



The Climate Registry

Frequently asked questions about the Climate Registered™ program

THE BASICS

What is the Climate Registered™ program?

The Climate Registered™ program has been developed to encourage and showcase voluntary emissions reductions, and to provide a credible standard by which to measure them.

Members who third party verify and report their North American or global greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories to The Registry are automatically Climate Registered™.

A Member can then apply to become Climate Registered™ Silver, Gold or Platinum if they meet specified criteria relating to voluntary emission reductions.

Why is The Climate Registry introducing Climate Registered™?

Our goal is to highlight and recognize companies that are taking initiative to voluntarily measure and reduce their emissions in a credible way.

What are the benefits of being Climate Registered™?

Your high quality inventory will be an essential tool in managing your carbon risks, reducing your energy costs, and providing credible environmental data to your stakeholders.

In addition, Climate Registered™ Members have access to these additional benefits:

- Publicize your Climate Registered™ status by using the Climate Registered logo
- Your organization and inventory will be reported on The Climate Registry's website
- Receive recognition from media and the international community
- Be eligible to be part of The Registry's delegation at UN climate change conferences
- Be eligible to profile your achievements on Climate Registry webinars and at regional forums

What are the criteria for Climate Registered™ Silver, Gold and Platinum?

Silver	Gold	Platinum
<p>Member must have a public GHG management and reduction plan in place that includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An absolute GHG emission reduction goal for Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions. 2. A target base year and the expected timeline to achieve the target. 3. Demonstration of 5+ best practices 	<p>Member must meet all Climate Registered™ Silver requirements</p> <p>+ Member must demonstrate an absolute five percent reduction in Scope 1 and scope 2 (a portion of Scope 2 reductions may be met through purchase of RECs) emissions in its total, entity-wide North American or global footprint against a target base year.</p> <p>Companies subject to mandatory requirements must demonstrate - through the implementation of best practices or additional reductions – that they are going above and beyond mandatory requirements to reduce their emissions.</p>	<p>Member must meet all Climate Registered™ Silver requirements</p> <p>+ Member must demonstrate an absolute 20 percent reduction in Scope 1 and 2 (a portion of Scope 2 reductions may be met through purchase of RECs) emissions in its North American or global footprint against a target base year. 49% of the reduction can be met with regulatory-approved offsets.</p> <p>Companies subject to mandatory requirements must demonstrate - through the implementation of best practices or additional reductions – that they are going above and beyond mandatory requirements to reduce their emissions.</p>

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

If we are already a Member of The Registry, do we need to apply to be Climate Registered™?

No. You will automatically be Climate Registered™ after you third party verify and report your inventory to The Registry.

Can I be Climate Registered™ as a Transitional Member?

Yes, for a maximum of two years. You would then have to report and verify your complete inventory to maintain your Climate Registered™ status.

If we are already a Climate Registered™ Member, do we have to apply for Climate Registered™ Silver, Gold or Platinum status?

No, you are not required to apply. However if you would like to achieve Climate Registered™ Silver, Gold or Platinum status then yes, you must apply after reporting your complete and verified inventory to The Registry.

How many times can we apply to be Climate Registered™ Silver, Gold or Platinum?

As many times as you wish.

Can we apply directly for Climate Registered™ Gold or Platinum status?

You can, as long as you meet the relevant criteria as well as the criteria for Climate Registered™ Silver.

How long do we have to meet the criteria for Climate Registered™ Silver, Gold or Platinum?

You should be able to meet the criteria at the time of application. To achieve Silver, you would have a public reduction plan in place and be able to demonstrate that you are implementing 5+ best practices. To achieve Gold, you would be able to demonstrate an absolute 5% reduction in emissions against a target base year that you identify. For Platinum, you would be able to demonstrate an absolute 20% reduction (with the capacity to use regulatory-approved offsets to meet 49% of that target).

How long do we keep our Climate Registered™ Silver, Gold or Platinum status?

You retain Climate Registered™ Silver or Gold status for three years, as long as you report your verified emissions data to The Registry annually. For example, if you apply for and achieve Silver in May 2010 after having your 2009 inventory verified and accepted by The Registry, your status would be valid until May 2013.

You retain Climate Registered™ Platinum status as long as you maintain your original 20% reduction (the use of offsets is allowed), and report your verified emissions data to The Registry annually.

Do we have to apply for Climate Registered™ Silver, Gold or Platinum status every year once you have achieved them?

No, you maintain your Climate Registered™ Silver and Gold for three years, and with Platinum you retain your status as long as you maintain the 20% reduction. You do not have to re-apply for it every year. However, you may choose to apply for a different level in the Climate Registered™ program before the three years is up.

What if we want to apply for a different status before the three year timeframe?

You are free to apply for a different status any time within the three year timeframe. Whether or not you achieve it will be based on whether you meet the relevant criteria.

THE COST OF JOINING Climate Registered™

How much does it cost to be Climate Registered™ Silver, Gold or Platinum?

There is no additional cost beyond the annual membership fee to be Silver, Gold or Platinum.

CHARTER MEMBERSHIP

Are there any organizations that are Climate Registered™ Silver, Gold or Platinum as at 14 December 2009?

No. However, a number of organizations have signed on as Charter Members of the Climate Registered™ reduction program. They are listed on our website.

What does it mean to be a Charter Member of the Climate Registered™ reduction program?

Charter Members commit to applying for Climate Registered™ Silver, Gold or Platinum status by December 2010. Their inventory must be third party verified and reported by this date.

Charter Members will be publicized in Registry communications throughout the year

How much does it cost to be a Charter Member of the Climate Registered™ reduction program?

There is no additional cost to being a Charter Member.

How do we apply to be a Charter Member of the Climate Registered™ reduction program?

You can apply through The Registry's website through 1 April 2009.

Can we apply for Climate Registered™ Silver, Gold or Platinum after 1 April 2009?

Yes, just not as a Charter Member of the program.

MEETING THE REDUCTION TARGETS in Climate Registered™ GOLD and PLATINUM

Can we apply reductions in scope 1 and scope 2 to the Climate Registered™ Gold and Platinum reduction targets?

Yes, reductions in scope 1 or scope 2 emissions can be applied, or a combination of scope 1 and 2 emissions.

Are the reductions in Climate Registered™ Gold or Platinum based on North American or global emissions?

Either.

Can reductions in scope 3 emissions be applied to Climate Registered™ Gold or Platinum status?

No. Since The Climate Registry does not currently require Members to report scope 3 emissions, all Climate Registered™ Gold and Platinum reduction targets must be based on scope 1 and scope 2 emissions (which The Registry requires all Climate Registered™ Members to report).

Upon what year can we base our reductions for Climate Registered™ Gold or Platinum?

The target base year can be prior to the first year of reporting to The Registry. It must be complete, in order to assess reductions against it, and reported and verified in accordance with The Registry's requirements for complete reporting.

An organization does not have to report the intervening years between a target base year and the year the organization joins the Climate Registered™ program, although it is strongly encouraged.

Once you have achieved Climate Registered™ Gold or Platinum status, your reductions will be based on a target base year that is no earlier than the year used to **demonstrate** the original reductions.

What portion of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) may be used towards the reduction targets?

There is no limit on the purchase of RECs, as long as they meet the following criteria:

- Certificates must be purchased from an entity that is different and distinct from your own organization (i.e., not included within your organizational boundaries).
- Certificates must be third-party certified or registered in a publicly accessible registry or tracking system.
- Certificates must be unambiguously tied to a specific power generation facility or unit with a known emissions rate.
- Certificates must be of the same vintage as the emissions reporting year against which they are to be applied or retired within six months prior to the start of the year or three months after the end of the year.
- Certificates must be retired prior to the date on which you wish to apply them, and this must be reported to The Registry.
- Facilities from which certificates are derived must be located in North America (Canada, United States, or Mexico).

Can offsets be applied to achieve the reduction targets in Climate Registered™ Gold or Platinum?

They can be used to achieve Climate Registered™ Platinum status. Upon initial application, Members can use regulatory-approved offsets to meet up to 49% of the reduction target. To retain Platinum status after the initial three years, Members have unlimited use of regulatory-approved offsets.

What is a regulatory-approved offset?

A regulatory-approved offset is an offset that is recognized and accepted by a state, provincial, regional or federal mandatory program or regulatory body. The Registry will also accept offsets from Clean Development Mechanism projects.

If we want to re-apply for Climate Registered™ Gold or Platinum status, do we have to achieve another 5% or 20% reduction respectively?

To re-apply for Climate Registered™ Gold after three years, a Member must demonstrate an absolute five percent reduction in Scope 1 and scope 2 in its North American or global footprint against a target base year that is no earlier than the year used to **demonstrate** the original reductions.

A Climate Registered™ Platinum Member does not have to achieve an additional 20% reduction after three years. Upon achieving Climate Registered™ Platinum, the Member must ensure that their emissions remain at least 20% below the original target base year (essentially carbon neutral growth if business is growing).

If a Member does not meet these requirements (as demonstrated by the submission of an application every three years), The Registry will revoke their status.

How will our performance be assessed against Climate Registered™ Silver, Gold and Platinum criteria?

All Climate Registered™ Members must have reported an inventory to The Registry that has been third party verified by an ANSI-accredited verification body. The basis of the program is therefore extremely rigorous.

The reduction plan for Climate Registered™ Silver will be assessed by Registry staff against the specified criteria.

The Member must provide proof to demonstrate implementation of best practices, and provide metrics that describe the progress and results of reduction projects as part of its annual inventory.

These metrics will be determined by The Registry, but will most likely include the type of project, potential impact of the project (kilowatt hours saved, etc) and the cost.

Registry will require prospective Climate Registered™ Gold and Platinum Members to submit a Reductions Assessment Form - in addition to completing its emission report in the Climate Registry Information System - to demonstrate how they have addressed issues of leakage and additionality.

Registry staff will conduct a thorough audit of Members' applications involving desktop review for a sample of submissions.

MARKETING

When and how can we use the Climate Registered™ logo?

Once you have achieved a Climate Registered™ status, you may use the Climate Registered™ logo. Guidance for how the logo can be used will be available on the website in January 2010.

MORE INFORMATION

Where do I go for more information?

Contact the appropriate Regional Director:

- Alex Carr (Canada) at alex@theclimateregistry.org
- Tymon Lodder (Western US) at tymon@theclimateregistry.org
- Denise Sheehan (Eastern and Midwestern US) at denise@theclimateregistry.org