



## Mid-Year CarbonNeutral Protocol Amendment: Grace Period Extension

*Effective Date: 8 September 2025*

This Amendment ("Amendment") is issued by Climate Impact Partners (the organization responsible for the CarbonNeutral Protocol) to update and supplement the provisions of the 2025 CarbonNeutral Protocol (the "Protocol").

### **Grace Period Extension**

The Protocol grace period allows organizations to defer incorporating new requirements introduced in the latest revision of the Protocol until a future certification renewal date to allow for organizations adapt to new requirements.

The grace period for the expanded certification requirements introduced in the 2024 Protocol will now extend until the release of the 2026 Protocol, planned for January 2026.

Following this change, the new requirements can now be deferred for two renewals, rather than one, under this extended grace period. Certifications renewed for a third time since the release of the 2024 Protocol edition, and subsequently after January 2026, are subject to the full requirements of the Protocol.

The relevant 2024 additional requirements include:

1. Measuring and publishing a full organizational footprint (including all applicable 15 Scope 3 Categories), regardless of certification type
2. Setting a science-aligned internal reduction target (note: previous requirements included setting reduction targets)
3. Meeting the expanded disclosure requirements

Please see the 2024 Protocol for details on these changes.

This extension recognizes the significant step-up in complexity these requirements represent. We have considered feedback from certified companies over the last 12 months, as well as broader global factors affecting climate action, and acknowledge that some organizations need more time to implement these updates. The intention of the grace period is to allow organizations to adapt to changes and should not be used merely to delay action.



The standards and requirements of CarbonNeutral® certification remain unchanged, but we want to ensure companies have adequate time to adapt while continuing to progress their climate action. We listen carefully to feedback to ensure the Protocol balances high-integrity climate action with practical, achievable steps.

### **Recognizing Leadership**

We want to acknowledge the progress and leadership demonstrated by many of our clients in meeting the high bar set by CarbonNeutral certification. Their achievements set a strong example for others and demonstrate best practice in corporate climate action.

### **How Does This Update Impact Certified Companies?**

*If companies are already following or working towards the latest requirements:* We recommend continuing as planned as they reflect current best practice.

*For certification renewals due before the 2026 Protocol:* We strongly recommend implementing the latest requirements but if additional time is needed, renewal is possible under the previous requirements for a second year using the extended grace period.

### **Does this change the requirements of certification?**

No—the requirements remain the same. This update simply provides additional time for companies to meet them, ensuring progress toward climate goals while addressing barriers some organizations are presently facing.

### **Legal Validity and Integration**

This Amendment forms part of the 2025 CarbonNeutral Protocol as of the Effective Date above, and shall be read and interpreted in conjunction with it. Therefore, all the terms of the Protocol apply to this Amendment, unless otherwise stated in this Amendment. Notwithstanding any provisions of the Protocol to the contrary, this Amendment shall not require a reissuance, reprinting, or republication of the full Protocol. Climate Impact Partners retains the right to issue binding amendments, updates, or clarifications to the Protocol. This Amendment is issued in accordance with that authority and is legally binding upon all parties referencing or operating under the 2025 version of the CarbonNeutral Protocol.