

Introducing the Fairtrade Climate Standard

Empowering producers to tackle climate change, and businesses to invest in credible carbon reductions and compensation

The challenge...

Climate change is affecting producers in developing countries now. It is leading to lower yields and food shortages, and producers are finding it increasingly difficult to sustain their livelihoods. Producers need technical and financial support to adapt. They also need to develop sustainably, with lower emissions and without depleting resources further. Generating carbon credits through energy efficiency projects could be a source of income for farmers to develop sustainably and further fund adaptation. But projects are difficult to set up, costly to run and need specialist knowledge and skills.

Fairtrade responds...

The Fairtrade Climate Standard is part of Fairtrade's climate change programme, which covers support for climate adaptation, credible emissions reductions in all parts of the world and producer-driven advocacy. Working with the Gold Standard, Fairtrade has developed the Fairtrade Climate Standard, enabling more direct links between producers and businesses in the fight against climate change. The Gold Standard is the base certification for the Standard.

Through the Fairtrade Climate Standard there is the means to make carbon projects work for the people who need them most, by enabling them to access better prices for carbon credits and play a more active part in developing and implementing projects.

Core elements of the Fairtrade Climate Standard

Playing a bigger part

The Fairtrade Climate Standard offers producers a way to take a more active role in the carbon projects, through improving their climate change knowledge, developing project and carbon management skills,

Fairtrade Climate Standard

Who does the standard apply to?

Fairtrade Carbon Credit producer organizations, project facilitators, traders and buyers

Applicable from: January 2016

Where to get a copy:

www.fairtrade.net/standards.html

and taking on the running and development of their own carbon projects. They own the rights to the credits and decide when and to whom they want to sell.

Transparent pricing

A brand new aspect to the voluntary carbon market – a price for carbon credits which truly reflects the cost of running a carbon project with tangible social benefits. The floor price is a starting point for negotiations, and the floor price already includes the cost of running a project and financial return to the producers.

Opportunities to adapt

For every Fairtrade Carbon Credit sold, the Fairtrade Premium goes to producers. This is money that they can decide how best to invest to make them more resilient to climate change. They may decide to diversify their crops or use different farming techniques or drought resistant varieties.

Credible reductions

Businesses wanting to purchase Fairtrade carbon credits must put in place, and act upon a credible plan to reduce their emissions. Any unavoidable emissions can be compensated by purchasing Fairtrade carbon credits.

Types of project covered by the Standard

Energy efficiency: i.e. efficient cookstoves

Renewable energy: i.e. biogas installations

Forestry: reforestation and afforestation

The revised standard will come into force on 1 January 2016



'I ask businesses to buy these Fairtrade Carbon Credits, to enable the farmers to engage in activities that help in combatting the effects of climate change. If climate change continues at the rate it is currently going, we will not be able to grow tea in Kenya. So, it is only through the support of the Fairtrade Carbon Credit buyers that farmers will be able to build their resilience against the effects of climate change.'

Victor Biwot, operations manager, Sireet Fairtrade tea cooperative, Kenya

For further information about the standard, please contact standards-pricing@fairtrade.net.

About Fairtrade International:

Fairtrade International is a global non-profit organization that works with farmers and workers to improve lives through fairer trade. We lead the Fairtrade system, develop the Fairtrade Standards and support producers. Fairtrade International owns the FAIRTRADE Mark, a registered trademark recognized around the world. Find out more at www.fairtrade.net