CLEAN COOKING ALLIANCE

INVITATION TO PILOT THE CLEAN COOKING CODE OF CONDUCT

The Clean Cooking Alliance (CCA) is inviting developers to test-run the Responsible Carbon Finance Initiative's draft Code of Conduct to ensure that it is both practical and cost-effective to implement.

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Why pilot the Code of Conduct

As a project developer participating in piloting the Code of Conduct, you will

- **Be a first mover on Responsible Carbon Finance.** Participation in the piloting will position your organization as a pioneer in implementing clean/improved cooking programs that deliver real impact on cooks and the climate. The application of the Code of Conduct is the first to implementing the Principles for Delivering Responsible Carbon Finance in practice.

- **Be awarded recognition by the market.** Participating in the piloting program gives your organization the opportunity to showcase leadership on responsible carbon finance and gain valuable visibility and recognition in the carbon market.

- **Shape the final Code of Conduct.** Your feedback and experiences in piloting the Code of Conduct will help to inform and improve its contents, as well as the contents of the reporting template and auditing approach.

What is the Responsible Carbon Finance for Clean Cooking Initiative?

Buyer expectations in carbon markets are rising, with high-quality carbon credits that demonstrate real, measurable emission reductions and tangible co-benefits now a minimum requirement. Increasingly, buyers are also seeking transparency through clear reporting on project impacts and financial flows, fairness through equitable revenue sharing, and sustainable practices that uplift communities while maintaining market balance.

The Responsible Carbon Finance Initiative, launched by CCA in 2023, builds on the strong foundations of some existing good practices by offering a comprehensive framework, shown in Figure 1, to ensure that all carbon project developers consistently adhere to the highest principles of responsible conduct. This initiative aims to inspire confidence that buyers, investors, households, and governments by incentivizing good practices through these principles, fostering a future where such practices become the norm throughout the clean cooking carbon market.

What is the Clean Cooking Code of Conduct?

In this context, the Code of Conduct outlines the actions that project developers must take to fulfil the Principles for Responsible Carbon Finance. Doing so helps build the underlying conditions of trust and confidence needed for this market to flourish. In turn, project developers will be recognized for the quality of their credits and will benefit from increased buyer confidence, leading to increased credit sales, premium pricing, and improved seller-buyer relations.

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The Code of Conduct is organized according to Principles (Figure 1 below), and elaborates on each Principle via two sets of actions.
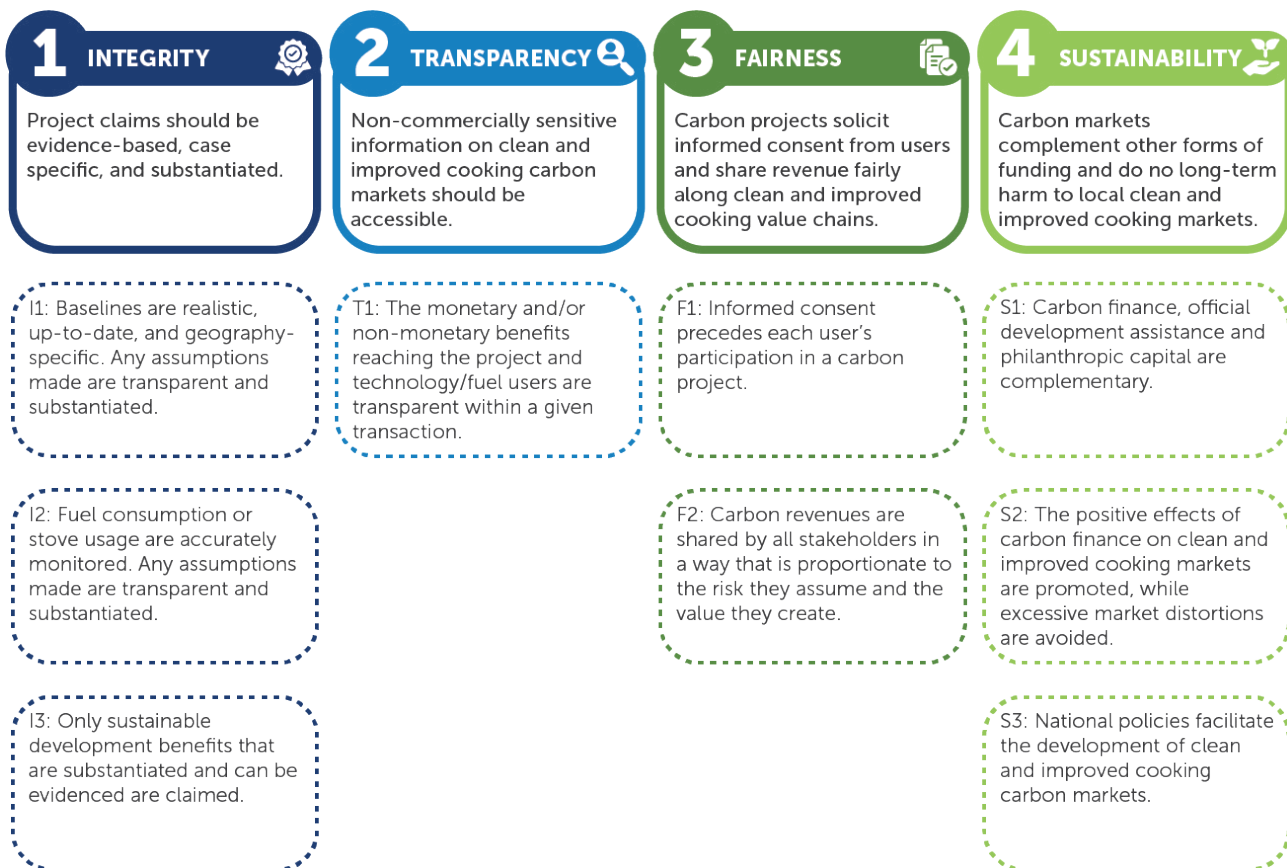
Core Actions

Actions required to be undertaken by carbon project developers to claim operating in line with the Principles.

Development Actions

Actions that can be used to demonstrate progress towards fulfilling a Principle if a project developer is not yet able to achieve the Core Actions.

Figure 1. Overview of the Principles for delivering responsible carbon finance to clean and improved cooking

The draft Code of Conduct and its related actions are available here.

1 INTEGRITY	**2 TRANSPARENCY**	**3 FAIRNESS**	**4 SUSTAINABILITY**
Project claims should be evidence-based, case specific, and substantiated.	Non-commercially sensitive information on clean and improved cooking carbon markets should be accessible.	Carbon projects solicit informed consent from users and share revenue fairly along clean and improved cooking value chains.	Carbon markets complement other forms of funding and do no long-term harm to local clean and improved cooking markets.
I1: Baselines are realistic, up-to-date, and geography-specific. Any assumptions made are transparent and substantiated.	T1: The monetary and/or non-monetary benefits reaching the project and technology/fuel users are transparent within a given transaction.	F1: Informed consent precedes each user's participation in a carbon project.	S1: Carbon finance, official development assistance and philanthropic capital are complementary.
I2: Fuel consumption or stove usage are accurately monitored. Any assumptions made are transparent and substantiated.		F2: Carbon revenues are shared by all stakeholders in a way that is proportionate to the risk they assume and the value they create.	S2: The positive effects of carbon finance on clean and improved cooking markets are promoted, while excessive market distortions are avoided.
I3: Only sustainable development benefits that are substantiated and can be evidenced are claimed.			S3: National policies facilitate the development of clean and improved cooking carbon markets.

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Who is the Code of Conduct for?

The Code of Conduct is aimed at organizations that are operating one or more clean/improved cooking project(s) certified by an independent carbon standard. It can, however, also be used by carbon credit buyers as a guide on what quality assurances to look for when financing projects.

What to expect during the piloting process

1. **Onboarding (~2 hours).** You will receive an online onboarding workshop to introduce you to the Code of Conduct, and its Core and Development Actions. This will include a walk-through of the reporting template that will be used to demonstrate meeting the Core/Development Actions, as well as the key areas on which we would like feedback. Participants will also be connected with a helpdesk. The helpdesk will be available throughout the piloting phase for any related queries.

2. **Implementation (~24 hours).** In the course of CoC implementation, you will:

   - Complete a reporting template detailing whether the project(s) you manage meet the Core and/or Development Actions of the Code of Conduct.

   - Keep a note of any feedback on the reporting template and/or the Core/Development actions . In particular, regarding how the template can be improved to be applied efficiently and ensure that criteria can be audited.

3. **Feedback (~4 hours).** We request that you provide feedback through written comments on the reporting template and one online consultation with all piloting project developers. One-to-one feedback is also welcome throughout the piloting phase.

CCA will compile documentation on lessons learned from the pilot phase and incorporate insights from piloting project developers in the final Code of Conduct and its supporting documentation.

PILOTING PROCESS

April 2025	May 2025	May-July 2025	July-December 2025
SELECTION	**ONBOARDING**	**IMPLEMENTATION & FEEDBACK**	**FINAL REVIEW**
Evaluation based on selection criteria	Onboarding Workshop	Complete reporting template Provide feedback to CCA	Compilation of lessons learned

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Eligibility and selection criteria

To be eligible for piloting the Code of Conduct, a project developer must have at least one registered carbon project in clean/improved cooking or a project listed or under validation.

Piloting project developers will be selected with the aim to include a range of technology types, geographies, and project maturities. This diversity will help ensure that the Code of Conduct remains inclusive and effective for a broad spectrum of project types and developers, addressing their unique challenges and opportunities in the market.
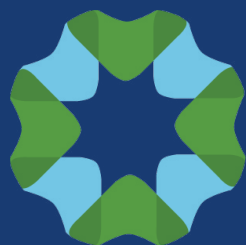

Deadline and format for submissions

- CCA aims to select a maximum of five (5) organizations to participate in the piloting.

- The submission deadline is 31 March 2025.

- Please submit your application to carbon@cleancooking.org.

To submit an application, please complete the below table available here

There are limited slots available, and early applications are encouraged.

Name of project developer	
Explanation of why your organization wishes to participate in the piloting (max 200 words)	
Number of carbon projects registered	
Number of carbon projects at validation	
Contact person for piloting	Name: Title: Organization: Email address: Phone number:
Project portfolio	-
Title of Project A	
Type of project (select one)	☐ Stand-alone project ☐ Programme of activities ☐ Voluntary Project Activity
Location (country)	
Status (select one)	☐ At validation ☐ Registered ☐ Issued
Methodology applied and version number	Methodology: Version number:
Technology type implemented (e.g. domestic biogas, improved charcoal stove)	
Number of technologies implemented to date (e.g. number of cookstove distributed)	
Title of Project B	
(details as above)	