

Stakeholder Review Process

Each year, The Change Climate Project updates the requirements behind The Climate Label through a structured, multi-channel review process. We combine insights from standing advisory committees, targeted surveys, and open public input to shape changes so that the Standard reflects a wide range of stakeholder input. The goal of the annual review process is to ensure The Climate Label Certified Standard appropriately balances rigor and accessibility, representing strong climate leadership while factoring in market adoption, interoperability, and consumer trust.

Advisory Committees

Two standing bodies anchor the process, each convened for a specific purpose:

- **STAC (Standards Technical Advisory Committee)** — independent technical experts (carbon markets, GHG accounting, academia, and standard-setting bodies) who advise on the certification Standard itself: measurement methods, carbon credit eligibility, and verification requirements. Convenes annually.
- **ACX (Advisory Committee on the Certification Experience)** — sustainability leads from certified entities who advise on the day-to-day certification process, product roadmap, and community growth. Convenes quarterly, supplemented by individual 1:1 consultations on focused topics.

Types of Issues We Discuss

- **Standard & technical requirements:** GHG accounting boundaries and methodologies, verification standards (e.g., ISO, ISAE, AICPA), climate transition planning requirements, carbon fee (\$/tonne) levels, mitigation funding thresholds, eligibility of value chain projects and market based instruments, and climate claims.
- **Market perception & positioning:** consumer awareness and trust in The Climate Label, willingness to pay for certified products, and how well the Standard's requirements track broader public expectations of corporate climate action.
- **Certification process:** certification materials submission and reporting, brand directory and profile tools, new product features, and regulatory or 3rd party standards developments affecting certified companies.

How We Engage: Methods

- **Consultative meetings:** structured advisory sessions and calls, run under Chatham House Rule confidentiality and standard conflict-of-interest disclosures, to work through prioritized open questions.
- **Advisor & company surveys:** a technical survey goes to STAC members and other stakeholder partners ahead of each consultative call to gather input on specific topics. Certified companies are separately surveyed and, for larger changes, may pilot proposed changes before they are finalized.
- **General public input:** for more significant revisions, a shorter, non-technical public survey (distinct from the technical stakeholder survey) is provided along with an open public comment period. Annual consumer surveys also gauge sentiment on the label and climate claims generally.
- **Draft review:** a redlined draft of the revised Standard is circulated by email among core stakeholders for input before review by the TCCP Board of Directors and subsequent publication.
- **Community workshops:** after publication, a webinar reviewing significant changes, new requirements, and what brands can do to prepare ahead of the next certification period.

Input and Disputes

- **TCCP maintains a feedback inbox** at standards-input@changeclimate.org. Interested parties may submit comments, raise disputes, or pose questions at any time at that email address. All issues will be reviewed by The Change Climate Project team, which in consultation with the Board of Directors and Standards Technical Advisory Committee will within two weeks of initial submission issue an action plan, which in certain cases may involve a decision on whether to withdraw an entity's certification.