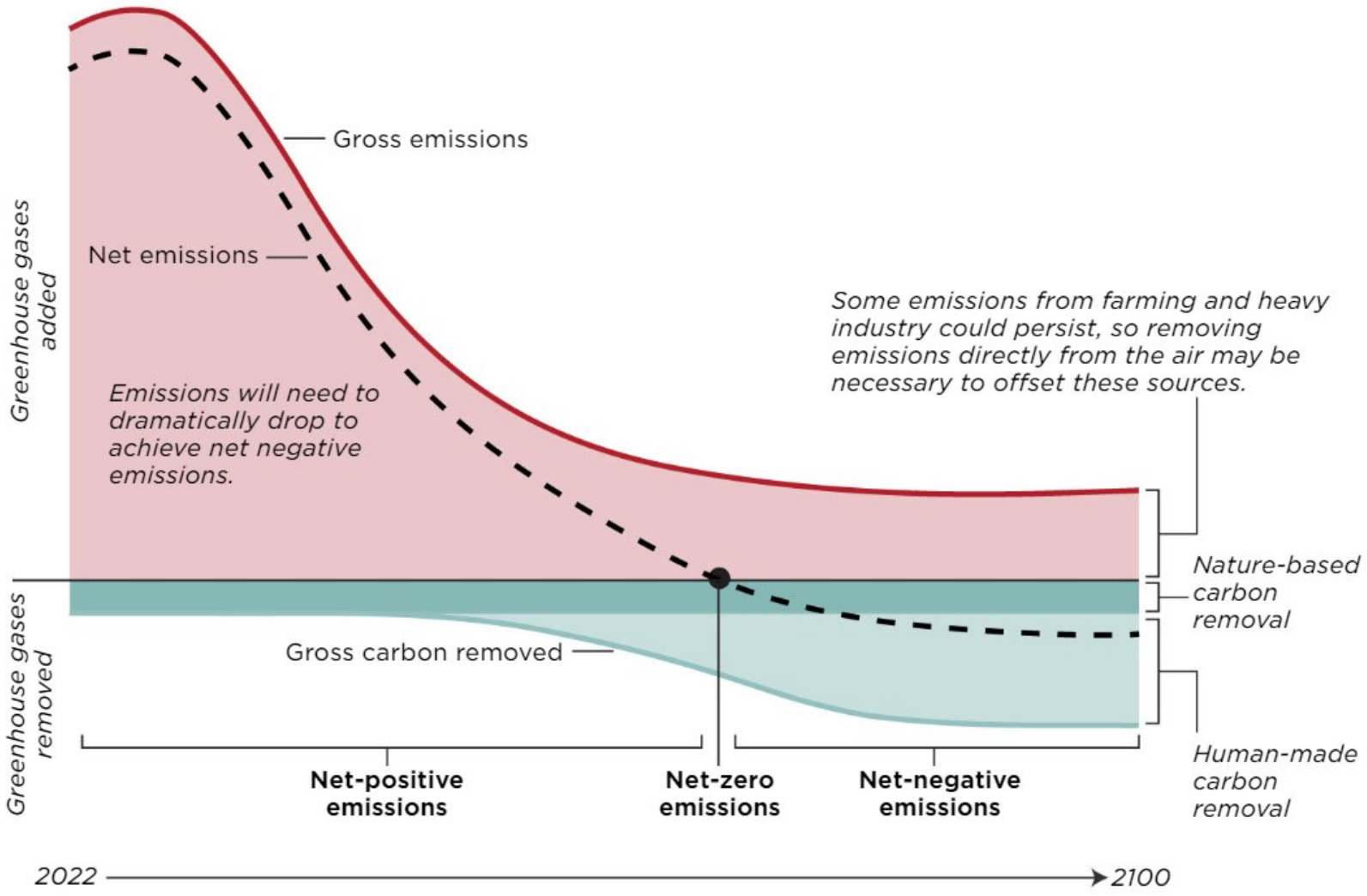
Vlaamse overheid

Workshop Carbon credits: possible revenues for investing in biodiversity?

Stien Beirinckx
Wetenschappelijk coördinator Koolstofplatform Vlaanderen

Anton Maertens
Beleids- & financieel coördinator Koolstofplatform Vlaanderen

Why carbon farming & carbon removals

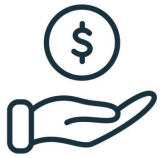


How carbon farming & carbon removals?

Voluntary carbon market

GREENWASHING?!

Operator	Project developer	Credit buyers
Implementation of carbon farming practices (farmer, forester, nature conservation,…	Support of operator for project proposal, monitoring, reporting and verification	Buying of validated carbon credits; using for insetting or offsetting



European legislation - CRCF

CRCF Legislation – Adopted 2024

2024/3012

REGULATION (EU) 2024/3012 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

of 27 November 2024

establishing a Union certification framework for permanent carbon removals, carbon farming and carbon storage in products

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 192(1) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national Parliaments,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee ([1]),

CRCF Implementation – Adopted 2025

2025/2358 21.11.2

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2025/2358

of 20 November 2025

laying down rules on certification schemes, certification bodies, and audits under Regulation (EU) 2024/3012 of the European Parliament and of the Council

EU-wide voluntary certification framework for

PERMANENT REMOVALS	STORAGE IN MATERIALS	CARBON FARMING
2026/285 17.4.	ONGOING	ONGOING

COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) 2026/285

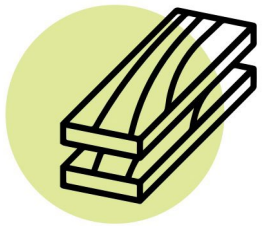
of 3 February 2026

supplementing Regulation (EU) 2024/3012 of the European Parliament and of the Council by establishing the certification methodologies for permanent carbon removals activities

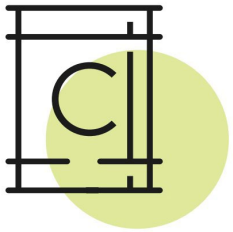
CRCF – Methodologies

CARBON FARMING

- Agriculture
- Agroforestry
- Afforestation
- Rewetting



STORAGE IN MATERIALS



PERMANENT REMOVALS

- Biochar

LIVESTOCK EMISSIONS

FOREST MANAGEMENT

CRCF Framework - QU.A.L.ITY Criteria

QUANTIFICATION

Carbon removal activities are measured against a baseline and are net of supply-chain emissions

ADDITIONALITY

Carbon removal activities go beyond standard market practices and what is legally required to the operator

LONG-TERM STORAGE

Certificates clearly account for the duration of carbon storage and distinguish permanent storage from temporary storage

SUSTAINABIL**ITY**

Carbon removal activities do not harm the environment or even benefit other environmental objectives such as biodiversity

Sustainability

Minimal sustainabiliy requirements

Climate change mitigation
- E.g. afforestation: no conversion of forest to cropland under their operational control

Climate change adaptation
- In line with regional legislation

Sustainable use and protection of water

Transition to circular economy

Pollution prevention control
- In line with legislation on (e.g.) PPP

Protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems
- In lne with regional legislation (e.g. no use of invasive alien spceis)

Required co-benefits

for protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems, including soil health and avoidance of land degradation

Options
- Peer-reviewed scientifc literature
- Measurement of nature restoration law
- Afforestation
  - Automatic co-benefits

Other co-benefits

Other co-benefits may be demonstrated
- Activity-based approach
  - Use of peer-reviewed literature
- Result-based approach
  - Proper indicators are used

Workshop: Part 1

Identification and monitoring of most important co-benefits

1) What are the possible co-benefits?
2) What is the importance of the different co-benefits
3) (optional) Which indicators can be used for the co-benefits

Co-benefit	CF practice (optional)	Importance (1-5)	Indicator (optional)

Workshop: Part 2

What is the value of the different co-benefits?

1) Who benefits (stakeholder)
2) What type of value is created for which stakeholder?

Co-benefit	Operator	Public	Credit buyer	Society	Other?

Workshop: Part 3

Discussion: How to estimate and use the value of a co-benefit?
Should the co-benefits be monetized, if yes, why? If no, how can co-benefits otherwise be valued?