CLIMATE ACTION RESERVE

Permanence Work Program: Revised Approach Public Comment Webinar

June 16, 2026

Housekeeping

- **Speaking:** All attendees are in “listen-only” mode. When we take public comment, use the raise hand feature to request to speak.
- **Chat Feature:** The chat feature are only visible to the host.
- **Webinar Recording:** This webinar will be recorded and made available on the Reserve’s website.

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The Climate Action Reserve

- Independent not for profit carbon crediting program with 25+ years of experience in voluntary and compliance markets
- ~250 million Climate Reserve Tonnes (CRTs) issued
- Protocols across North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia, and growing

Agenda

- Introduction
- Overview of Permanence Work Program
- Revised Permanence Approach
- Public Comment
- Next Steps

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Introduction

- Evolving scientific understanding, market innovations, and availability of practical implementation tools have highlighted the need to refine our existing approach to permanence.
- The revised approach is designed to strengthen integrity and transparency while enabling flexible approaches for managing long-term carbon storage.
- The scope of this revised approach is the Reserve's voluntary protocols.

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Overview of Work Program Process

- Permanence Work Program launched September 2025 to:
  - Evaluate how permanence should be defined
  - Assess commitment period lengths and liability for reversals
  - Review buffer pool design and management
- Stakeholder Engagement
  - Convened a workgroup of diverse market participants for input
  - Held 8 meetings from December 2025 through June 2026

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Components of Revised Approach

- **Standardized commitment period**: 40 years
- **Ongoing responsibility:** Monitoring carbon stocks and compensating for reversals during the commitment period
- **Flexible risk management tools:** Buffer pool contributions, with options to reduce contributions (e.g., insurance)
- **Post-commitment period options:** Risk mitigation actions, cancellation of credits, or permanence trusts
- **Transparency:** Commitment length, monitoring and reversal obligations, and post-commitment arrangements explicit on registry

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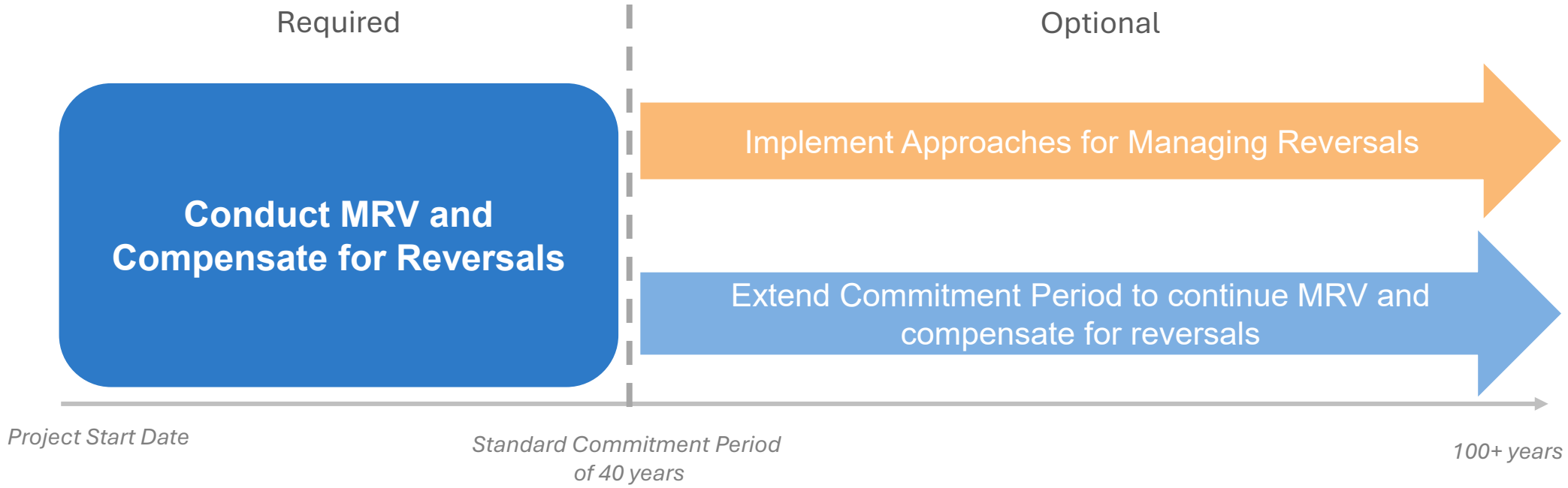
Components of Revised Approach



Key Concepts

- **Permanence** is an attribute of a carbon credit that confirms associated greenhouse gases (GHGs) are stored out of the atmosphere long enough to benefit the claim.
  - Other frameworks refer to this concept as “durability”
  - Claims should align with carbon storage length
- There is meaningful climate value provided by GHG storage across a range of time horizons.
- The “reabsorption curve” of CO_2 provides a framework for accounting for the storage length and reversal risk of stored carbon

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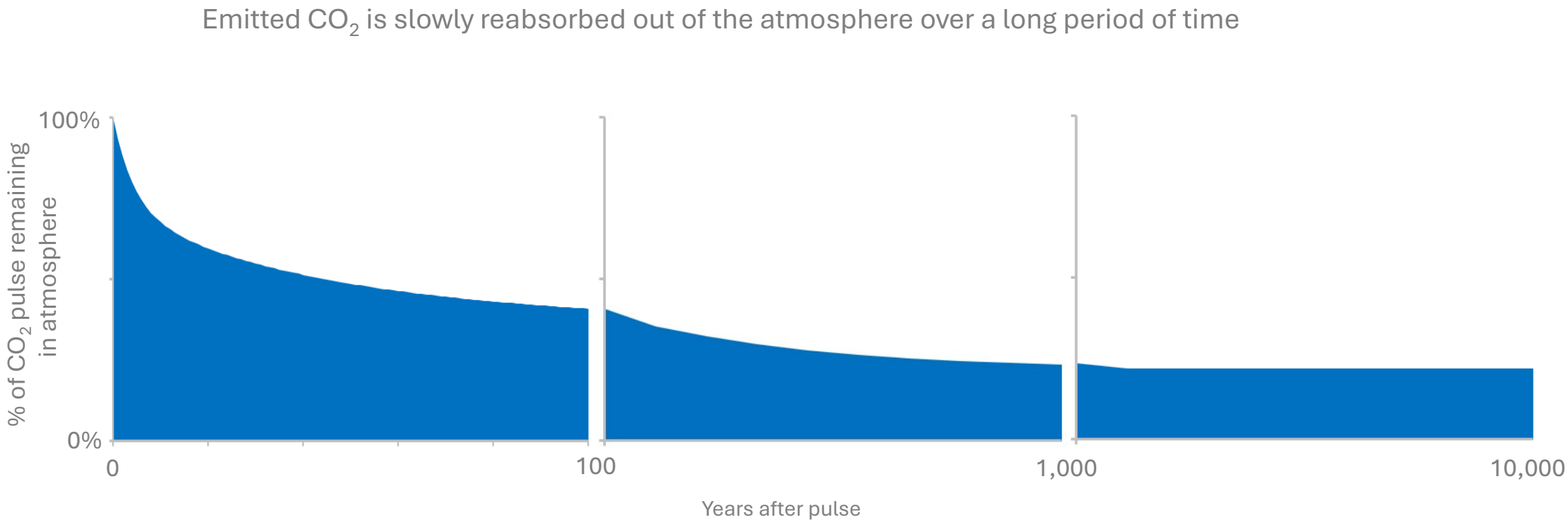
CO_2 Reabsorption Curve



Based on Joos et al. (2013) https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-13-2793-2013

Commitment Period

- Length of time over which a project must conduct monitoring, reporting and verification of its carbon stocks and compensate for any reversals
- Credits are only issued for GHGs sequestered/stored during a project's commitment period
- Standard length of 40 years from project start date
  - Individual protocols may allow for shorter commitment periods
- Each protocol establishes minimum commitment period to ensure additionality
- Projects can extend their commitment period up to 40 years at a time

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Managing Reversals During Commitment Period

- "Reversal" is the release of previously credited GHGs into the atmosphere
  - Avoidable or unavoidable reversals
- Reversals compensation - 1 credit reversed : 1 credit compensated
- Buffer pool contributions
  - All projects contribute based on quantified risk of reversal
  - Contribution rates can be reduced if alternative actions are taken that reduce the risk of reversal, e.g., insurance, conservation easement, permanence trust
  - At end of project commitment period, buffer pool contributions from project will be canceled

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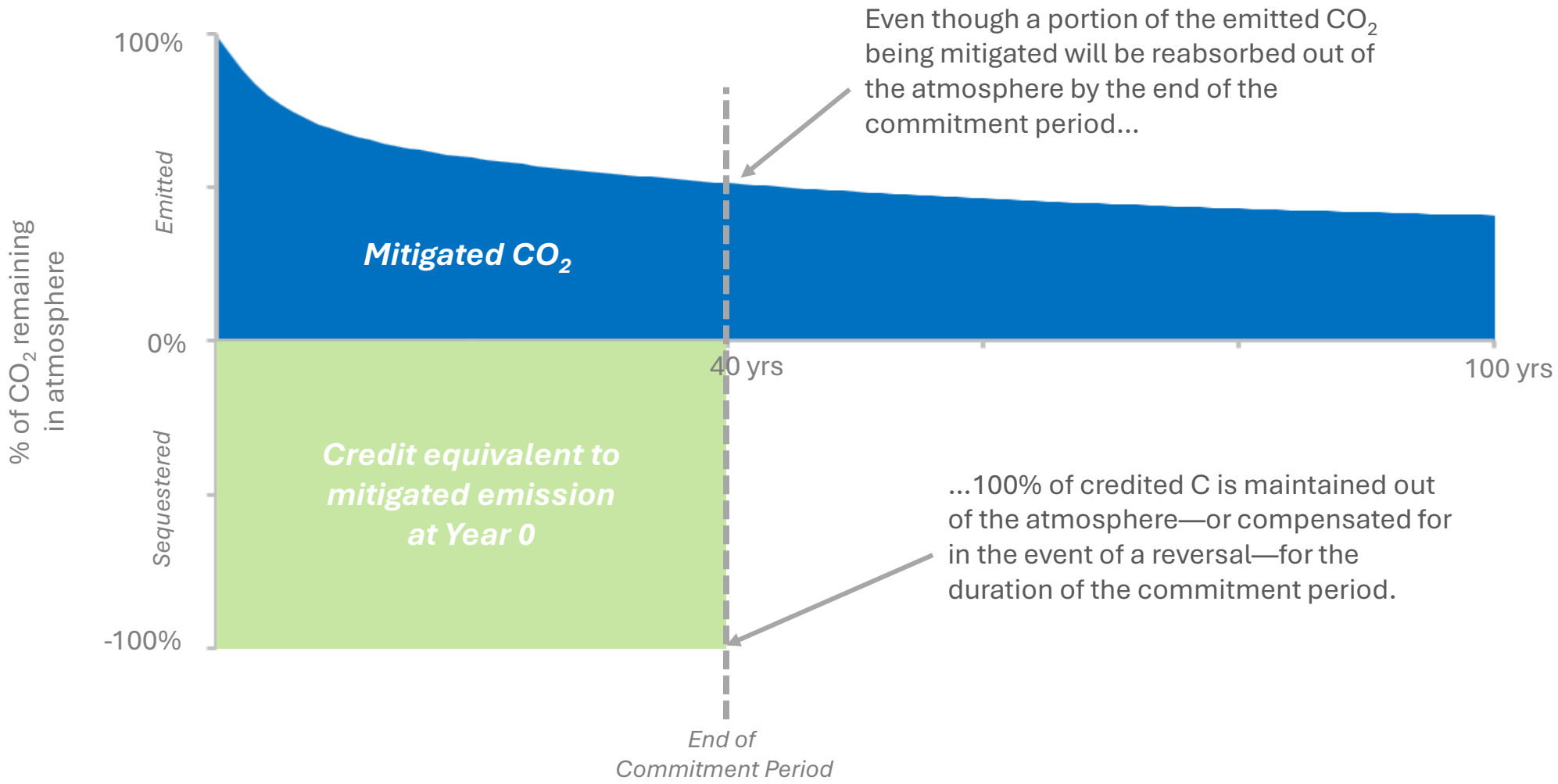
Reabsorption Curve and Credited Carbon



Managing Reversals After Commitment Period

- Projects may choose to implement one or more of the following approaches:
  - Implement an action that sufficiently mitigates reversal risk
  - Transfer the commitment to monitor carbon stocks and compensate for reversals to an entity that is eligible to do so over the long term
  - Cancel credits with negligible reversal risk

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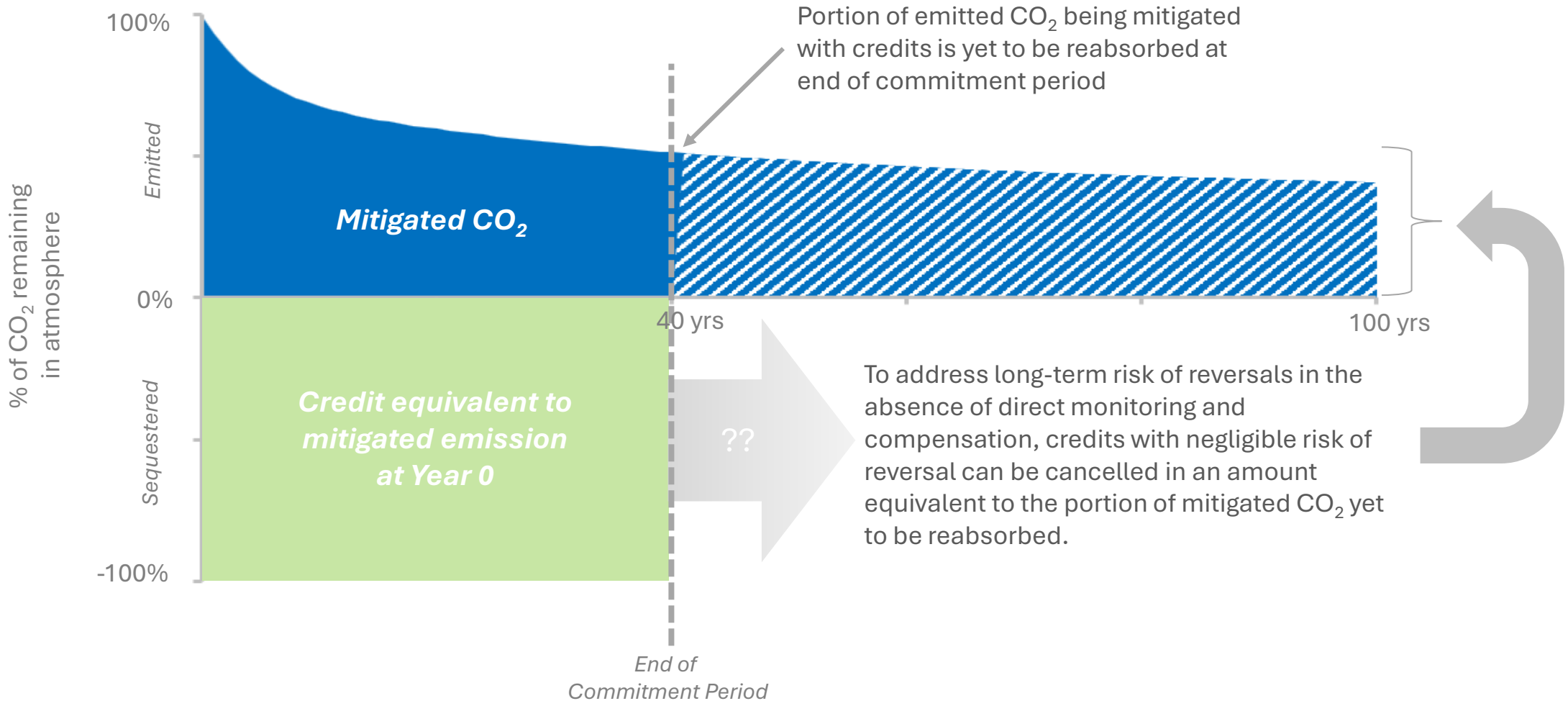
Cancelling Credits with Negligible Reversal Risk



Disclosures

Each credit will have the following indicated with it on the Reserve Registry:

- Project's commitment period length and end date
- Basis for reversal monitoring and compensation during the project's commitment period (e.g., buffer-pool contributions, insurance product)
- If/how project will manage reversal risk after the commitment period (e.g., conservation easement, cancellation of credits with negligible reversal risk, use of a permanence trust)

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Impact to Existing Projects

- Existing projects may may choose to:
  - Remain under the existing approach through the end of their current crediting period, or
  - Transition to the revised approach.
- During the implementation of the approach, the Reserve will develop guidance for projects that want to transition.

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Implementation Timeline

- **Public consultation:** receive stakeholder comments
- **Revision phase:** incorporate feedback and finalize approach
- **Board approval:** submit revised approach for formal approval
- **Programmatic implementation:** operationalize within program rules and processes
- **Protocol integration:** update protocols and supporting documentation

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Public Comment

- We welcome your input, official comments must be submitted in writing June 22nd
- If you would like to ask a clarifying question:
  - Please send a message to us via the chat function
  - The message will only be sent to the Reserve as hosts (not all attendees)
  - We will read out the message with names/organizations for context
  - We will respond to as many comments/questions as possible

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Next Steps

- Written comments may be submitted until **Monday, June 22**
- Submit comments to **policy@climateactionreserve.org**
- The webinar recording and presentation materials will be made available at:

  https://climateactionreserve.org/permanence-work-program/

We thank you for your participation in today's webinar!

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