

Developer engagement process

Governance



BeZero

Developer engagement process

BeZero’s Developer Engagement team actively engages with hundreds of carbon project developers as part of our ratings process. This engagement enhances the accuracy of our ratings through direct communication with developers and allows them to receive their full rating report once published, increasing transparency in the Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM). Additionally, it provides developers with the opportunity to give feedback and voice concerns about their assigned rating, serving as a grievance redress mechanism.

The Developer Engagement team is dedicated to building a deep network of developers aligned with BeZero Carbon’s commitment to improving market transparency, and raising the bar for quality in the market.

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Pre-rating engagement

BeZero Carbon can decide to rate a project in the VCM based on either a client request or on our own initiative, driven by market demand as we look to rate projects that are most liquid and have the most available credits in the VCM.

Once we select a project for rating, the Developer Engagement team will reach out to the developer about 2-3 months before the publishing deadline to inform them of our intention to rate their project.

For BeZero Carbon to rate a project, it must meet our eligibility criteria. We require specific information such as publicly available monitoring and verification reports, a Project Design Document (PDD), a Carbon Accounting Breakdown and, where appropriate, project boundary files. We will request these to be put onto the registry if they are absent. Additionally, where necessary we will seek clarification on any questions from the Ratings, Data, or Geospatial & Earth Observation teams, or request further data.

The assigned Developer Engagement Manager will guide the project developer to our developer-specific resources such as the Data Disclosure Guidelines (DDGs) and the sub-sector methodology relevant to the project. The DDGs help developers navigate data disclosure requirements beyond those set by standards bodies.

The purpose of sharing these resources is to allow developers to maximise the volume of information available for the rating, based on an understanding of our approach to their project type and what information is useful for our process.

We have also published a frequently asked questions document in multiple languages and a Carbon Accounting template, for presenting the core carbon accounting of any type of accredited project. These documents clearly illustrate BeZero Carbon’s rating process and provide tools to standardise information reporting.

Post-rating engagement

Published rating

Upon completion of our rating exercise and its publication on our website and platform, the Developer Engagement team will share the full analysis at no cost, with the confirmed developer. This analysis is only accessible to our clients on our platform, however sharing it with the developer is an important step to enhance transparency.

Feedback loop and grievance redressal mechanism

At any point during this process (and even outside of it), project developers can provide feedback on their rating by opening a 'feedback loop'. During this process, the developer may provide additional information to be considered in their rating (in line with our disclosure requirements). The feedback could trigger a review and may lead to the rating being placed on 'rating watch' if there is sufficient new information that is material enough to be incorporated into the analysis. We will respond to all feedback provided and will keep the developer up-to-date throughout this process.

All 'rating watch' decisions include a direction that provides additional information as to the likely orientation of the implications of the rating watch trigger. The three 'directions' are:

- A rating placed on '**rating watch with positive implications**' indicates that the rating is under review and BeZero believes the rating is likely to be upgraded or reaffirmed.
- A rating placed on '**rating watch with negative implications**' indicates that the rating is under review and BeZero believes the rating is likely to be downgraded, withdrawn or reaffirmed.
- A rating placed on '**rating watch with developing implications**' indicates that BeZero does not have enough information to indicate the likely direction and may be either upgraded, downgraded, withdrawn or reaffirmed.

From time to time, BeZero Carbon will receive queries from developers regarding its ratings and rating decisions. Most of these are analytical queries and are dealt with in collaboration with the analytical teams. Please note that our rating-specific feedback process is exclusive to the developers of the project.

Continuous monitoring

If a rating is placed on 'rating watch', we will notify the project developer. We will continue to update the developer on any change in the rating's watch status, including if the rating team requires more information from the developer.

The reviewed rating will be independently peer-reviewed before it is presented and discussed at the Rating Committee. The Rating Committee could unanimously decide to:

- upgrade the rating
- downgrade the rating
- reaffirm the rating (no change in letter rating)

Simultaneously, the rating may be 'removed from watch'. The revised rating or reaffirmation is published on the BeZero Carbon website and our platform. In some scenarios, the rating is maintained on rating watch after a review. Either way, the developer will be notified of the outcome of the review and the implications for the watch status.

Acceptance of additional information

BeZero Carbon's preference is for information to be publicly available where possible to limit information asymmetries in the market and promote transparency. However, we recognise that information may need to be private for legal, data protection, competitive, practical or other reasons. Non-public information should be accepted where it improves the accuracy of our rating without violating transparency principles in the carbon market.

Our conclusions will always be justified by analytical insights, and our ratings reports will indicate how the information helps our understanding of project fundamentals, but we will not disclose the specifics or details of the private information.

Updates and reviews

Version number	Date	Description
1.00	19/10/23	Initial release
1.01	15/05/25	Inclusion of rating watch 'direction'

Disclaimer

The BeZero Carbon Rating of voluntary carbon credits represents BeZero Carbon's current opinion on the likelihood that carbon credits issued by a project achieve a tonne of CO₂e avoided or removed. The BeZero Carbon Rating and other information made publicly available or available through the BeZero Carbon Markets platform ("Content") is made available for information purposes only. The Content and in particular the BeZero Carbon Rating sets out BeZero Carbon's opinion on a particular carbon credit or project based on publicly available information as at the date expressed and BeZero Carbon shall have no liability to anyone in respect of the Content, opinion and BeZero Carbon Rating. The Content is made available for information purposes only and you should not construe such Content as legal, tax, financial or investment advice. The Content is a statement of opinion as at the date expressed and does not constitute a solicitation, recommendation or endorsement by BeZero Carbon or any third party to invest, buy, hold or sell a carbon credit. The Content is not a statement of fact and should not be relied upon in isolation. The Content is one of many inputs used by stakeholders to understand the overall quality of any given carbon credit. BeZero Carbon shall have no liability to you for any decisions you make in respect of the Content. If you have any questions about BeZero Carbon, the BeZero Carbon Rating, the BeZero Carbon Rating methodology, qualifying criteria, rating process, any element of Content, the BeZero Carbon Markets platform or otherwise please contact us at: commercial@bezerocarbon.com.

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