

GEORGIA FORESTRY
COMMISSION



The Georgia Carbon Registry

www.gacarbon.org

Introduction

The Georgia Carbon Sequestration Registry was established by Georgia Senate Bill 356 in 2004 and is administered by the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) and the Georgia Superior Court Clerks Cooperative Authority (GSCCCA).

The purpose of the Registry is to provide forest landowners, municipalities, and public and private entities with an official mechanism for the development, documentation, and reporting of carbon emissions offset projects undertaken in Georgia.

Participation in the Registry is completely voluntary. However, entities and individuals who develop forest-based offset projects in Georgia are encouraged to document their activities using the Registry.

- [New revenue opportunities](#)
- [Promote forest stewardship](#)
- [Keep working forests in forest use](#)

Why use the Registry to document a forestry offset project?

- Achieve new levels of project transparency using a public reporting system.
- Take advantage of the additional level of monitoring and oversight offered by the Registry and the Georgia Forestry Commission.
- Instill greater confidence in offset purchasers and add value to your project.
- Take the lead in advocating for the vital role that forests and land-use play in greenhouse gas emission management.
- Reduce costs by utilizing carbon estimation tools developed by the University of Georgia's Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources.

The Registry is undergoing a redesign process that will include the following improvements:

- Revised forest protocols and documentation standards
- New, more flexible reporting format
- Updated rules to address permanence, additionality, and leakage issues.

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Frequently Asked Questions about the Carbon Registry

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What is a forest carbon emissions offset project?

Forest projects fall under two broad categories: afforestation and forest management. Afforestation projects include tree planting activities on lands that were in non-forest use prior to January 1, 1990. Forest management projects include a wide range of practices on existing forestland that facilitate the accumulation and storage of carbon in wood, soils, and other carbon pools. Examples of eligible forest management projects include forest enrichment, restoration, conservation, and other practices that enhance the carbon-storing capacity of the forest.

Does the Registry issue “carbon credits”?

The Registry does not issue carbon credits that may be used as instruments of value. The assessment and valuation of a carbon credit is left to the determination of the offset buyer and seller through private contracts. The Registry does not enforce third party contracts.

Will the Registry buy my forest offsets?

The Registry is not a purchaser, aggregator, or broker of carbon emission offsets. The Registry’s primary function is to provide for the documentation of forest offset projects undertaken in Georgia. The goal of the Registry program is to promote the importance of forestry and land-use in any policy designed to address climate change and to ensure that Georgia’s landowners are well positioned to take advantage of current and future markets for emissions offsets. Those landowners who wish to develop projects may use the Registry as a marketing tool, and Registry staff members will actively pursue market opportunities for registered projects.

I’m interested in developing a project on my land. How will the Registry help me sell offsets?

Registry staff members are actively pursuing new market opportunities for forest offsets around the country. Much of our work focuses on finding innovative ways to help private landowners participate in emerging carbon markets. When you develop and implement a forest project, you can be sure that the Registry will provide marketing assistance.

Why is there a fee associated with project registration? Where does this money go?

The fee is designed to only cover the administrative costs associated with registration, as determined by the GSCCCA. The sliding scale, based upon project size, is used to determine the registration fee, which may be found on the Registry website.

What role does the Georgia Forestry Commission play in the Registry?

The GFC is responsible for maintaining the transparency and accuracy of the Registry. This is achieved through monitoring and verification of registered forest projects by GFC foresters.

Is there a penalty associated with decreasing forest carbon stocks?

The Registry is designed only to track carbon stocks in forest projects on an annual basis. No penalties are associated with significant decreases in carbon stocks. Participants are required only to quantify and report these decreases.