

Georgia's Sustainable Development Carbon Registry

BACKGROUND

House Bill 355 establishes the Sustainable Development Carbon Registry by expanding Georgia's existing Carbon Registry to enable the creation and tracking of carbon credits that are tied to carbon sequestered in construction projects throughout the state as well as the embodied carbon benefits arising from a whole-building life cycle assessment. This legislation will create a **dual pathway** for accruing carbon credits. The primary objective of the legislation will be to increase the use of construction materials that sequester, or store, carbon, furthering sustainable development in Georgia. **Participation in the registry would be entirely optional, and developers that do not want to participate in it will not be required to do so in any way.**

The creation of a registry will allow the private sector to deliver solutions that address the public challenge presented by increasing levels of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the earth's atmosphere.

Increase in demand for carbon-friendly materials will support several of Georgia's basic industries (e.g., carpet, forest products, concrete) and spur innovation in new products and construction methods that increase carbon capture and carbon storage.

HB 355 KEY PROVISIONS

- Expansion of the existing forest carbon registry, which was created by the General Assembly (Carbon Sequestration Registry Act) in 2004 to encourage sustainable forest management.
- The carbon registry is housed at the Georgia Forestry Commission.
- This act would expand the registry to include sustainable building products.
- The Director of the State Forestry Commission will be required to establish a committee to create the rules by which an independent validator (auditor) will grant carbon credits that will be registered by the GFC.

ELIGIBLE MATERIALS & STRUCTURE

- Developers will be able to gain carbon credits by utilizing materials and technology that increase the amount of CO₂ sequestered in their buildings as well as perform better in a building life cycle assessment of embodied carbon. This includes materials like:
 - **CO₂ Infused Concrete**
Used in the Kendeda Building for Innovative Sustainable Design on the Georgia Tech Campus. Thomas Concrete in Atlanta, GA makes this product.
 - **Mass Timber**
Used as the primary construction material in T3 West Midtown in Atlantic Station and in the Kendeda Building.
 - **Carbon Neutral Flooring**
Manufactured by Interface in Atlanta.
 - **All Wood Products**
Trees absorb CO₂ from the atmosphere as they grow and sequester it in wood fiber for the life of the product.

HOW IT WORKS

1

CONSTRUCTION

Developer builds a structure in Georgia, intentionally incorporating more carbon-friendly building materials than a pre-established baseline for that building type.

2

VERIFICATION

Independent third-party verification of structure occurs once construction is complete to determine the amount of credits to be awarded.

3

ACCRUAL / SALES

Developer can accrue credits and/or sell them onto the open market to other businesses such as Delta, Verizon, and others that are looking to offset their carbon footprint.

4

END RESULT

The end result is a non-regulatory, voluntary incentive-based system that encourages sustainable development in Georgia and allows our state to benefit from the growing desire of businesses to offset their carbon footprint.

DUAL PATHWAY FOR CARBON CREDITS

1

EMBEDDED CARBON

Measuring the actual amount (total mass by weight) of carbon stored/sequestered within the building products utilized.

2

EMBODIED CARBON

A wholistic evaluation that uses a Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) to measure all of the carbon impacts of producing and disposing of building materials (cradle to grave).

ENDORSED BY



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