

Beta Scope 3 Claim Road Testing

Terms of Reference

13th September 2024

About the beta Scope 3 Claim

The Voluntary Carbon Markets Integrity Initiative – VCMI sets out how companies can credibly engage with carbon markets as part of their broader climate strategies.

Companies are not reducing emissions fast enough and need tools to make more rapid progress on climate targets. A high-integrity Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM) can help companies go farther, faster, and increase the flow of climate finance to where it is needed most. Companies that engage in voluntary carbon markets are [1.8x](#) more likely to be decarbonizing year-over-year.

To support greater action VCMI has strengthened its beta Scope 3 Claim. The Claim offers a science-based approach for companies to take action on scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions that remain unabated. With an updated methodology, VCMI launched a public consultation, between September 2nd and October 7th, seeking wide-ranging stakeholder input, to ensure the perspectives of diverse groups are at the heart of this process.

The beta Scope 3 Claim can be used as an additional tool for companies to deliver climate action through voluntary carbon markets, while they return to a scope 3 emissions trajectory, consistent with their net zero transition commitments.

To make a beta Scope 3 Claim, companies will need to be transparent about progress made on decarbonization, challenges they are facing, and remedies being put in place, as well as purchasing and retiring high-quality carbon credits.

Purpose of the Road Testing

The “road testing” of the beta Scope 3 Claim is being established to gather detailed input to refine the updated Claim, which will result from the public consultation feedback, and ensure it is fully operable and is fit-for-purpose to drive corporate climate action. Expected results of the road testing are to:

1. Test feasibility of methodology for calculating the emissions gap and maximum number of credits to be used over time.
2. Make the Claim fully operable: Technical criteria and branding are practicable.
3. Demonstrate this Claim delivers more climate ambition rather than less.

The “road testing” stage would involve convening a select group of companies (20-30) interested in applying the Scope 3 Claim guidance for future use.

The “road testing” will entail:

- Dedicated support to companies to understand and facilitate first-hand ‘trial’ implementation of the beta Scope 3 Claim.

- Opportunity to input and feedback on the process, challenges and advantages of the current guidance in order to inform its refinement and finalisation.
- Peer-to-peer exchange and knowledge-sharing among corporate climate leaders, to learn, overcome issues and build on successful experiences.

Membership

Membership of this working group is on a voluntary basis.

Membership selection criteria

We are looking for corporate climate leaders to participate in a road test of the beta Scope 3 Claim. Ideal candidates will be organisations that have an ambitious climate strategy for decarbonization across all scopes, but that are facing challenges in making progress against scope 3 value chain emissions reductions. These candidates will assist in the important work of piloting the beta Scope 3 Claim to ensure the guidance is fully operable and it incentivises more climate ambition rather than less. The “road testing” group will consist of 20-30 member organisations.

We expect the participation of a sustainability team member that leads climate action and/or carbon market agenda, as they would be expected to gain the biggest benefit.

A beta Scope 3 Claim road testing Expression of Interest application will be posted on the VCMI website. All suitable applicants are encouraged to apply to join the road testing. VCMI and WBCSD will confirm participants in consideration of sectoral and regional representations.

Governance/ Accountability

The working group will be led and chaired in collaboration by the VCMI and WBCSD secretariats. Boston Consulting Group will support facilitation of workshops and other engagements with companies.

All data shared or created during this road-test will be collected, processed, and used by VCMI/WBCSD for the purpose of processing the feedback on the beta Scope 3 Claim. The data shall be treated as confidential and shall not be transferred to other entities. The number of companies from each sector will be released, but names of companies won't be publicized by VCMI or WBCSD.

Outputs/ working methods

The beta Scope 3 Claim “road testing” will kick-off the week commencing on November 4th, running for four weeks until the end of November to support corporate climate leaders through:

- Weekly 60-minute meetings to review the beta Scope 3 Claim guidance step-by-step and address ‘trial’ implementation questions or challenges.
- Weekly office hours (2hrs/week, optional) available to companies as extra ongoing support, to clarify specific questions and to provide feedback on the “road testing”.

- Ad-hoc meetings to discuss specific issues that require input on additional guidance and collaboration on the process implementation.
- Shared repository to collaborate outside meetings via shared documents (e.g. SharePoint).

VCMI and WBCSD will set up a ‘technical group’ that will design and lead the road testing work. The ‘technical group’ will include VCMI, WBCSD and Boston Consulting Group as ‘knowledge partner’.

Boston Consulting Group, in coordination with WBCSD and the VCMI Secretariat, will keep members informed regarding meeting logistics and any ad hoc issues.

Expectations of “road testing” members

WBCSD and VCMI expect members to demonstrate their commitment to credible climate action, contributing to high-integrity voluntary carbon markets, as part of their broader climate strategies.

“Road testing” members will network, share experience, and collaborate to advance the implementation of the beta Scope 3 Claim.

Members commit to:

- a) Participate in peer exchange: sharing information and knowledge with others.
- b) Engage in professional and constructive relationships with the other members.
- c) Respect the levels of confidentiality agreed in the working group.
- d) Be open to collaboration with other “road testing” members.
- e) Communicate about collaborations only when this is agreed amongst all parties.
- f) Refrain from making misleading or false statements about the nature or impacts of the organisation’s own system, about the “road testing” program, or about VCMI.
- g) Agree to Chatham House Rule and to maintain the confidentiality of all meetings, discussions, and associated materials.

By submitting the [form for Expression of Interest to the beta Scope 3 Claim road testing](#), the Terms of Reference are considered accepted.