
ECO Platform statement on handling biogenic carbon storage in EPDs

Date: October 8, 2026

ECO Platform has concluded a review of how biogenic carbon storage is handled within Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) under EN 15804:2012+A2:2019. The discussion focused on increased interest in technologies that remove and store greenhouse gases, and on how such removals should be reflected in EPD indicators, specifically in relation to:

- Section 5.4.3: “The effect of permanent biogenic carbon storage shall also not be included in the calculation of the GWP”
- Section C.2.3: “GWP-fossil also accounts for GHG removals e.g. from carbonation of cement-based materials and lime”

In April 2023, ECO Platform’s Technical Working Group (TEWOG) established a task group to analyze whether biogenic carbon could be regarded as exiting the biogenic carbon cycle and, if so, whether removals via biochar could be counted under GWP-fossil. Following this work, TEWOG voted on a proposal for harmonized accounting of permanent GHG removals in September 2025.

Decision

ECO Platform voted against treating biogenic carbon as exiting the biogenic carbon cycle. This decision applies to all biogenic carbon removals, including those achieved via biochar.

What this means for EPDs

- Biogenic carbon removals must continue to be reported under GWP-biogenic.
- Biogenic carbon removals recorded in the product stage (e.g., A1–A3) must be balanced with biogenic carbon emissions in other life cycle modules, to reflect emissions, and transfers in and out of product systems over the complete life cycle.
- Transfers of biogenic carbon into a product system (including transfers from previous product systems) are recorded as removals reported under GWP-biogenic.
- Transfers of biogenic carbon to subsequent product systems and emissions of biogenic carbon are recorded as emissions reported under GWP-biogenic.
- In Life Cycle Impact Assessment (LCIA), biogenic carbon removals are characterized as negative CO₂ equivalents and biogenic carbon emissions as positive CO₂ equivalents:
 - Removals: –1 kg CO₂eq per kg CO₂
 - Emissions: +1 kg CO₂eq per kg CO₂

This decision maintains the distinction set out in EN 15804: GWP-fossil may include certain non-biogenic removals (e.g., carbonation of cement and lime as indicated in C.2.3), while biogenic carbon remains reported under GWP-biogenic.

Further work

ECO Platform will continue to contribute to ongoing policy and standardization processes on carbon removals, including topics such as biochar. We will:

- Engage in the CPR Technical Acquis (we are represented in the Subgroup 'Environmental Sustainability') to help inform recommendations.
- Work through our liaison with CEN/TC 350, and, where appropriate, contribute to ISO activities (e.g., ISO 21930).
- Align our contributions with developments related to the EU Carbon Removal Certification Regulation (CRCF 2024/3012).

ECO Platform will provide updates as these processes progress and as relevant decisions are taken by the competent bodies.