**Introducing the VCMI Claims Code of Practice**

The Claims Code is for companies seeking to make credible, voluntary, and transparent claims about their carbon footprint and the actions they are taking to reduce it.

### Who is the code for?

- **UN Sustainable Development Goals.**
- **Accelerate climate mitigation.**
- **When used with integrity, VCMs can help companies make a meaningful contribution to the Paris Agreement Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals.**

### The VCMI Claims Code of Practice (Claims Code)

The Claims Code brings confidence and structure claims to be truthful, clear, and informative. It helps investors, users of carbon credits, and others reviewing the credibility of a company's climate ambition and its actions.

### Introducing the VCMI

- **Claim; it is also important for the following groups:**
  - Investors
  - Buyers of goods and services seeking to make net zero-aligned purchases
  - Organizations and people that will involve carbon credit use and disclosures

### Step 1: Comply with the Foundational Criteria

To make a credible voluntary carbon claim, a company must adhere to the following four VCMI Foundational Criteria:

1. **Effective governance** - The company must have strong governance structures in place to ensure that the carbon claim is credible.
2. **Governance & Emissions impact** - The company must disclose the emissions impact of the claim, including the scope of the emissions.
3. **Transparency** - The company must be transparent about the data and information used to make the claim.
4. **Tracking** - The company must track the carbon credits used to meet the claim.

### Step 2: Select which Carbon Integrity Claim to make

Companies can make one of three Carbon Integrity Claims (CICs) based on their needs:

- **Carbon Integrity Silver (CIC-S)**
- **Carbon Integrity Gold (CIC-G)**
- **Carbon Integrity Platinum (CIC-P)**

### Step 3: Meet the required carbon credit use and quality thresholds

To progress to a higher Claim, companies must meet the required carbon credit use and quality thresholds. For example, a Carbon Integrity Silver Claim requires companies to retire 50% of their current emissions, while a Carbon Integrity Gold Claim requires companies to retire 100% of their current emissions.

### Step 4: Obtain third-party assurance following the VCMI MRA Framework

To ensure the integrity of the claim, companies must obtain third-party assurance following the VCMI MRA Framework. This framework requires independent third-party assurance to provide integrity and credibility to the claim.

### Key information related to the claims

- **1. Effective governance:** The company must have strong governance structures in place to ensure that the carbon claim is credible.
- **2. Tracking:** The company must track the carbon credits used to meet the claim.
- **3. Transparency:** The company must be transparent about the data and information used to make the claim.
- **4. Permanence:** The company must ensure that the carbon credits are permanent and do not represent a barrier to the Paris Agreement.
- **5. Removals:** The company must demonstrate progress towards meeting its near-term emission reduction targets.
- **6. Permanence:** The company must demonstrate progress towards meeting its near-term emission reduction targets.
- **7. Contribution to net zero:** The company must contribute to net zero in a meaningful way.
- **8. Sustainable development benefits and safeguards:** The company must demonstrate a commitment to sustainable development benefits and safeguards.
- **9. Capacity to act:** The company must demonstrate the capacity to act now and in the future.
- **10. Contribution to net zero:** The company must contribute to net zero in a meaningful way.