At its core, the Claims Code is for companies who are seeking to make credible voluntary use of carbon credits and receive validation in the form of a VCMI Claim. It is also important for the following groups:

**Introducing the VCMI Claims Code of Practice**

The VCMI Claims Code of Practice (Claims Code) is a rulebook that will bring confidence and credibility to voluntary carbon markets and to claims that involve the use of carbon credits.

When used with integrity, VCMs can accelerate climate mitigation and make a meaningful contribution to the Paris Agreement goals and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

**Who is the code for?**

- **Organizations and People**
  Buyers of goods and services seeking to make climate-friendly purchases.

- **Investors**
  To review the credibility of a company’s climate ambition and its actions.

- **Governments and their regulatory agencies**
  To encourage companies to use carbon credits credibly and structure claims to be truthful, clear and informative.

- **Those seeking to develop other rules / guidance / frameworks that will involve carbon credit use and disclosures.**
Steps to follow - how to make a VCMI Claim

Here are the four key steps that companies must take to make a VCMI Claim.

**STEP ONE 01**
Comply with the Foundational Criteria

**STEP TWO 02**
Select which VCMI Claim to make (Silver, Gold or Platinum)

**STEP THREE 03**
Meet the required carbon credit use and quality thresholds

**STEP FOUR 04**
Obtain third-party assurance following the VCMI Monitoring, Reporting and Assurance Framework

What are the VCMI Foundational Criteria?
Companies using the code must comply with the following four VCMI Foundational Criteria

- Maintain and publicly disclose an annual greenhouse gas emissions inventory.
- Set and publicly disclose validated science-based near-term emissions reduction targets, and publicly commit to reaching net zero emissions no later than 2050.
- Demonstrate that the company is on-track towards meeting a near-term emissions reduction target and minimizing cumulative emissions over the target period.
- Demonstrate that the company’s public policy advocacy supports the goals of the Paris Agreement and does not represent a barrier to ambitious climate regulation.
June 2022
Provisional Claims Code of Practice launch – road testing among businesses to ascertain its practicality.

June 2023
The VCMI launches a fully operable Claims Code of Practice which has been delivered through an inclusive and consultative process including carbon markets experts, governments, corporate representatives, regulators, and academics.

July – November 2023
Between July and November, additional modules will be released, complementing the Claims Code with supplementary work, including information on VCMI’s brand-, product- and service-level claims, as well as its Monitoring, Reporting, and Assurance (MRA) framework.

November 2023
Companies will be able to validate VCMI Claims in line with the VCMI MRA framework.

Companies purchase high-quality carbon credits to go beyond and above decarbonization strategies, increase ambition and drive further climate action to reduce global warming.