for secondary and tertiary reviews, when needed, was under five calendar days. Looking at the full review cycle, the average time from project submittal to project registration/credit issuance was 48 calendar days, which included 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.

Reserve's permanence work program makes progress

The Reserve's [permanence work program](#) examines approaches to achieving long-term carbon removals while upholding environmental integrity with rigor and transparency. The workgroup for the Reserve's permanence work program had its first meeting on December 17, and a summary of the discussion will be posted soon. Comments from the public consultation of the work program will also be posted soon.

2025: Our year in numbers



Check out our [2025 Year in Numbers infographic](#) highlighting the key milestones, impacts, and progress that defined the past year, bringing our work and its outcomes into focus.

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](#)

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.

[Montour Harvested Fly Ash \(SCM\) Expansion Project](#)

Location: Danville, Pennsylvania, United States

CRTs issued: 36,996

SDG impact:

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

[Southpoint Biogas LLC](#)

Location: Kings County, California, United States

CA ROCs issued: 5,209

[De Groot South Biogas LLC](#)

Location: Kings County, California, United States

CA ROCs issued: 8,189

[Restauración Forestal Matamoros](#)

Location: Escárcega, Campeche, Mexico

CRTs issued: 86,639

SDG impact:

- 1. No Poverty;
- 13. Climate Action;
- 15. Life on Land

[Kielty Abandoned Mine Methane Recovery Project](#)

Location: Delbarton, West Virginia, United States

CA ROCs issued: 147,508

[Tradewater ODS 65](#)

Location: Bowling Green, Ohio, United States

WA ROCs issued: 39,953

[Carbono Forestal Ejido El Maguey](#)

Location: El Maguey, San Dimas, Durango, Mexico

CRTs issued: 22,431

[Green Valley Abandoned Mine Methane Recovery Project](#)

Location: Paris, Illinois, United States

CA ROCs issued: 159,383

[Proyecto Forestal de Captura de Carbono Ejido Palo Seco](#)

Location: Ejido Palo seco, State of Mexico, Mexico

CRTs issued: 3,546

SDG impact:

- 1. No Poverty;
- 5. Gender Equality;
- 13. Climate Action

[Proyecto Forestal de Captura de Carbono Ejido Loma Alta](#)

Location: Ejido Loma Alta, State of Mexico, Mexico

CRTs issued: 6,541

SDG impact:

- 1. No Poverty;
- 5. Gender Equality;
- 13. Climate Action

[Proyecto Forestal de Captura de Carbono Ejido Coatepec Harinas](#)

Location: Ejido Coatepec Harinas, State of Mexico, Mexico

CRTs issued: 25,680

SDG impact:

- 1. No Poverty;
- 5. Gender Equality;
- 13. Climate Action

[Proyecto Forestal de Captura de Carbono Bienes Comunales](#)

Location: Bienes Comunales Coatepec Harinas, State of Mexico, Mexico

CRTs issued: 8,678

SDG impact:

- 1. No Poverty;
- 5. Gender Equality;
- 13. Climate Action

[Proyecto Forestal de Captura de Carbono Ejido Agua Amarga](#)

Location: Ejido Agua Amraga, State of Mexico, Mexico

CRTs issued: 1,704

SDG impact:

- 1. No Poverty;
- 5. Gender Equality;
- 13. Climate Action

[View public reports](#)

[Reserve calendar](#)

[Join the Reserve at upcoming events](#)



January 7, 2026

[U.S. Early Plugging of Marginal Oil and Gas Wells Protocol Workgroup Meeting 1](#)



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 U.S. oil and gas production but account for over 50% of the methane emissions from oilfields.

How many tonnes of CO₂e/year is emitted from unplugged marginally producing and orphaned wells across the United States?

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



Climate Action Reserve | 453 S. Spring Street, Suite 400 #146 | Los Angeles, CA 90013 US

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