

Low Emissions Freight Certificate (LEFC) – Update

We're pleased to share a key milestone in the development of the Low Emissions Freight Certificate (LEFC) - a market-based mechanism designed to support investment in lower-emissions freight and help accelerate decarbonisation of the transport sector.

Registry provider confirmed

[123Carbon](#) has been appointed as the registry provider to support the LEFC through pilot and into implementation. A Netherlands-based organisation, 123Carbon brings strong experience managing environmental attribute certificates through a blockchain-backed, book-and-claim system — enabling verified issuance, transparent tracking, and avoiding double counting across transport systems.

Via their APAC office based in Australia, 123Carbon will lead the next phase of the project, including registry development, pilot delivery, and the pathway to market roll out, while ensuring alignment with international best practice and integrity principles.

The initial focus will be on the New Zealand market, with the potential to expand into Australia and beyond following a successful pilot.

Governance and integrity

A key focus moving into the pilot phase is ensuring the LEFC is underpinned by robust governance and credibility.

SBC will support the establishment of an independent Methodology & Assurance Governance Committee. This group will play an important role in:

- Reviewing and approving the LEFC methodology and any updates
- Overseeing validation and verification processes
- Ensuring quality assurance and alignment with best practice
- Supporting audit and dispute resolution processes

The committee will bring together a small group of independent experts across areas such as methodology, sustainability standards, auditing, and market expertise.

SBC's role in the LEFC remains strategic and convening-focused - supporting governance set-up, bringing a market and member perspective, and helping position the initiative as a credible, high-integrity system for New Zealand.

Pilot phase coming up

A pilot is planned to run from Q3 2026 through to Q1 2027, where the LEFC methodology and 123Carbon registry will be tested in a New Zealand context.

This phase will allow for real-world application, learning, and refinement before any broader roll-out.

123Carbon will be seeking organisations to participate in the pilot, providing an opportunity to help shape the system and contribute to the development of a credible, market-led approach to reducing freight emissions. There is no cost to be part of the pilot other than your time.



Get involved

Pilot participation: test the system and provide practical input on how the LEFC works in real-world settings.

If your organisation is interested in being involved - either on the supply side (e.g. freight operators offering low- to zero-emission freight services) or the demand side (e.g. organisations looking to purchase certificates to support their climate goals) - I'd love to hear from you.

Please contact **Charlotte Kootstra**.

