

Overview of the Climate Action Reserve

Webinar will begin shortly

For audio, please dial (213) 286-1201

Access code: 234-507-388



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Max DuBuisson
Business Development Associate



Presentation Overview

1. Background on the Climate Action Reserve
 2. What is different about the Reserve?
 3. Our protocols
 4. The project registration process
 5. Finding information on our website
- What we will not be covering
 - Software demo
 - Technical details on using the protocols

History of the Climate Action Reserve



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- Founded as the California Climate Action Registry by state legislation in 2001
 - Encourage voluntary reporting and reductions
 - Develop protocols to track GHG emissions and reductions

Objectives of the Climate Action Reserve



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- Address public concerns about the voluntary carbon market that:
 - Projects aren't additional
 - Credits are being double counted or sold
- Our reputation for high-quality accounting standards can address these concerns
 - Show that carbon offsets can be a useful tool in addressing climate change
- Intended to be the premier place to register carbon offset projects for North America
 - Be the recognized “seal of approval”

What makes the Reserve different? *Recognition*



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Recognized and Supported by:

- California Air Resources Board
- State of Pennsylvania
- Voluntary Carbon Standard (VCS)
- Leading environmental organizations:
 - Environment America
 - Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
 - Union of Concerned Scientists
 - Sierra Club
 - Wilderness Society

What makes the Reserve different? *Transparency*



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- Unparalleled transparency makes the Reserve unique
- Public reports include:
 - All protocols
 - List of all account-holders
 - List of all projects and all project documents
 - List of all issued CRTs for every project
 - All retired CRTs

What makes the Reserve different? *Performance standard = Ease of use*



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- Why a performance standard is different
 - The hard work is upfront
 - Assess industry practice as a whole, rather than individual project activities
- Less subjective determination to qualify
- More certainty in amount of credits
- Lower risk for developers
- Faster project processing

What makes the Reserve different? *Separation of Roles*



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- Reserve develops protocols but does not develop projects
- Does not take ownership of offsets
- 501(c)3 non-profit status
- Third-party verification
 - Consistent with international standards
 - Accreditation done by ANSI
 - Conflict of interest analysis on every project

Distinguishing the Reserve:

Voluntary and compliance markets

- For now, main demand is from the voluntary market
- In the future, projects may be usable for compliance in California, Western Climate Initiative or federally
 - Regulators have yet to make decisions on these questions
 - The Reserve “is considered the premier pre-compliance offset standard.” (*State of the Voluntary Carbon Markets 2009*)



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Our Protocols

- Developed with broad public input
- Goal is to create a uniform standard that is widely recognized and builds on best practice
 - We incorporate the best elements of other protocols
 - We do not accept protocols from other programs (i.e. CDM, Gold Standard, VCS, etc.)
- Designed as step-by-step instructions on project development

Protocol Development Process



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1. Literature review
2. Scoping/kick-off meeting
3. Multi-stakeholder workgroup formation
4. Draft protocol to workgroup
5. Revised draft released for public comment
6. Public workshop
7. Adoption by Reserve board in public session
 - It is unique for a non-profit Board to meet in public
8. Adoption by California Air Resources Board in public session



Existing Protocols

- Forestry
 - Improved forest management
 - Avoided conversion
 - Reforestation
- Landfill gas capture (US & Mexico)
- Livestock methane capture (US & Mexico)
- Urban forestry

Protocols under consideration for 2009



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Agriculture and Biological Sequestration

- Waste diversion
 - Composting
 - Organic waste digestion*
- Soil sequestration
 - Cropland
 - Rangeland
 - Biochar

* *In-progress*

Industrial Processes

- Boiler efficiency
- Ozone depleting substances*
- N₂O from nitric acid plants*
- Natural gas T&D systems
- Coal mine methane*

Transportation

- Truck stop electrification

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Protocols



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- No renewable energy protocol is planned
 - You may be able to generate RECs through other programs from methane destruction projects if you are generating electricity
- No electrical energy efficiency/green building protocols are planned
 - This is only for electricity. We are planning a natural gas efficiency protocol
- Why? Electricity is certain to be a capped sector under any GHG regulation



Steps to eligibility

1. Location – U.S. (and its territories) or Mexico (specific protocols)
2. Project started operation after 1/1/2001
 - 8/15/08 for Mexico
 - This is changing with new protocols
3. Regulatory screen – not legally required
4. Performance standard for additionality
5. Compliance – must meet all applicable environmental regulations



Verification

- Developer selects an accredited verifier
 - Accreditation being done by ANSI with Reserve oversight
- Verifier submits conflict of interest form
- Developer hires verifier
 - Verifier makes determination how many tonnes of reduction have taken place
 - Project documents, verification report and verification opinion submitted to the Reserve



Crediting reductions

- Developer opens an account on the Reserve
 - Reserve software is operated by APX
- The Reserve credits the project developer's account with the appropriate number of CRTs (Climate Reserve Tonnes, pronounced "carrots")
 - Project documents are visible to the public
- Each CRT has a unique serial number for tracking
 - Includes embedded information about the project, project type, vintage, and location



Transferring credits

- Developer contracts to sell CRTs with an interested buyer
 - Financial transaction is outside of the system
 - Buyer must have an account on the system or seller can retire them on behalf of buyer
- Developer instructs the system to transfer the CRTs into the buyer's account
- Buyer can hold them, retire them or transfer them to someone else
- CRT futures can now be traded on the CCFE



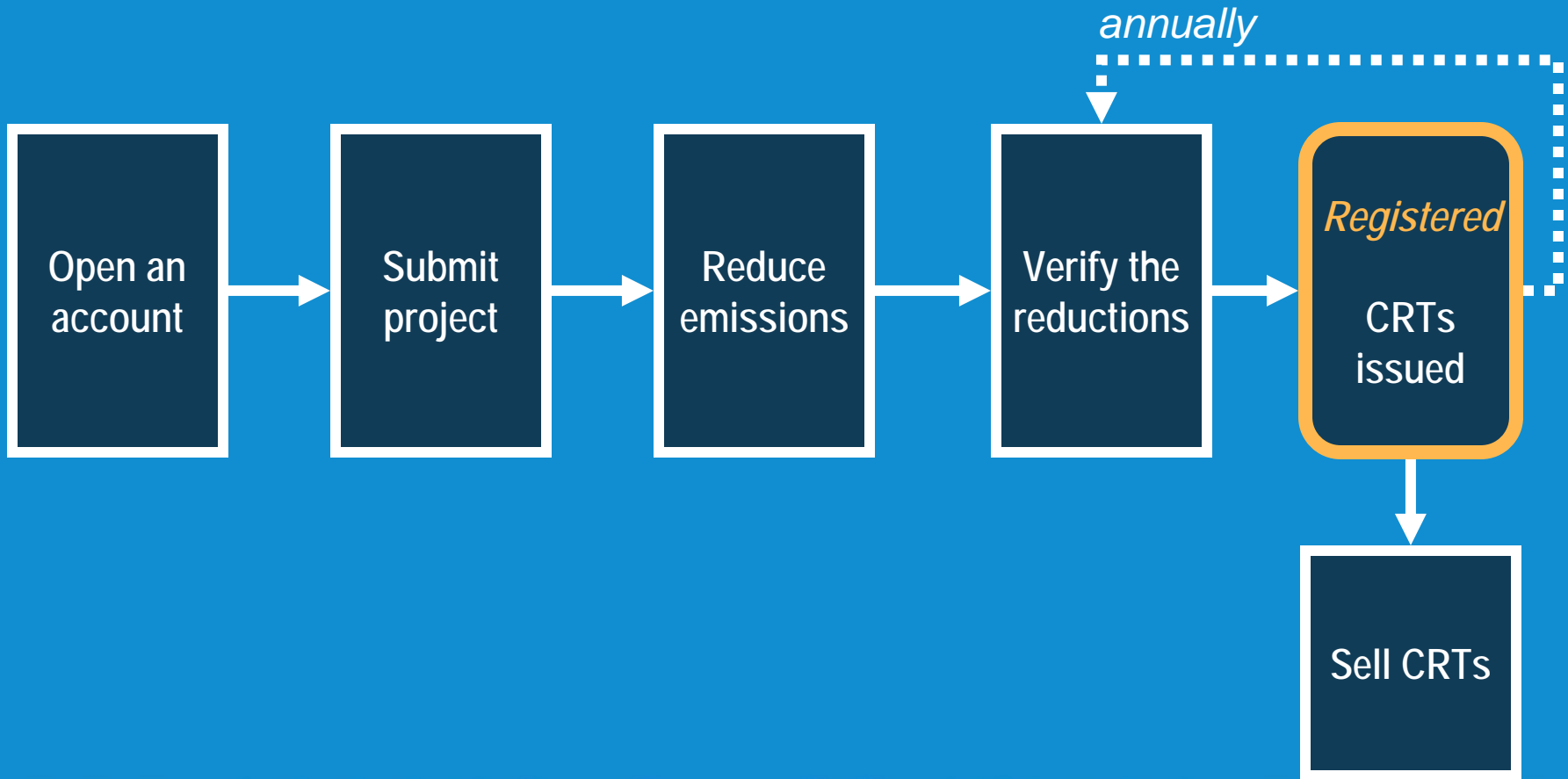
Steps to register a project

1. Open an account on the Reserve
2. Submit project for listing
 - Project submittal form and documents
3. Conduct project activities
4. Select verifier
 - Verifier submits conflict of interest form
5. Submit project documents, verification report and verification opinion
6. Project registered and CRTs issued

The Reserve process



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Fee Structure

- Account Maintenance: \$500/year
- Project Listing: \$500/project
- CRT Issuance: \$.15/tonne*
- CRT Transfer: \$.03/tonne
- Retirement: Free

*Increasing to \$.20 on 10/1/2009

Relationship with the Climate Registry



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- The Climate Registry is a non-profit set up by U.S. states, Canadian provinces, Mexican states and native sovereign nations to track GHG emissions
 - Sister organization to the Reserve
- The Climate Registry does not track GHG reduction projects—just entity footprints

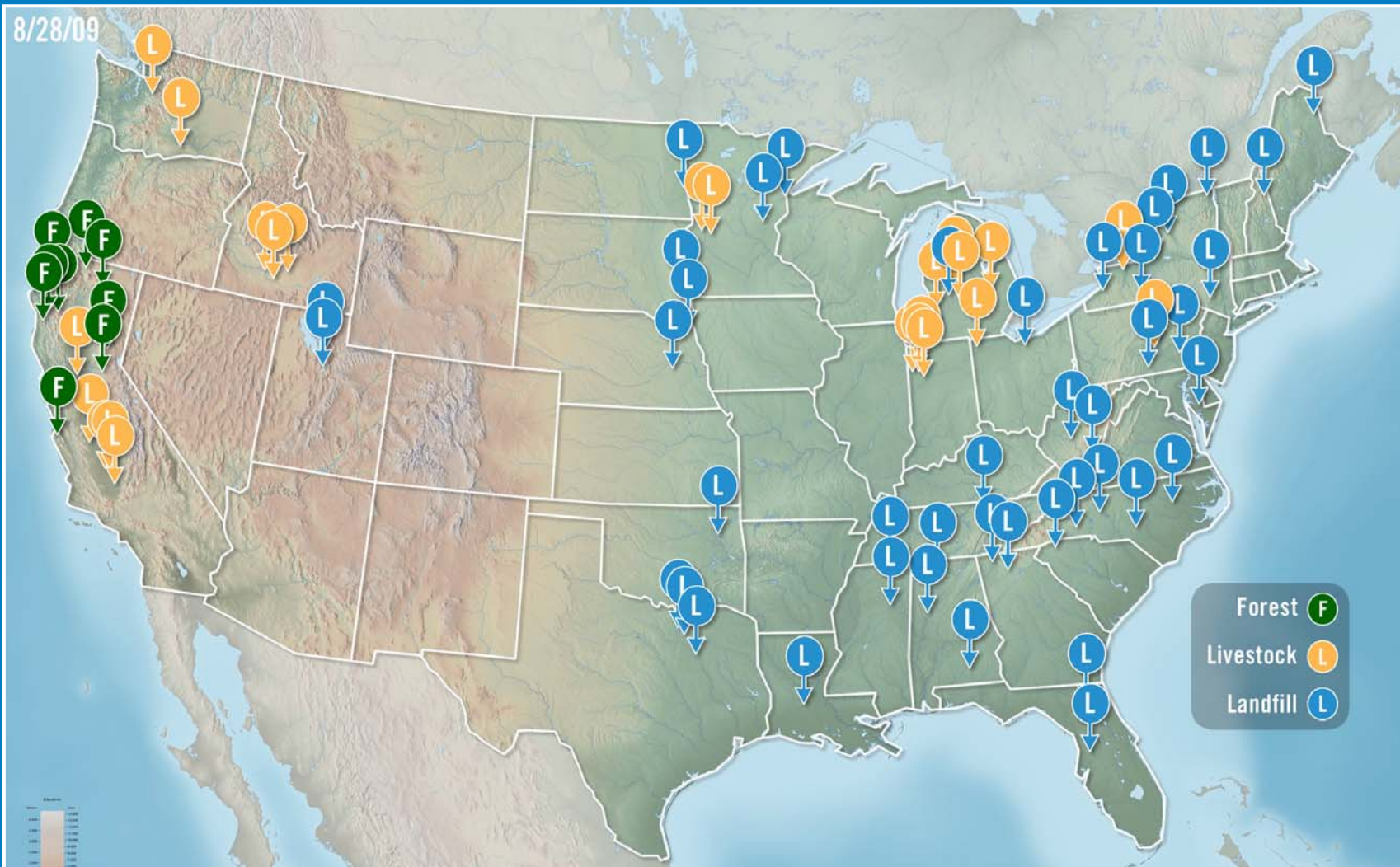
Relationship with VCS—the Voluntary Carbon Standard



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- VCS is an international program that links together the highest quality carbon offset programs
- The Reserve is the only U.S. program recognized by VCS
- CRTs will be convertible into VCUs—but not the reverse

Listed & registered projects





Current Statistics

- Reserve launched: **May 2008**
- Account-holders: **122**
- Total submitted projects: **96**
 - Located in **31** states
- CRTs issued: **~1.6 million**
- Recent average price: **\$6.80/tonne**
 - According to *New Carbon Finance, Voluntary Carbon Index*, July 2009

Website demo



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www.climateactionreserve.org

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Climate Action Reserve website. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links: HOME, ABOUT US, HOW IT WORKS, OPEN AN ACCOUNT, RESOURCES, NEWS AND EVENTS, and SUPPORT. To the right of the menu are links for 'login' and 'public reports', and a search bar. Below the navigation is a large banner image of a tree on a green hill with a path leading to it. The text on the banner reads: 'The Climate Action Reserve was founded to ensure integrity, transparency, and financial value in the North American carbon market.' Below the banner are three main content areas: 'Reserve Facts' with a list of statistics, 'News' with a list of recent news items, and 'Program Announcements' with a list of upcoming events. On the right side, there are buttons for 'Register a Project' and 'Protocols', and logos for 'Center for Climate Action' and 'CALIFORNIA CLIMATE ACTION REGISTRY'. At the bottom, there is a footer with links: 'faqs', 'view projects', 'contact', 'help', and 'entries (rss)'.

HOME ABOUT US HOW IT WORKS OPEN AN ACCOUNT RESOURCES NEWS AND EVENTS SUPPORT login public reports

The Climate Action Reserve was founded to ensure integrity, transparency, and financial value in the North American carbon market.

Reserve Facts

- 97 Account Holders
- 6 Projects registered
- 40 Projects listed
- 16 New projects
- 1,271,714 CRTs issued

News

- June 4, 2009
Climate Action Reserve exceeds one million offset credits issued
- April 30, 2009
Federal Mexican government official elected to Climate Action Reserve Board of Directors
- April 2, 2009
Climate Action Reserve becomes parent organization to the California Climate Action Registry and two other programs
- April 2, 2009
Environmental organizations line up behind the Climate Action Reserve
- March 23, 2009
Climate Action Reserve makes milestone expansion of carbon credit program

Program Announcements

- June 2, 2009
Forest Protocol Draft Project Implementation Agreement now available for public comment - Comments due June 11
- May 19, 2009
RFP to develop methane project metering recommendations now available - proposals due June 23

Register a Project

Protocols

Center for Climate Action

CALIFORNIA CLIMATE ACTION REGISTRY

faqs view projects contact help entries (rss)

Contact Information



CLIMATE
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Max DuBuisson

Business Development Associate

max@climateactionreserve.org

213.785.1233

www.climateactionreserve.org

523 W. 6th Street, Ste. 428

Los Angeles, CA 90014

213-891-1444