



**For Immediate Release**

## **BCarbon Announces Intent to Accept Methane Well Capping Credit Applications**

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HOUSTON (November 7, 2023) - BCarbon, a non-profit carbon credit registry, announces today that it is accepting credit applications under the new methane capture and reclamation (MCR) protocol for plugging abandoned oil and gas wells currently leaking methane in the United States or Canada. The protocol, which was developed in collaboration with a several hundred-member stakeholder group, issues credits for plugging idle and orphaned wells that would otherwise continue to be unplugged and leaking harmful greenhouse gases and volatile organic compounds.

Idle and orphaned oil and gas wells are a major problem in the United States and Canada. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that there are over 2 million abandoned, unplugged wells in the United States that release the equivalent of 7 to 20 million tons of carbon dioxide each year. Plugging programs such as BCarbon's will join with federal funding under the Inflation Reduction Act to reduce these emissions.

According to Jim Blackburn, the CEO of BCarbon, "This methane plugging protocol offers the opportunity of immediate impact on methane emissions. Methane is a greenhouse gas much more potent than carbon dioxide. We believe that this program has the chance to make both an immediate and long-term impact."

Dan Arthur, a consultant with ALL Consulting out of Tulsa, concurs with Blackburn, stating "Personally, I'm excited to see BCarbon move forward with their program to incentivize the permanent plugging of idle wells throughout the United States and Canada! Without this program, many of these wells are likely to become orphaned over time, but over that period, would be emitting significant amounts of methane into the atmosphere. And considering that many of these idle wells exist in areas that are economically challenged, the co-benefits of this protocol are unmatched and I'm excited to be a part of this incredible program."

For each well, the extent of leakage will be documented by a Qualified Measurement Specialist (QMA) along with past production decline curve analysis. Permanent well plugging must be done in accordance with application regulatory agencies standards. After plugging, the well will again be tested by a QMS to ensure that well plugging was successful and emissions have been permanently eliminated. Additionally, as a means of further precaution, a second verification test by a QMS will be required one year after plugging.



The MCR Protocol requires validation by an independent third-party before credits are issued. BCarbon's methane subcommittee stakeholder group, consisting of 40+ industry experts, offered guidance and feedback throughout the development of the protocol, ensuring that the BCarbon program is both high-integrity and practical.

In addition to stopping methane emissions, this protocol will also curtail emissions of associated volatile organic compounds as well as hydrogen sulfide and other toxic pollutants. The protocol includes a requirement to clean up these sites which often are not left in good condition.

*About BCarbon: BCarbon is a Houston-based non-profit carbon credit registry formed in 2019 from a stakeholder group through the Baker Institute at Rice University. Currently, BCarbon has published protocols for soil, forest, and living shoreline blue carbon credits. BCarbon is asking that letters of intent to participate in this credit program be filed with them starting today, November 7, 2023. Please reach out to [info@bcarbon.org](mailto:info@bcarbon.org) for more information.*

Attached images courtesy of Dan Arthur.



