Fastmarkets

April 8, 2026

Voluntary carbon

INDEPENDENT PRICE ASSESSMENTS, NEWS AND ANALYSIS FOR THE VOLUNTARY CARBON MARKET

CORSIA prices steady, halting recent declines; Vietnam progresses carbon market framework

Prices for Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) Phase 1 (CP1) credits steadied in the week to Wednesday April 8, halting fifteen weeks of consecutive declines.

Indicative bids were reported at $12 per tonne of CO2 equivalent, with market participants reporting some speculative buyers were willing to create a floor at these levels given marginal abatement costs and with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) projecting demand likely to exceed 200 million tCO2e this phase.

Some bilateral transactions were reported around $17-19 per tCO2e direct from developers, but other transactions were reported well below these levels in the secondary market.

The March 2026 ICE CP1 contract saw 70,000 tCO2e taken to delivery at $13.40 per tCO2e, with all credits from Verra-issued projects. This marks an increase in volume from the 30,000 tCO2e that was delivered into the February contract at $14.95 per tCO2e.

Demand from airlines remains relatively muted given forecasted demand over Phase 1, but there are still requests for proposals (RfPs) being issued from airlines. Market participants reported anecdotal evidence that some airlines were being more cautious around CP1 purchases given a squeeze on margins over the past month following the over 100% increase in jet fuel costs.

However, others noted that relatively cheap spot prices could encourage some airlines to step in to secure credits at current levels and avoid a potential rush towards the end of the first compliance period late next year.

Vietnam progresses carbon market framework

Elsewhere, Vietnam issued Decree No. 112/2026/ND-CP on April 1 that established a comprehensive framework for the international transfer of carbon credits. The Decree formalizes the process by which the government of Vietnam can issue a Letter of Authorization (LoA) and how project developers can apply for government approval to transfer correspondingly adjusted credits.

The Decree is scheduled to take effect from May 19.

In response, Base Carbon issued an update on its Vietnam cookstoves

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Market Commentary

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CORSIA assessments
($/tCO2e)

	08-Apr	01-Apr	Change
CORSIA Phase 1, $/tCO2e	14.00	14.00	0.00

Source: Fastmarkets

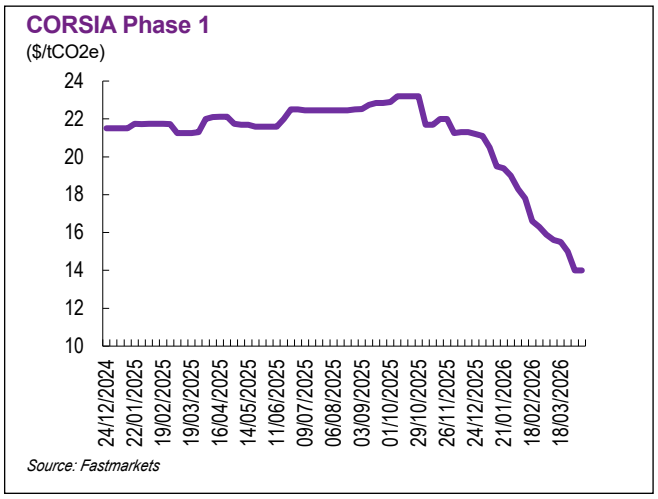
project, stating it was actively preparing the required documentation in order to be granted an LoA along with its project partner SIPCO.

The company explicitly calls out going through this route to target CORSIA eligibility, following a similar pathway for credits generated from DelAgua's Rwanda cookstove project that were tagged CP1 eligible earlier this year.

The project is estimated to issue around 7.6 million tCO2e of credits during its second phase (2025-2032), with a potential 4.7 million tCO2e more potentially available under an expansion option.

Base Carbon currently has the option to purchase all future credits generated from the project on a yearly basis at $5 per tCO2e, subject to certain buyback options at prices materially higher than Base Carbon's option price.

Base Carbon also pointed to the Singapore Carbon Tax as a potential outlet for credits from its Vietnam project given the two countries have executed an implementation agreement to internationally transfer certain correspondingly adjusted credits under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.



However, the current pre-approved list of methodologies under the agreement does not include any Verra cookstove methodologies.

Mai Ndombe credits under rating review while REDD+ market attempts price discovery in new financial year

The Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) market remained unchanged in the week to Wednesday April 8 amid steady tradeable levels reported to Fastmarkets.

Fastmarkets heard bids for vintage 2020 of VCS 1477- Katingan Peatland Restoration and Conservation Project, Indonesia at $11.50 per tCO2e against offers reported at $12.50 per tCO2e. The bid-offer spread has narrowed from around $10-13 per tCO2e in late-March although remains relatively steady. Prices remain supported by tight prompt supply, but newer vintage issuances from the project are expected in the coming months.

Elsewhere, indicative tradeable levels for vintage 2022 of VCS 1382- The Envira Amazonia Project, Brazil was reported at $6.50 per tCO2e. Offers were at $7.20 per tCO2e at the start of the year.

Additionally, credits from vintage 2021 VCS 1650 - Keo Seima wildlife sanctuary, Cambodia were indicatively offered at $7-8 per tCO2e in the primary market. This is around $1-2 per tCO2e above offers seen last week for the same project-vintage pair in the secondary market.

Primary transactions typically command a premium to the secondary market, with some buyers willing to pay this knowing that proceeds are going direct to a developer rather than a third party. At the same time, some developers can go through a long sales process with buyers including working through due diligence and walking them through the credit purchasing.

Elsewhere, BeZero has placed VCS 934- The Mai Ndombe REDD+ Project on 'ratings watch with negative implications'. This was following continued forest loss in the project area observed

REDD+ assessments
($/tCO2e)

	08-Apr	01-Apr	Change
REDD+, Latin America, $/tCO2e	**6.50**	**6.50**	**0.00**
REDD+ v19 differential, Latin America, $/tCO2e	-5.75	-5.75	0.00
REDD+ v20 differential, Latin America, $/tCO2e	-4.60	-4.60	0.00
REDD+ v21 differential, Latin America, $/tCO2e	-0.25	-0.25	0.00
REDD+, Sub-Saharan Africa, $/tCO2e	**3.00**	**3.00**	**0.00**
REDD+ v19 differential, Sub-Saharan Africa, $/tCO2e	-2.50	-2.50	0.00
REDD+ v20 differential, Sub-Saharan Africa, $/tCO2e	-1.20	-1.20	0.00
REDD+ v21 differential, Sub-Saharan Africa, $/tCO2e	-0.40	-0.40	0.00
REDD+, Southeast Asia, $/tCO2e	**1.00**	**1.00**	**0.00**
REDD+ v19 differential, Southeast Asia, $/tCO2e	-0.75	-0.75	0.00
REDD+ v20 differential, Southeast Asia, $/tCO2e	-0.65	-0.65	0.00
REDD+ v21 differential, Southeast Asia, $/tCO2e	-0.40	-0.40	0.00

Source: Fastmarkets

by BeZero. The project is currently rated BB meaning the project had moderately low likelihood of achieving one tCO2e avoided emissions per credit.

End-user demand retirements were down to 79,196 tCO2e, while anonymous retirements made up the largest single chunk of this week's retirements at 25,797 tCO2e (33%). The largest named retirement was done on behalf of Aviva Zero policyholders at 22,074 tCO2e, which retired credits from vintage 2022 of VCS 2611- Corazón Verde del Chaco project in Paraguay.

SG Fleet Australia, a mobility solutions provider, was the second-largest retiree with 18,558 tCO2e retired from vintage 2018 of VCS 934 - The Mai Ndombe REDD+ Project in Democratic Republic of the Congo. VCS 934 was also the highest retired project of the week at 26,977 tCO2e from vintage 2018 and 2020.

ARR secondary market steady; issuances fall in first quarter, restricting available supply

Secondary market prices in the afforestation, reforestation and revegetation (ARR) segment were little moved in the week to Wednesday April 8, partly owing to the shortened trading week and the Easter bank holidays.

On the supply side a small-scale Uganda ARR project (VCS 2471) issued 3,741 tCO2e of credits across vintages 2017-2021. The project only issued its first credits – 942 tCO2e of vintage 2019 – in early March.

Issuance of ARR credits have been relatively subdued so far this year, with just under 350,000 tCO2e issued under Verra in the first quarter, down from over 760,000 tCO2e during the same period a year earlier. But despite this, retirements have seen only a marginal decline to 1.16 million tCO2e in the first quarter of this year from 1.28 million tCO2e in the first quarter of 2025.

There has been a similar trend for Gold Standard issued ARR credits, with retirements easing to 114,553 tCO2e in the first quarter from just over 135,000 tCO2e in the first quarter of last year. But issuances are more "lumpy" on Gold Standard with just 41,093 tCO2e issued from the BaumInvest India project (GS 2913) in March, and no issuances recorded in the first quarter of 2025.

This has led to a steady reduction in available nature-based removal credits, particularly for those that plant multi-native species or have higher ratings. This has led some buyers looking to source credits from further upstream, targeting primary offtakes and attempting to secure guaranteed supply over the coming years. At the same time, developers of new projects – particularly for those expected to issue under Verra's new VM0047 methodology – have been keen to lock in multi-year offtakes to secure finance and funding.

Multiple market participants have noted that there is likely to be a lack of "high quality" nature-based removal credits in the coming years, with long lead times between developers

ARR assessments
($/tCO2e)

	08-Apr	01-Apr	Change
ARR GS, Latin America, $/tCO2e	**23.80**	**23.80**	**0.00**
ARR VCS, Latin America, $/tCO2e	**11.45**	**11.45**	**0.00**
ARR VCS v19 differential, Latin America, $/tCO2e	-1.15	-1.15	0.00
ARR VCS v20 differential, Latin America, $/tCO2e	-1.05	-1.05	0.00
ARR VCS v21 differential, Latin America, $/tCO2e	-0.20	-0.20	0.00
ARR VCS native species differential, Latin America, $/tCO2e	7.00	7.00	0.00
ARR VCS single species differential, Latin America, $/tCO2e	-6.10	-6.10	0.00

Source: Fastmarkets

starting projects and being able to issue credits likely adding to near-term scarcity.

In the spot market, offers for vintage 2020 credits from the ACR 114 Green Trees project were reported at $28 per tCO2e. The credits are tagged with the Core Carbon Principle (CCP) label. The same project-vintage pair were reported offered at $30.50 per tCO2e last year, before the credits received the CCP tag.

The slight decline in offers indicates that some sellers have either been unable or not looking to achieve a "CCP premium" for their credits after approval, particularly for those that were already either highly rated or priced at higher levels. Market participants have previously reported to Fastmarkets that certain developers have instead used the CCP-tag to "open the door" to a wider pool of buyers, making sales potentially easier to complete, rather than immediately trying to increase prices.

Buyers have increasingly looked toward quality labels – either CCPs or minimum project ratings – when putting out requests for proposals.

First removal-tagged Verra IFM credits from US issued, retirements come to a grinding halt after end of financial year

Last week saw issuances of first Verra-issued, removal-tagged improved forest management (IFM) credits from the US as VCS 4268 Family Forest Carbon Project issued 95,909 tCO2e of tagged removal credits from vintage 2024 (83,742 tCO2e) and 2025 (12,167 tCO2e). The tagged removals were 89% and 87% of total vintage quantity verified for 2024 and 2025 respectively, while the remaining volumes (12,029 tCO2e) were tagged as both removals and reductions.

IFM assessments
($/tCO2e)

	08-Apr	01-Apr	Change
IFM Avoidance, US, $/tCO2e	8.00	8.00	0.00
IFM Removals, US, $/tCO2e	18.00	18.00	0.00

Source: Fastmarkets

Chestnut Carbon, which owns the project, said that since its initial issuance they had exclusively sold removal credits from its IFM projects. The company stated that the new removals tag would mark a "significant step forward in standardizing the identification of carbon removal credits" as well as streamline due diligence, provide additional transparency and reputational assurance for corporate and institutional offtakers.

Previously Verra did not differentiate between removals and avoidance credits issued from IFM projects, however developers were able to sell removals or avoidance credits from the project to buyers based off their credit verification.

ACR already allows developers to differentiate between removals and avoidance credits generated from US IFM projects.

Verra published the tool VT0015 in November last year for quantifying and distinguishing between carbon dioxide removals and greenhouse gas emission reductions for IFM projects, and since then two projects, including VCS 2609 Kuamut Rainforest Conservation Project in Malaysia, have issued removal-tagged credits.

VCS 2609 has issued 842,855 tCO2e removal tagged credits from vintage 2022 (422,287 tCO2e) and 2023 (420,568 tCO2e) of which only 48% (402,020 tCO2e) currently remains issued unretired.

In the spot market, US IFM removal credits maintained a $10 per tCO2e premium on US IFM reduction credits in the week to Wednesday April 8.

Fastmarkets' weekly assessments for IFM Removals, US and IFM Avoidance, US were steady at $18.00 per tCO2e and $8.00 per tCO2e respectively on Wednesday amid steady offers and consistent tradeable reported to Fastmarkets.

Fastmarkets saw offers for Mexican IFM credits issued under Climate Action Reserve (CAR) being offered around $15 per tCO2e, which remains consistent with the offers seen previously during middle of March.

Issuances on ACR were up to 58,747 tCO2e on the week from vintage 2023 of ACR 1037- Thompson Family Forest Restoration Carbon Project in US. Of

the issued volumes, 14,474 tCO2e (25%) were tagged as removal, while 11,750 tCO2e was transferred into the buffer pool.

Retirements were down to 1,858 tCO2e on ACR with Nomad Goods, a consumer electronics brand, retiring 600 tCO2e of vintage 2022 from ACR 704- Wildlands Carbon Initiative, US and 4AIR, a market intermediary, retiring 500 tCO2e from vintage 2020 of ACR 754- Anew - Allagash Headwaters Forestry Project (350 tCO2e) and 2021 of ACR 576-Anew - Rainier Gateway Forestry Project (100 tCO2e).

Retirements on Verra were down to 1,525 tCO2e with VCS 2609 Kuamut rainforest conservation project in Malaysia being the highest retired project at 1,400 tCO2e.

BeZero rated project-type assessments
($/tCO2e)

	08-April			Change
	Low	Mid	High	
REDD+ BeZero AA, $/tCO2e	11.00	11.50	12.50	▲ 0.25
REDD+ BeZero BBB, $/tCO2e	3.40	6.70	10.00	▲ 0.10
REDD+ BeZero BB, $/tCO2e	1.55	5.15	8.75	0.00
REDD+ BeZero B, $/tCO2e	1.90	2.90	3.90	0.00
REDD+ BeZero C, $/tCO2e	0.40	1.65	2.90	0.00
ARR BeZero BBB, $/tCO2e	40.00	42.50	45.00	0.00
ARR BeZero BB, $/tCO2e	23.00	29.50	36.00	0.00
ARR BeZero B, $/tCO2e	5.00	10.25	15.50	0.00
ARR BeZero C, $/tCO2e	2.50	6.88	11.25	0.00
IFM BeZero A, $/tCO2e	13.90	19.70	25.50	0.00
IFM BeZero BB, $/tCO2e	11.70	13.43	15.15	0.00
IFM BeZero B, $/tCO2e	9.25	11.50	13.75	0.00

Source: Fastmarkets

News

Microsoft signs long-term 626,000-credit BECCS deal with North Star

Software company Microsoft has signed an offtake agreement to purchase 626,000 tonnes of durable carbon dioxide removal (CDR) credits over 15 years from the North Star project, a bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS) facility.

In a statement released on Tuesday April 7, Svante, a Canadian company specializing in carbon capture and removal technologies, said the project will be located at the Meadow Lake Tribal Council (MLTC) Bioenergy Centre. MLTC represents Indigenous communities in the region and the project is being developed under the North Star Carbon Solutions joint venture at a renewable power facility supplied by waste biomass from local sawmills.

The project includes the construction of a carbon capture unit with the capacity to generate up to 90,000 tonnes of CDR credits per year. The captured CO2 will be transported and permanently stored in geological formations, forming an integrated carbon removal system.

"The offtake commitment sends a strong signal to the market about the quality of North Star's credits and Canada's readiness to develop this type of project," Scott Gardner, president of Svante, said.

Svante will be responsible for funding the project until the final investment decision, with commercial operations expected to begin in 2029.

The agreement comes amid a broader market slowdown. According to data compiled by Fastmarkets, global CDR contracts, including both nature-based solutions and durable technologies, totaled 13.4 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent in the second half of 2025, down by 78.2% from 61.5 million tonnes in the first half of the year.

Despite the slowdown, Microsoft maintained its position as the leading buyer, accounting for around 88% of contracts during the period, with 11.8 million tonnes purchased.

This strategy reflects the company's goal of becoming carbon negative by 2030, which requires increasing volumes of high-durability credits.

BECCS projects such as North Star remain among the most in demand.

In the second half of 2025, these projects accounted for around 29% of total contracts, highlighting continued interest in solutions with higher permanence and stricter monitoring standards.

The agreement also underscores the growing role of Indigenous-led projects in the carbon market.

Executives involved said Microsoft's offtake

commitment signals confidence in the quality of the credits and could help unlock further investment in carbon removal projects in Canada.

Exomad, Beston expand Bolivia biochar capacity alongside contracted offtake

Beston Group and carbon removal developer Exomad Green have entered a strategic partnership to expand biochar carbon removal projects in Bolivia, the companies announced on Wednesday April 8, signaling scaling of biochar carbon removal supply.

The partnership will support the deployment of 15 biochar production units across multiple phases, converting wood processing waste into biochar for soil application and the generation of carbon removal credits under the Puro.earth standard.

Seven units are already operational following an initial development phase running from September 2024 through December 2025, with a further eight units ordered in early 2026 as part of a planned expansion. The phased rollout points to a transition from pilot-scale activity toward more industrialized production capacity.

The supply expansion comes alongside secured offtake. Exomad has previously signed a 1.24 million tonne biochar carbon removal offtake agreement with Microsoft, which Exomad describes as one of the largest transactions in the sector.

The company has also reported strong growth in issued biochar carbon removal certificates (CORCs), rising from 16,249 in 2023 to 73,769 in 2024 and 174,480 in 2025, reflecting increasing delivery volumes while projects scale.

The partnership also formalizes collaboration between a technology provider and a project developer, with Beston supplying pyrolysis equipment and Exomad overseeing project development and credit issuance.

Alignment between contracted offtake and project expansion highlights how supply in the biochar carbon removal segment is being developed against long-term purchase agreements rather than speculative issuance.

RGGI, California price alignment emerges as Washington targets 2027 linkage: NACW

North American carbon markets are showing signs of convergence, with prices in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), a multi-state carbon market covering power sector emissions in the US Northeast, aligning with those in the California cap-and-trade program, delegates said at the North American Carbon World (NACW) in San Diego on Tuesday March 31.

"It was a bit of a milestone this week that the RGGI price was essentially the same as the California price," Justin Johnson, East Coast representative at International Emissions Trading Association (IETA), said. He noted that RGGI may have been slightly higher when accounting for contract structure differences.

Johnson said the program review for RGGI had been completed after a prolonged negotiation process among participating states, with implementation of updated rules expected by 2027. Maryland has already completed its rulemaking, while other states including New York, New Jersey and Delaware are still in process.

Johnson added that Virginia could return to the program following recent political developments, although timing remains unclear and would require a new rulemaking process.

Washington State looks to California-Quebec linkage

Washington State has released a draft linkage agreement with California and Quebec and anticipates linking its cap-and-invest program with the two jurisdictions in 2027, according to Derek Nixon of the Washington Department of Ecology.

"We recently released a draft linkage agreement... and we anticipate linkage will occur next year in 2027," Nixon said.

Washington launched its cap-and-invest program in 2023 and has been operating for three and a half years since legislation was passed.

Nixon said the state must complete rulemaking by October 2026, incorporating legislative updates and aligning with California and Quebec systems. He added that allowances from other jurisdictions, including older vintages, would be eligible for compliance following linkage.

"If you had a 2018 allowance in California...you could use that for compliance in Washington," Nixon said.

Nixon added that linking with California and Quebec would help reduce volatility in Washington's market, which is smaller and more prone to price fluctuations. He also added that the combined market would provide more consistent rules and clearer signals for participants.

North America sees further ETS development

On the other hand, Mexico is at an earlier stage of development, with efforts underway to launch a national emissions trading system (ETS) in 2026, according to Mexico's MexiCO2 – a carbon market platform that supports the development of carbon markets and policies across the country and in other Latin American jurisdictions.

"We are in a toddler phase," Eduardo Piquero, director of MexiCO2, said.

Piquero said Mexico currently has 11 subnational carbon taxes with different designs, including variations in pricing, thresholds and covered gases. Only four states allow the use of offsets for compliance.

He said the national ETS could include up to 10% offsets, equivalent to around 27 million tonnes, although secondary regulation has not yet been published. He added that Mexico currently produces around 5 million tonnes of offsets annually, most of which are purchased by US companies, particularly in California.

Piquero added that some Mexican states already accept international offsets, including from Colombia, creating informal linkages with other markets.

He said challenges for the national ETS include the structure of the energy sector, which is largely controlled by the state, and ongoing trade negotiations with the United States, which could affect regulatory timelines.

Across jurisdictions, speakers highlighted cost concerns as a key issue. Rising energy prices and political pressure are influencing program design and timelines, including discussions around free allocation and flexibility mechanisms.

"If someone asked me what's the one thing that the market really wants, it's stability," Johnson said.

CBAM introduces uncertainty, adjustment challenges for Brazilian exporters

Brazilian industrial exporters continued to face a high degree of uncertainty following the entry into force of the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), as key aspects of the system — including methodologies, certification processes and compliance requirements — remained under development.

Three months after implementation began, market participants said there is still limited clarity about how the mechanism would operate in practice, reinforcing challenges for companies seeking to adapt to the new framework.

Meanwhile, the National Confederation of Industry (CNI), the entity representing Brazilian industry, told Fastmarkets that the mechanism is already creating challenges.

"Companies that are not prepared to measure and report their emissions may face additional costs and difficulties in accessing the European market," Davi Bomtempo, superintendent of Environment and Sustainability at CNI, aid on March 11, adding that the ability to provide verifiable carbon data has become a key condition for maintaining export competitiveness.

The EU's instrument to apply a carbon price on imported products ensures that foreign producers face costs equivalent to those paid by European companies under the bloc's emissions trading system.

Importers must now report and verify the emissions embedded in products such as steel and aluminium and purchase corresponding certificates, effectively extending carbon pricing to international trade.

The impact is expected to be concentrated in emissions-intensive sectors, with iron, steel and aluminium among the most exposed, given their relevance in exports to the EU, according to the CNI.

Short-term impact limited by unclear CBAM rules

Despite the formal requirements, the verification infrastructure is not yet fully operational, according to industry sources.

"People are still being trained, and methodologies and calculations are still being defined," Silvia Nascimento, chief executive officer of the green long steel producer Aço Verde do Brasil (AVB), told Fastmarkets on March 27.

AVB produces long steel products sustainably, being the steelmaker with the lowest CO2

emissions per tonne of steel produced in Brazil, according to GHG Protocol data.

The company produces rebar and wire rod and aims to export these products to Europe in the future.

Fastmarkets' monthly price assessment for steel wire rod (mesh quality) export, fob main port Latin America was $545-585 per tonne on March 6, up from $525-545 per tonne in the previous month.

For now, through CBF Indústria de Gusa, one of Brazil's pig iron producers, they produce 260,000-300,000 tonnes of pig iron per year, with 50% destined for Europe.

Fastmarkets' weekly price assessment for pig iron export, fob port of Vitoria/Rio, Brazil was $460 per tonne on March 27, up from $450-465 per tonne on March 20.

And Fastmarkets' weekly price assessment for pig iron, export, fob Ponta da Madeira, Brazil was $455-475 per tonne on March 27, up from $450-460 per tonne a week earlier.

"We've already reached out to certifiers, such as SGS and Bureau Veritas, with processes expected to move forward around September or October this year," Nascimento added, noting that no companies have been certified so far. "Some say certain products will be included, others say they won't. So everything is still very preliminary at this stage."

The emissions verification process is expected to begin in the fourth quarter of 2026, while the first CBAM Certificate price will be published on Tuesday April 7, the European Commission reported.

This lack of clarity has made it difficult for exporters to assess potential costs or define adjustment strategies, particularly as certification requirements remain unclear.

"There may be an advantage [for Brazilian exporters], but no one can clearly quantify how significant that advantage will be. It all depends on what the final certification requirements look like," Nascimento said.

Market participants also pointed to uncertainty regarding the timing of costs. While CBAM entered into force in 2026, payments for that year's imports are expected to be settled in 2027, with charges applied retroactively from January 1, 2026, adding another layer of complexity for exporters.

In terms of product-level impact, market participants see limited immediate commercial shifts, as, according to Nascimento, "at the moment, it doesn't make much sense commercially."

Domestic regulation gains urgency under CBAM

The mechanism is also reshaping the domestic regulatory debate, reinforcing pressure for the operationalization of Brazil's regulated carbon market. Under CBAM rules, importers can reduce the number of certificates purchased if it is proven that a carbon price has already been paid in the country of origin.

"Countries with explicit carbon pricing will have a competitive advantage over those that do not," the CNI said, noting that the mechanism reinforces the need to advance Brazil's regulated carbon market to avoid the transfer of resources abroad.

The Brazilian government, in turn, is moving forward with the implementation of the system following the enactment of the Brazilian Emissions Trading System (SBCE) law in December 2024, currently focusing on defining governance, sectoral scope and monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) rules.

"We are in the phase of structuring the pillars of the system, including governance, scope definition and the development of the central registry and MRV criteria," Cristina Reis, the country's extraordinary secretary for the Carbon Market, said in an interview with Fastmarkets on March 16.

Reis noted that key steps are expected to be completed in 2026, with some measures already planned for the first half of the year.

For Bomtempo, a central point is advancing the implementation of the SBCE and providing legal certainty to the system. "To achieve this, it will be important to publish the implementing regulations by the end of 2026 and to structure the rules for monitoring, reporting and verification of emissions," he said.

He stressed that the CNI was selected to represent the industrial sector in the Permanent Technical Advisory Committee of the SBCE, which will play an important role in defining the rules of Brazil's carbon market.

The government said it is seeking to align the system with international carbon markets, according to Reis, including interoperability of MRV rules and emissions accounting, as part of a broader strategy to strengthen competitiveness and facilitate integration with other jurisdictions.

European Commission publishes first CBAM certificate price

The European Commission published the first-quarter 2026 Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) certificate price on Tuesday April 7, applicable to all CBAM-eligible goods imported into the EU in January-March 2026.

The first-quarter 2026 CBAM certificate price was €75.36 ($89.64) per tCO2e.

Certificate prices reflect the volume weighted average (VWA) price of European Allowances (EUAs) that are auctioned in the primary market of the EU's Emission Trading System (ETS), to achieve the Commission's objective of ensuring that domestic and international producers face equivalent carbon costs.

EUA prices were volatile in the quarter, rising above €90 per tCO2e in January before falling to the low €60s per tCO2e by mid-March on policy uncertainty ahead of the upcoming ETS reform. Spot EUAs have risen to €70.07 per tCO2e this week.

A price formation process for second-quarter CBAM certificate costs was starting to take shape. More than 94% of allocated EUAs remained to be auctioned in the April-June quarter, but early indications for the quarter's CBAM certificate price were slightly lower than the first quarter at €70.50 ($82.23) per tCO2e.

While CBAM certificates can only be purchased and surrendered from February 2027, importers into the EU will have to use certificates that correspond to the quarter in which they were imported.

In 2026, the Commission will calculate and publish four quarterly prices that will be used for all CBAM imports this year. From 2027 onward, this will change to weekly publication of CBAM certificates.

Each quarterly price in 2026 will be calculated the during the first calendar week following the end of the relevant quarter.

The amount of CBAM certificates an importer will be required to surrender will depend on whether they have used default or actual emissions data to calculate their CBAM costs.

To calculate embedded emissions, importers have the choice of using actual emission values (verified data that corresponds exactly to how much carbon was emitted during the production of the good) or default values (average embedded-emission intensities for each product and production route).

Default values are deliberately designed to be punitive, to give an incentive for the use of actual emissions data. Because of this, mark-ups were attached to default values, which will be phased in over the course of three years.

Importers get greater clarity on CBAM costs

The publication of the first-quarter CBAM price should give importers greater clarity on what their cost exposure could be, with default values now setting a ceiling.

Using default values for CN Code 7601 (unwrought, un-alloyed aluminium) for some of the highest exporters of aluminium to the EU - China, Turkey, Russia, India and Canada), importers could calculate their likely maximum CBAM cost exposure.

Exports from China that arrived in the), importers EU in the first quarter would face CBAM costs of €144.13 ($171.45) per tonne, with imports from Turkey facing just €36.37 per tonne. Imports from Russia would face a €74.50 per tonne CBAM cost, India €50.46 per tonne and Canada €57.92 per tonne.

Looking at steel and hot-rolled coil imports into the EU through the blast furnace-basic oxygen furnace (BF/BOF) route, product imported from Turkey that arrived in the EU in the first quarter would have CBAM costs of €100.55 per tonne using default values. Meanwhile, imports from India would incur CBAM costs of €254.13 per tonne, imports from Algeria €148.03 per tonne and €94.14 per tonne for imports from Vietnam.

Those that are able to verify actual emissions should end up paying costs well below these levels.