Presently, the suggested CAR approach exclusively pertains to OPC displacement. However, we advocate for CAR to contemplate the inclusion of CO2 capture and utilization as an additional avenue for credit generation. In specific scenarios, these credits can yield greater value within the open market.

In relation to increased credit value, notable market influencers such as Microsoft, Stripe, Shopify, and others have shown a keen interest in CO2 capture and utilization. A considerable number of these prominent corporations aim to secure credits within this domain for eventual inclusion in well-established registries. However, the available choices for methodologies are restricted, as seen in the case of VM0043.

A noteworthy fresh cluster of companies is emerging, placing their focus on CO2 capture and utilization. The conversion of CO2 into cement and concrete, which results in mineralization, is widely acknowledged as a permanent method of removal. However, the technologies these firms employ are in their nascent stages and come with significant costs. The carbon market presents an ideal platform to facilitate the expansion of these technologies. Indeed, fostering the growth of novel, scalable technology constitutes one of the fundamental purposes behind the existence of the Voluntary Carbon Market.

Omitting CO2 capture and utilization from this protocol would mean overlooking a chance to support these enterprises and stimulate this burgeoning industry. Moreover, the current array of methodology options is remarkably limited. Additionally, entities involved in the broader Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) sphere are considering the establishment of alternative registries, potentially competitive ones, primarily due to the scarcity of options. CAR can play a pivotal role in addressing this challenge.

It is also worth noting that the modifications required would not be excessively extensive. While a few equations would need adjustments, conceiving of CO2 as another Supplementary Cementitious Material (SCM) implies that the project emissions linked to SCM production are essentially already present. Defining a method to quantify the degree of CO2 mineralization would be necessary, yet there are existing precedents we can draw from, including the example of VM0043.

If CO2 capture and mineralization is not included in the CAR protocol, then Ozinga would recommend CAR offer the ability to join a CAR low-carbon cement project with a project from another registry, such as Verra’s VM0043. This would enable combinations of solutions to work in tandem to maximize decarbonization in the cement and concrete sector.