FAQs for TCR Members

About the Carbon Footprint Registry

Is The Climate Registry being renamed?

No, The Climate Registry will continue to be the name of our organization. TCR's Voluntary Reporting Program is being renamed the Carbon Footprint Registry. This new name reflects the expanded scope of our program offering, and clearly distinguishes between the reporters in each of our programs.

If I'm already a member of TCR, will I still be a member?

Yes, you will still be a member of The Climate Registry and participating in the Carbon Footprint Registry.

How else will I be affected?

The Carbon Footprint Registry will include the same training and resources, proprietary Climate Registry Information System (CRIS) software and help desk it always has.

In addition, for the first time in over 10 years, we have fundamentally transformed and streamlined our GHG reporting guidance – the General Reporting Protocol (GRP) 3.0. Our program will now provide a wide range of reporting options to meet the diverse needs of organizations who have limited reporting experience, extensive reporting experience, and/or very specific circumstances. We have also revamped and enhanced our Climate Registered recognition program and the benefits associated with it.

GRP 3.0 will be available in May 2019, at which time members can report their inventory using either GRP 2.1 or the newest version. All members will use GRP 3.0 as of January 1, 2020.

What are the new options in the Carbon Footprint Registry?

More Flexible Boundaries for your GHG inventory	**Fiscal-year reporting**: Organizations can define their annual inventory according to whatever date range works for them (previously only calendar-year reporting was supported) **Equity Share only reporting**: Organizations can now report according to equity share (versus operational or financial control methodology). **World-wide reporting and verification**: Members can report and verify a single inventory for all emissions included in their reporting boundary. They do not have to distinguish between North American and world-wide inventories.
Simplified Estimation Method	We received feedback from members that the 5% SEMs threshold was too limiting. Our updated guidance allows members to use SEMs to estimate emissions up to 10% of their inventory.

(SEM) Threshold Increased to 10%	
More Base Year Options	Members now have additional base year options, beyond reporting a single year. This will benefit organizations that may see annual variability in emissions due to external factors, such as in the agricultural and water sectors.
More Support for Disclosing GHG Reductions, Offsets and Carbon Neutrality	TCR members can report retired offsets as part of an inventory, include offsets in the scope of verification, and apply offsets to their inventory. The net inventory report breaks down the emissions inventory, offsets applied and the net total. It also allows members to demonstrate their carbon neutrality.
Transitional Reporting Replaced by Customized Inventory Options	TCR is expanding its support of customized inventories by removing the transitional reporting label. Going forward, you will be able to decide how you want to approach developing and managing your GHG emissions over time. Customized boundaries will continue to be publicly disclosed through TCR's self-defined boundary form.

What if we're building a transitional inventory for 2018, how will this change how we develop our inventory?

If you are a transitional reporter, you will notice two changes: You no longer have to ask permission to report less than a complete inventory after five years, and the "transitional" banner on the report will no longer be used. (For more information, see topic "Transitional Reporting Replaced by Customized Inventory Options" in the chart above.)

Can I use GRP 3.0 if I've already started building my 2018 inventory using GRP 2.1?

Yes, you will be able to report your inventory using GRP 3.0 once it is published in May 2019. On the "Edit my Inventory Details" page in CRIS, you will be able to specify GRP 3.0 as the GHG Reporting Standard being used to develop and report your inventory.

What changes will I notice in GRP 3.0?

GRP 3.0 will be more user-friendly than ever before. It's significantly shorter, and we've broken up the key components of reporting into separate modules for ease of reference. We have also streamlined our methodologies section to include only those that are most frequently used; some methodologies for less common emission sources and methodologies that require detailed site-specific data will now be available in a separate Advanced Methods section. The final version of the GRP modules will include hyperlinks to other modules and guidance documents.

You've removed the distinction between North American and Non-North American or Worldwide inventories. Am I still able to generate North American and non-North American reports in CRIS?

Yes. This change is intended to simplify reporting and reduce the burden of verifying two separate emissions inventories.

How will offsets be displayed in my inventory report?

Offsets are applied to inventory totals (Scope 1,2,3 or biogenic), and the results are displayed on a net inventory report, which breaks down the emissions inventory, applied offsets in aggregate and the net total. You can demonstrate achievement of carbon neutrality through this report.

About the Climate Registered™ Recognition Program

What are the changes to the Climate Registered program?

The revamped Climate Registered program offers recognition options for organizations at all points on the reporting spectrum: those who have just started to build capacity, and those who exemplify true excellence in GHG reporting. With five tiers of recognition and a comprehensive set of benefits associated with each tier, Climate Registered communicates to your constituents that you are taking action on climate change.

If my organization is already in the Climate Registered program, how do the changes to the recognition program affect us?

If you are currently in the Climate Registered program, you will automatically receive the new Climate Registered Gold certification. This will be valid until July 2020, after which time you will have to apply for Climate Registered status against the new criteria.

How long can my organization claim the status of Climate Registered?

Members that third-party verify their carbon footprint may use the relevant Climate Registered™ logo for a period of one year from the date they attain the status.
When do the new Climate Registered benefits kick in?
July 2019.

What is the application process for the new and improved Climate Registered program?
Members will apply for a specific Climate Registered certification by disclosing that their organization has met the criteria for the selected tier on the Climate Registered Application. The application will be available on The Climate Registry's website and members will receive the desired Climate Registered certification following review by TCR staff.