

What is the Woodland Carbon Code?

Excessive emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO₂) are causing damaging climate change.

Planting woodland to remove CO₂ from the atmosphere, known as woodland carbon capture, is a cost-effective way of compensating for emissions while also providing many other social and environmental benefits.

People who want to invest in carbon capture projects need to feel confident that the woodlands will be well

managed and really will capture the CO₂ claimed. Certification against the Woodland Carbon Code meets this need by providing this evidence.

It also creates real and verifiable carbon 'rights' which can be sold to recoup the costs of creating the woodland and generate an income.

What are the benefits?

Selling the rights to the carbon captured by Woodland Carbon Code-certified woodlands can provide new income for landowners, potentially supplementing other income streams from timber, woodfuel and sporting activities.

A new native woodland can capture 300-400 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per hectare (tCO₂e/ha)

by year 50, and 400-500 tCO₂e/ha by year 100.

Recent UK woodland carbon sales have realised between £3 and £10/tCO₂e.

Currently, around 70 per cent of the carbon rights are sold in advance, enabling some landowners to quickly recoup their outlay. The remainder are sold later, as the woodland matures.

Further information on the Woodland Carbon Code

- Visit www.forestry.gov.uk/carboncode
- email climatechange@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
- or speak to your local Forestry Commission woodland officer (forestry.gov.uk/contacts) or the Northern Ireland Forest Service (dardni.gov.uk/forests-service)

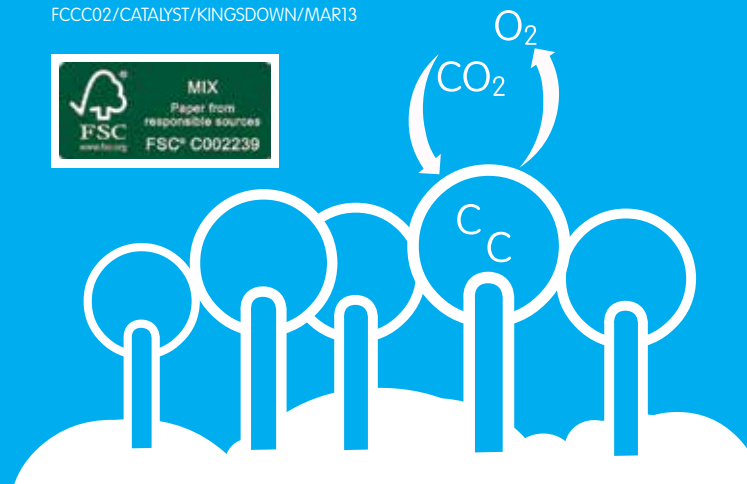
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The Woodland Carbon Code is an initiative led by the Forestry Commission and supported by a Carbon Advisory Group of UK forest industry and carbon market experts.

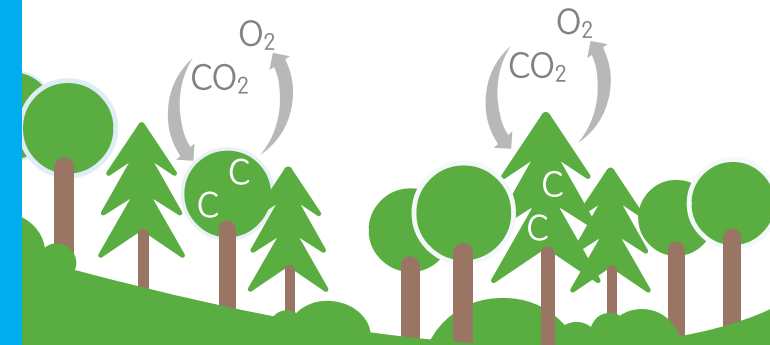
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The Woodland Carbon Code

Plant a new woodland which follows the Woodland Carbon Code and you can:

- Generate a new income stream
 - Create a lasting legacy for future generations
- Make a real contribution to tackling damaging climate change



forestry.gov.uk/carboncode

Case Studies

Who are the investors?

Typically, they are companies wishing to compensate for their CO₂ emissions and contribute to their environmental and social objectives. Current examples include a high street retail chain and a national passenger transport operator.

What's involved?

To certify a project to the Woodland Carbon Code you will need to:

- register it with the Forestry Commission within two years of the start of planting;
- predict carbon capture using woodland carbon models;
- prepare a Project Design Document outlining how it meets Code requirements;
- have it 'validated' by an accredited certification body; and
- have it 'verified' periodically to show that it continues to meet the required standards.

How do I find an investor?

- Through specialist carbon brokers. A list is available at forestry.gov.uk/carboncompanies.
- Through the UK Carbon Reporting Framework, which enables project owners to offer carbon for sale on its website, ukcarbonreporting.org.
- Through the Markit Environmental Registry's 'Request for Information' platform, which enables project owners to list carbon for sale at markit.com/en/products/environmental/markitrfiplatform.page.
- By enquiring locally – most businesses prefer investing close to home.

Certified projects can use the Woodland Carbon Code logo as evidence that they meet high woodland management standards and provide the carbon benefits they claim.



Moorside Woods, Cumbria

Moorside Woods comprise 34 hectares of native broadleaved trees planted in 2010 on previously grazed land.

A motor insurer provided the carbon finance to help plant the woodland in order to lock up CO₂ equivalent to the annual emissions from the vehicles it insures.

Woodland carbon models predict it will lock up more than 18,800 tCO₂e over 100 years, and management will involve access maintenance and some firewood removal.



Owner Bill Osborn said:

'Our woodland forms a new, natural link to adjacent woods. It will create a much-needed habitat for birds and help to reduce flood risks.

'Being close to the Lake District, we plan to get visitors involved. For me, it's about more than improving the environment or the income from the carbon rights: by introducing biodiversity-rich native woodland, my farm business can also benefit from the recreational opportunities which the landscape offers.'



Moorside Woods.

Buccleuch Group of Woodlands

Buccleuch Estates Ltd is one of several participants in a pilot group certification scheme, under which several projects can be certified collectively to keep costs down.

Eleven projects in England and Scotland applied for certification together. In total they will capture almost 75,000 tCO₂e over the next 100 years. Most provide new native woodland habitats, whilst others will produce timber as well as capture carbon. Investors include a retail chain and a bus and train operator.



Buccleuch head forester Jim Colchester said:

'Having our projects certified under the Woodland Carbon Code means we can be certain that valuable new habitats are being created, delivering a lasting legacy to the environment and business benefit to the estate.

'Using carbon money to support the improvement of habitats and communities is a fantastic initiative and a great example of businesses acknowledging responsibility for their environmental impact.

'For us, the income stream has enabled developments and improvements to the estate's natural assets, and the projects sustain local employment.'



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