



How to Build a Carbon Credit Procurement Strategy

A step-by-step guide for corporate buyers by Green Carbon Corp.

Step 1: Define Climate Goals and Emissions Scope

Start by establishing clear climate targets across Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions. Calculate your organization's residual emissions—the portion that remains after reduction efforts. This will define the volume and type of credits you need to procure.

- **Define Objectives and Scope**

Purpose: Align carbon credit purchases with broader sustainability goals and regulatory needs.

Key Tasks:

- Identify if credits are for **compliance, voluntary net zero, or CSR reporting**.
- Establish **quantity needed** (in tCO₂e) based on carbon footprint assessments.
- Decide on a **timeframe** (e.g., annual offset vs. multi-year offtake).

Responsible Teams:

- **Sustainability** – defines net zero goals, offsetting needs
- **Executive leadership** – approves carbon strategy
- **Legal** – confirms regulatory and disclosure alignment

Step 2: Set Credit Quality Criteria

Define what constitutes a ‘high-quality’ credit for your company. Consider attributes like additionality, permanence, leakage risk, co-benefits (e.g., SDGs), registry type (Verra, Gold Standard), and whether Article 6 compliance is required.

Step 3: Select Procurement Pathway

Choose between spot market purchases, forward offtake agreements, direct deals with project developers, or brokered transactions. Each path has trade-offs between price, volume, verification transparency, and long-term supply guarantees.

Set Carbon Credit Procurement Criteria



Purpose: Ensure credit purchases are high quality, aligned with corporate values, and defensible to stakeholders.

Key Tasks:

- Define acceptable project types (e.g., reforestation, DAC, cookstove, blue carbon)
- Determine preferred geographies or co-benefits (e.g., biodiversity, community uplift)
- Require third-party **verification** under leading standards (e.g., Verra, Gold Standard)
- Apply additionality, permanence, leakage, and MRV (Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification) filters

Responsible Teams:

- **Sustainability** – sets criteria and ESG alignment
- **Finance** – assesses cost per tonne and budget
- **Legal** – reviews claims risk (e.g., greenwashing exposure)

Step 4: Conduct Due Diligence

Vet projects for environmental and financial integrity. Review project design documents, MRV systems, buffer pools, credit retirement history, and verifier reputation. Green Carbon Corp recommends using a structured checklist and third-party validation before making large purchases.

Identify Trusted Credit Sources

Purpose: Find verified credits from credible projects and avoid reputational risk.

Key Tasks:

- Review project documentation (PDD, validation reports, monitoring reports)
- Check registry listing (e.g., Verra VCS, Gold Standard, CBL, ACX)
- Evaluate methodologies and baseline assumptions
- Use ratings platforms (e.g., Sylvera, BeZero, Calyx Global) if applicable
- Analyze permanence risks, buffer pool contributions, and legal claims

Responsible Teams:

- **Legal** – ensures proper title transfer, legal ownership, disclaimers
- **Sustainability** – leads technical due diligence
- **Finance** – evaluates return on investment if part of ESG reporting or marketing strategy
 - Shortlist brokers, platforms, or direct project developers
 - Engage with organizations like Green Carbon Corp for structured sourcing
 - Use pre-vetted portfolios that include documentation, audits, and impact reports

Responsible Teams:

- Procurement/Operations – vendor outreach
- Sustainability – reviews quality and impact
- Finance – negotiates pricing and structure

Step 5: Structure the Carbon Credit Purchase



Purpose: Match procurement to financial, operational, and reputational timelines.

Key Options:

- **Spot transactions** – for immediate offsetting
- **Multi-year offtake agreements** – to lock in price and future supply
- **Forward contracts** – to secure future vintages at pre-agreed terms
- **Bundled co-benefits** – for storytelling and impact reports

Responsible Teams:

- Finance – designs deal structure and terms
- Legal – drafts contracts, defines liabilities and certification terms
- Sustainability – ensures delivery fits goals

Negotiate and Execute Agreements

Work with legal, finance, and sustainability teams to structure agreements that define credit volume, delivery schedule, pricing, registry ID, and terms for credit replacement in case of invalidation. Green Carbon Corp can assist in structuring off-market deals with verifiable outcomes.

Step 6: Monitor and Report

Track retirement and reporting via ESG platforms (CDP, ISSB, GRI). Ensure that credits are not double-counted and that all claims align with verified registry data.

Green Carbon Corp's Role

Green Carbon Corp supports global buyers in building robust carbon procurement strategies that avoid reputational and regulatory risk. From strategy development to transaction execution, our team offers expertise in due diligence, credit quality assurance, and blockchain-based traceability. We help buyers access premium carbon credits through direct channels and tokenized platforms like HYVE and ACX.

Step 7: Track, Retire, and Report

Purpose: Ensure credits are used credibly and transparently.

Key Tasks:

- Register purchases in public registries

Retire credits in line with climate disclosures standards, including:

- **CDP** (*Carbon Disclosure Project*)
 - **GRI** (*Global Reporting Initiative*)
 - **ISSB** (*International Sustainability Standards Board*)
 - **CSRD** (*Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive*)
 - **SBTi** (*Science Based Targets initiative*)
- Communicate outcomes in sustainability or impact reports

Responsible Teams:

- Sustainability – tracks usage and performance
- Investor Relations / PR – handles public disclosures
- Legal – confirms audit trail

References

Insert hyperlinks for all titles

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