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Allstar EcoPoint Information guide

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What is the EcoPoint programme?

EcoPoint is a carbon credits programme for Allstar cardholders. It works by supporting a portfolio of projects around the world that reduce the impact of CO_2 emissions – including, forest creation, forest protection, renewable energy, industrial process improvement and transportation efficiency.

- Forests provide multiple benefits to society, including CO_2 capture, habitat for biodiversity, flood mitigation, cleaner rivers and air, employment creation and protection for old growth forest through sustainable timber production.
- Renewables, for example wind, solar or hydro power, prevent CO_2 emissions, and significantly improve air quality in host countries by replacing the need for coal-fired electricity generation.
- Industrial process improvement projects support the investment in new or alternative manufacturing, low emission modes of transport, or other industrial processes with the aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These projects are crucial to long-term emission mitigation strategies for our supply chain and manufacturing industries.
- Transportation efficiency projects help improve supply chains, shipping, and broader transportation industries. These projects utilize the most efficient aspects of truck and rail modes; freight trains carry cargo over long distances and trucks move the loads between rail terminals and the cargo's origin or destination to reduce the CO_2 impact.

Why is carbon reduction important?

EcoPoint helps reduce some of the negative effects of the CO_2 vehicles produce. Even though vehicles are more efficient nowadays, they still emit greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide (CO_2).

CO_2 levels increased by 260% between 1960 and 2018* and are the biggest contributor to the causes of climate change.

*Source: World Bank: CO_2 emissions (kt) | Data (worldbank.org) https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.C02E.KT.

Who are PDI Sustainability Solutions?

EcoPoint is administered through PDI Sustainability Solutions. As a leader in the environmental industry, PDI Sustainability Solutions provide Environmental Social and Governance (ESG) strategy and patented sustainability solutions to businesses looking to reduce their carbon, plastic, water and energy footprints.

Each project follows internationally recognised quality assurance standards: The Gold Standard, Verra (VCS), American Carbon Registry, Climate Action Reserve, CSA Group Registries, Plan Vivo, and the United Nations CDM.

Today PDI Sustainability Solutions annually offsets emissions on nearly 4 billion litres of fuel.

The EcoPoint program has counteracted over 1.7 million tonnes of CO_2 emissions to date and planted in excess of 7 million trees around the UK and beyond.

More information about PDI Sustainability Solutions can be found at **pditechnologies.com/engage-customers/sustainability-solutions/**

How do you turn CO_2 from vehicles into emissions reduction projects?

The process of quality assuring EcoPoint projects under one of the leading global standards, leads to the creation of carbon credits – each one representing the verified avoidance or capture of 1 tonne of CO_2 emissions. EcoPoint invests in these credits, and therefore the underlying projects, on behalf of scheme members.

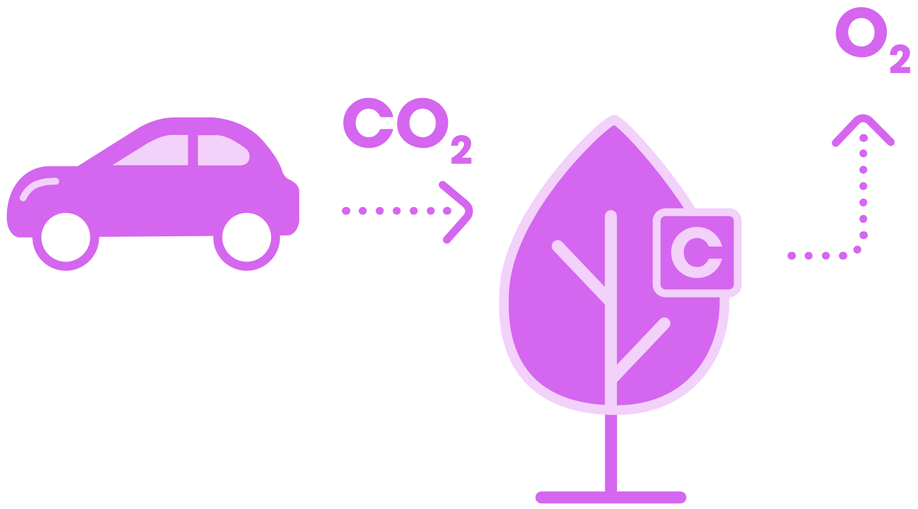
At the projects themselves:

Carbon credit projects generate carbon credits, each with their own unique serial number. Think of carbon credits like gift cards – each one has a monetary value and can only be redeemed once.

Forestry projects have an important part to play, as trees capture CO_2 – the main greenhouse gas – via photosynthesis, and then they breathe out oxygen. They store the CO_2 within the tree, its root system and also in the soil below.

The trees also help:

- Reduce flooding
- Keep rivers clean
- Support habitat and biodiversity
- Create employment
- Support host country economies by creating downstream value-added industry for long lived timber products
- Protect old growth forests by creating sustainable and renewable sources of timber



Renewable projects have a critical part to play in replacing fossil fuel fired power stations in the developing world – reducing emissions at source and also improving local air quality. These projects also include additional sustainable development goals, including local economic support and broader positive social impact.

Landfill Gas Capture projects remove emissions by capturing gas that is released as material decomposes. These projects provide cleaner communities and air.

Industrial Process and Transportation Efficiency projects support the invesment in new or alternative manufacturing, transport, or other industrial processes with the aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These projects are crucial to long-term emission mitigation strategies for our supply chain and manufacturing industries.

What quality assurance is in place to ensure the projects are in place for the long term?

Certification under the standards we use means that:

- Projects are additional; they were only viable due to the addition of carbon funding
- Carbon savings are based on the best available science, and are monitored and verified
- In the case of forests, the right trees are planted in the right places, and they are protected, managed and monitored in the long term
- All relevant forestry, biodiversity, social and employment rules are followed
- Projects need a sound, long term monitoring and management plan in order to achieve certification

EcoPoint only uses projects certified under the following carbon standards – The Gold Standard, Verra (VCS), Plan Vivo, the United Nations CDM, American Carbon Registry, Climate Action Reserve and CSA Group Registries.

Each of those standards operates a public online registry, and all credits arising from EcoPoint's investments in these projects will be retired publicly on the relevant carbon credit registry.

What projects have the Allstar EcoPoint programme contributed towards so far?

As CO_2 contributes to climate change on a global level, CO_2 reduction will have the same effect wherever the projects are located.

The programme has had a significant impact, and because of its scale we regularly review the actions we are taking on behalf of our members. Over the first 2 years of the scheme's life, the focus was on forest creation in the UK. In 2017 we began to add international forestry projects to our portfolio, because of the wider social benefits they can bring to developing countries, with projects in Uganda, Bolivia, Uruguay, Peru and Guatemala. Then in 2022 we added international renewable energy, industrial processes improvement, transportation efficiency, and landfill gas capture to the mix of projects EcoPoint members support.

We have decided to add these projects because they stop CO_2 emissions at source: reducing the amount of greenhouse gases that get into the atmosphere in the first place by reducing the burning of fossil fuels, preventing deforestation, improving industrial processes, improving transportation efficiency and capturing landfill gasses such as methane.

How are my monthly EcoPoint carbon credits calculated?

EcoPoint is not specific to each cardholder. EcoPoint is a membership scheme where all cardholders make equal contributions. Total cardholder volumes are used each month to calculate the investment in the rolling programme of EcoPoint projects.

Projects are supported based on 1.5 carbon credits per card per year. Each credit represents 1 tonne of CO_2 through capture by new forests or emissions avoided:

- by preventing deforestation or;
- by replacing fossil fuel burning with renewable energy or;
- through landfill gas capture or;
- through transport efficiency improvements.

How do I know the projects really exist and the quality assurance has been carried out?

EcoPoint uses the public listing of carbon credits issued under the quality assurance standards covered in section 5 as a means of demonstrating that the forests, renewables, and other emission reduction projects supported under the programme have been delivered and assured.

Depending on the assurance, protocol, and standards followed, credits will be issued and listed on one of the following registries: Gold Standard Registry, Verra Registry (VCS), IHS Markit Registry, Climate Action Reserve Registry, CSA Group Registry, GHG Clean Projects Registry, American Carbon Registry, or the United Nations CDM Registry.

Because EcoPoint is a big programme the data on the registry will never exactly match programme contributions at any given moment for the following reasons:

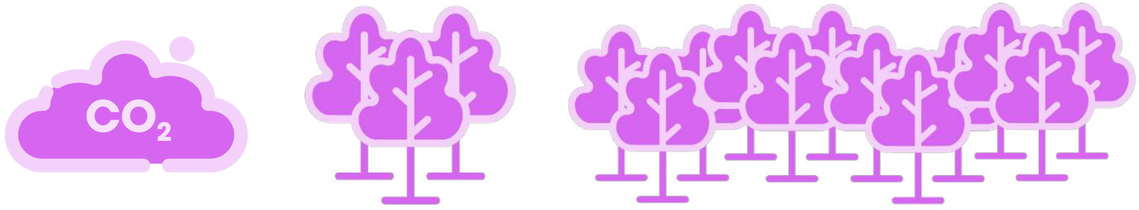
- There is a natural delay in reporting - e.g. data from the programme is only available once reconciled each month
- There are cycles in carbon credit issuance – often at most annually, and sometimes less often. This means that although there are agreements in place to support projects, the credits will only appear on the registry once they are issued. The reason for issuances being annual at most is that the projects are normally only audited annually – more often would be too expensive – and credits are only issued after audit
- The table below shows current totals:

PROGRAMME TOTALS: JANUARY 2015 – SEPTEMBER 2022

EcoPoint Project*	Approximate tonnes of CO_2 captured
1. UK Projects	464,706
2. Non UK Projects	1,249,577
TOTAL TONNES OF CO_2	**1,714,283**

*As at September 2022.

The total CO_2 1,714,283 equates to 7,014,355 million trees, covering 13,473 acres

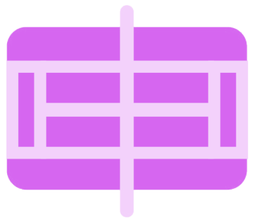


1,714,283

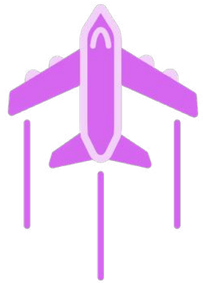
7,014,355

13,473 acres

This is enough to fill either...

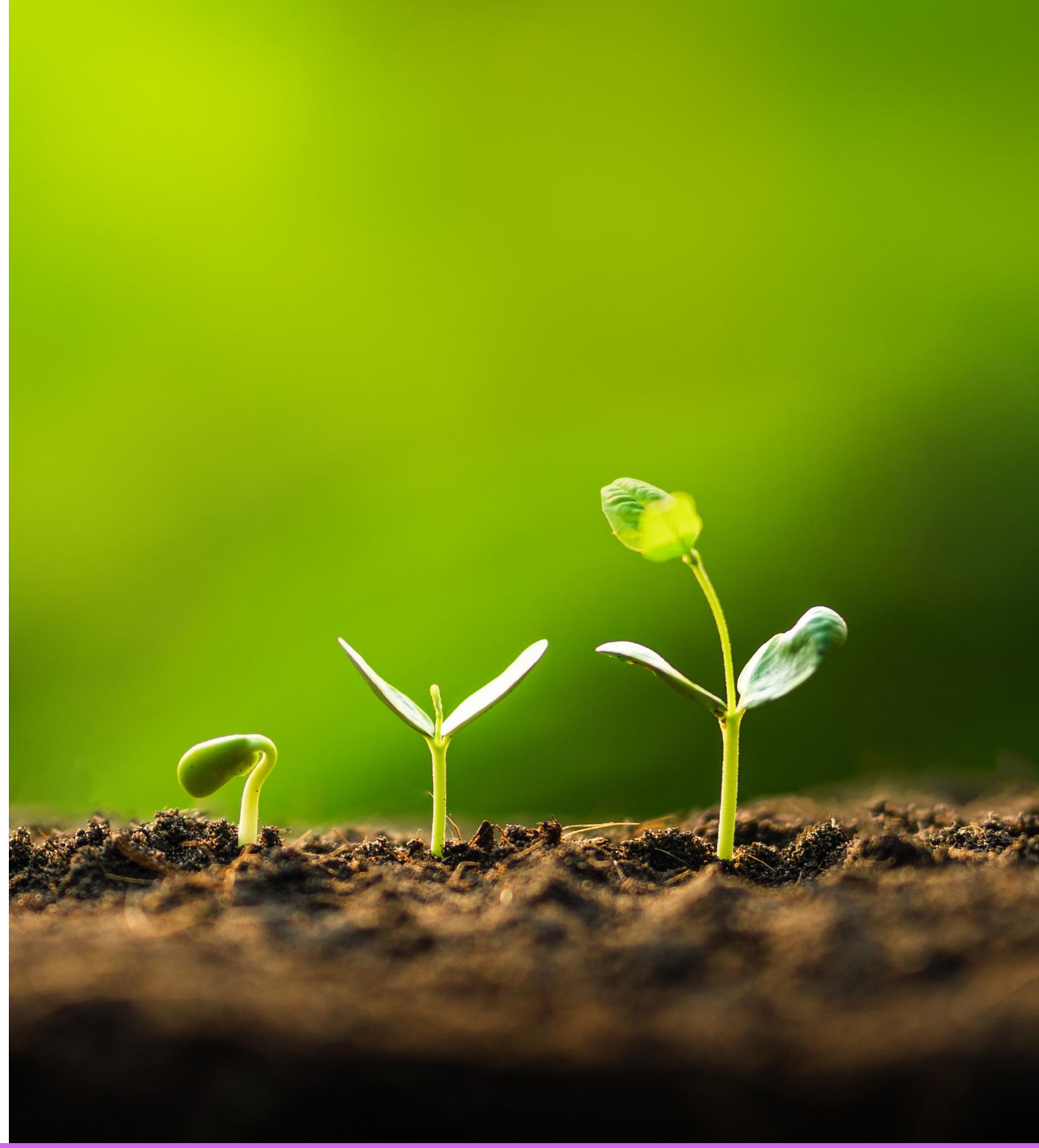


212,556
Tennis Courts



3.6
Heathrow Airport

7,699
Football Pitches



What does my monthly payment go towards?

The development of each project can take anywhere from one to three years.

To the right are some of the individual steps taken in developing a new emissions reduction project.

Initial project sourcing:

- Initial project appraisals, and economic feasibility assessment
- Project design
- Consultation with local stakeholders and environmental and social agencies
- Site visits
- Developing projects through iterations as they undergo consultation

Implementation:

- Tools, materials and machinery
- Land preparation
- Raw materials
- Planting or construction

Ongoing management, certification and maintenance:

- Expert management
- MRV – Monitoring, Reporting, Verification
- Repairs and maintenance, or forest Management

Programme management:

- General administration and invoicing
- Maintenance of public registry records for projects

What does a customer get for being part of the EcoPoint programme?

- 1.5 Carbon credits per card per year
- Annual Certificate (if required)
- Visibility of the projects
- Visibility of the carbon credits supported

Find out more about EcoPoint

Visit: https://allstarecopoint.co.uk/projects/

Call: 0345 266 5101