

# Woodland Carbon Code

The Woodland Carbon Code (WCC) is the standard for woodland creation projects in the UK which generate verifiable Woodland Carbon Units. These are measurable amounts of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) removed from the atmosphere by the

growing trees. Backed by government, forest industry and carbon market experts, the code is unique in providing woodland carbon right here in the UK. Buying carbon from these projects brings many benefits in addition to carbon sequestration.

## A Woodland Carbon Unit (WCU)

is a tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> which has been sequestered in a WCC-certified woodland. It has been independently

verified, is guaranteed to be there, and can be used to report against emissions as soon as it is purchased.

## A Pending Issuance Unit (PIU)

is effectively a 'promise to deliver' a Woodland Carbon Unit during a given period, based on predicted tree growth. It is not 'guaranteed', and cannot be used to report against emissions until verified. However, it allows companies to plan to compensate for future emissions.

Every 10 years, projects are checked and, if performing well, verified. At that point the PIUs are converted to WCUs. PIUs are available now from a growing number of projects, and the first WCUs will be available in 2016.

## Market Value

The average global price of woodland carbon in January 2014 was £6/tCO<sub>2</sub>, although there was wide variation around this figure, depending on the nature

of the project. See 'State of the Forest Carbon Market' reports at [www.forestcarbonportal.com](http://www.forestcarbonportal.com).

## Further information

- Visit [www.forestry.gov.uk/carboncode](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/carboncode)
- View the WCC Projects on Markit's Public View, and open an account at [www.markit.com/product/registry](http://www.markit.com/product/registry)
- Email [climatechange@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:climatechange@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)
- Join the LinkedIn 'Woodland Carbon' group

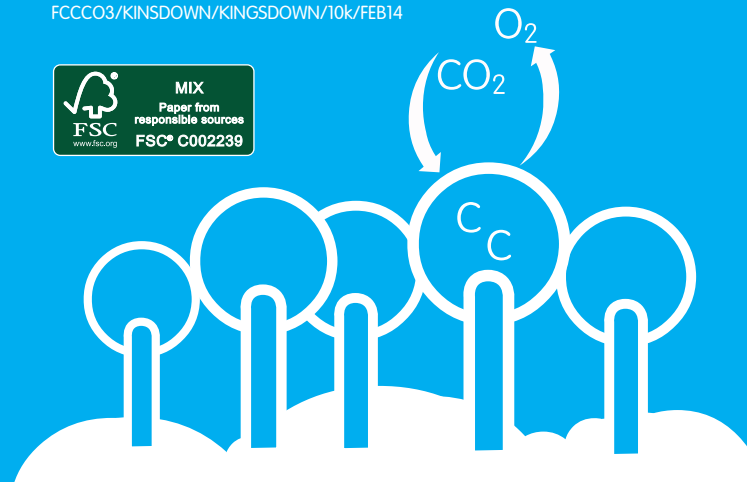
The Forestry Commission will consider all requests to make the content of publications available in alternative formats.

Please send any such requests to [diversity@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:diversity@forestry.gsi.gov.uk) or call 0131 314 6575.



The Woodland Carbon Code is an initiative led by the Forestry Commission and supported by a Carbon Advisory Group of UK forest industry and carbon market experts.

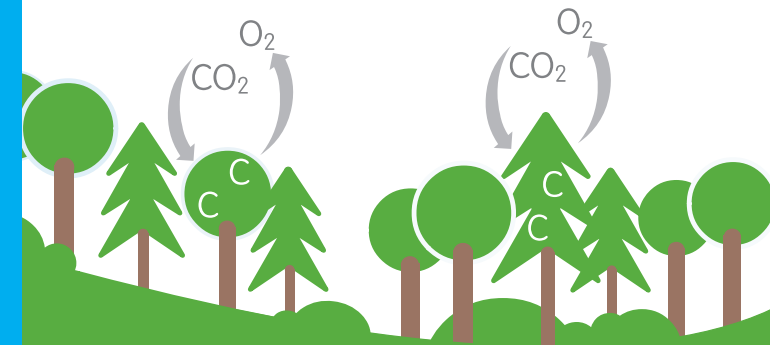
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# A buyers' guide to Woodland Carbon Units

Buy units from a Woodland Carbon Code project and your company can:

- Make a real contribution to tackling climate change
- Report Woodland Carbon Units against its emissions
- Choose projects which provide enhanced social and environmental benefits



[forestry.gov.uk/carboncode](http://forestry.gov.uk/carboncode)

## Business benefits

WCC projects create real and verifiable carbon units.

These can be bought and used by businesses wishing to reduce their impact on the global climate and cost-effectively compensate for their emissions.

As a business manager, you will only want to buy units from carbon-capture projects if you feel confident that the woodlands will be well managed and really will capture the CO<sub>2</sub> claimed.

Verification against the Woodland Carbon Code meets this need by providing the evidence.

You can also be reassured that you can track the purchase, ownership and use of credits on a highly respected registry.

Funding a WCC woodland can also help your business to meet other corporate responsibility objectives and enhance its reputation.

Woodlands can improve air quality and provide wildlife habitat, timber and woodfuel as well as sites for public recreation.

In the right places, they can reduce flooding and improve water quality.

They can also provide opportunities for community engagement and staff volunteering, education and development.

Well known companies which have bought PIUs include:  
**Marks and Spencer**  
**The Green Investment Bank**  
**BWOC**  
**Thorlux Lighting**  
**Mears Group**  
**Stagecoach**



## Case Studies

### BWOC

Fuel distributor BWOC has helped to create four new woodlands in England and Scotland which will capture more than 20,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> over the decades to come.

One of these, Cranborne, is BWOC's first foray into productive forestry. It will be managed on a "continuous-cover" basis, using natural regeneration and selective harvesting to ensure that tree cover is always maintained, comprising trees of all ages.



**Mark Wayne, Managing Director,** is particularly excited by this aspect of the project: "I loved the idea of contributing to the creation of a woodland which can ensure its own permanence through the sustainable extraction of timber, and also the fact that most of the timber extracted would still be locking up carbon in wood products."



### Thorlux lighting

When manufacturing firm Thorlux Lighting decided to find a way of compensating for some of the unavoidable emissions arising from its production process, it went one step further than buying carbon units. It bought land at Cwm Fagor in Wales and created almost 30 hectares of native woodland. It now owns a resource which will sequester more than 15,000 tCO<sub>2</sub> over the next 100 years. The new woodland will also produce quality timber, link up valuable wildlife habitats and add to the network of local footpaths.



**Mike Allcock, Managing Director, said:**

"It's particularly pleasing that this woodland will be contributing towards a number of climate change targets. The scheme demonstrates that we recognise the carbon emissions from Thorlux Lighting and the FW Thorpe Group, and it will also help the Welsh Government's target to increase the area of woodland.

"Our manufacturing processes will always produce emissions, and these can be calculated. We also help our customers minimise their emissions by selling extremely efficient lighting and electronic control systems, but a small amount of energy use is inevitable. By opening our scheme to our customers we are enabling them to purchase tree plantings to compensate for the emissions they generate by using our products.

"Contributing to our woodland offers them the chance to do the right thing in partnership with a company committed to the environment. We hope, too, that the added credibility of government recognition will further encourage customers to join our environmental initiative."

