

The Carbon Literacy Project:

Carbon Literate Organisation Standard

Version 1.3

"An awareness of the carbon costs and impacts of everyday activities and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions on an individual, community and organisational basis."



Acknowledgements

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The founding members of The Carbon Literacy Working Group;

The current and former trustees of The Carbon Literacy Trust

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Contents:

Acknowledgements	2
Introduction	4
What is a Carbon Literate Organisation (CLO)?	5
Qualifying as a CLO	6
Requirements of the CLO Accreditation	
Bronze	7
Silver	8
Gold	9
Platinum	10
Supporting Information	11
Benefits of Accreditation	12
Costs of Accreditation	13
Carbon Literacy Certifications/Accreditation Schemes	14
Frequently Asked Questions	15
The Authors	16









Introduction:

Why Apply to Achieve Carbon Literate Organisation Accreditation?

The Carbon Literate Organisation (CLO) accreditation is the visible 'badge' that showcases an organisation as (i) committed to Carbon Literacy (CL), (ii) having a substantial number of people who are Carbon Literate, and (iii) having a commitment to support its Carbon Literate people and maintain its low carbon culture. An organisation uses this status to better interact with its communities – whether they are staff or customers, neighbours, learners, suppliers or stakeholders.

There are four levels of accreditation; Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum, reflecting increasing levels of Carbon Literacy commitment and achievement within an organisation.

A Carbon Literate Organisation will typically experience decreased in-house energy and resource consumption, improved organisational profile, healthier and happier staff, a healthier working environment, a safer supply chain, lower variable costs, enhanced competitiveness, and reduced commercial risk.

CLO accreditation also demonstrates an organisation's corporate social responsibility in the clearest possible way.



What is a Carbon Literate Organisation (CLO)?

Carbon Literacy makes a tangible contribution to staff well-being, to the effectiveness of workplace learning, to the employability of learners, to the efficiency of work-places, to the competitiveness of companies – and of course to our collective role in tackling climate change.

The CLO accreditation supports the development (and recruitment and retention) of a Carbon Literate workforce, and requires an organisation to engage positively with its audience or community in developing and delivering low carbon behaviour. The accreditation is applicable to any organisation, from large corporations to small or medium sized enterprises.

There are four tiers of CLO accreditation: Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum, each demonstrating a higher level of commitment and achievement. The accreditation has been designed to showcase significant dedication to Carbon Literacy, the four tiers ensuring distinction between organisations showing differing levels of commitment. Accreditation can be applied for at any level. For example, an organisation that is not currently CLO accredited, may wish to apply directly for Gold or Platinum level accreditation, and enter the scheme at that level.

The following pages detail the process of gaining the CLO accreditation, the benefits conferred, the costs, and answer some of the most frequently asked questions.

We are often told that Carbon Literacy is the most interesting piece of training yet undertaken in a work place. In the widest sense, it is almost certainly one of the most important. We hope that you, your staff and your organisation will be challenged, excited and benefit greatly from CLO accreditation.



Qualifying as a Carbon Literate Organisation:

Overview

In order to qualify as a CLO, a number of assessment criteria must be met. An organisation must also supply supplementary evidence to show they meet these criteria. There are four tiers of CLO accreditation, and the criteria for each are explained in detail in the pages that follow.

In designing this process we have endeavoured to strike the balance between sufficient rigour to ensure that accreditation has real substance and not being overly time-consuming.

The Practical Steps to qualify as a Carbon Literate Organisation:

- 1. Read this Carbon Literacy Organisation Standard document and FAQs in full;
- 2. Fill out a CLO Application Form (indicating which tier you are applying for) and collate the supplementary evidence of your achievement (details below);
- 3. Submit your completed CLO Application Form, including your evidence and payment to info@carbonliteracy.com.

Further queries? Please address them to: info@carbonliteracy.com.

The Requirements for Carbon Literate Organisation Accreditation:



BRONZE: Awareness

Bronze accreditation focuses on existing environmental performance and sets a baseline against which to measure improvement.

Bronze CLOs will:

Commitment to CL:	Evidenced by:	Notes:
1. Have Registered a Training Initiative with the Project.	A CL course Criteria Checker that has been submitted and approved by the CLP, for your organisation; OR for a consortium of which your organisation is a paid-up member. OR You have access to Criteria Checked training from a training provider which has been approved for use with your organisational audience. AND Successfully certified participants through that training.	Your organisation must either have registered or be able to evidence access to at least one piece of training that has been Criteria Checked by the Project. (For more information on criteria checking and how to register a piece of training, see The Carbon Literacy Standard (Full or Executive Summary versions) or contact the Project on info@carbonliteracy.com) AND Be able to show participants were certified through this training. There is no minimum number of participants but there must be at least one in addition to your Board Member/Organisational leader (see below) Whilst participants already certified through previous employment or other initiatives count towards your total below, an organisation cannot be accredited without delivery of training into the current organisation. For it to be valid for certification, any training intervention must be approved by the Project prior to any training taking place.
Have a Board Member / Organisational Leader certified as Carbon Literate.	A named senior member of your organisation must have achieved full Carbon Literacy certification, and be able to supply their unique certificate number.	A Board Member/ Leader means someone at the most senior tier of leadership within your organisation; a board or executive director, or leader if the organisation is not incorporated, to a maximum of one level below Chief Executive. This encourages a "top-down" CL cascade – where Senior staff/ Board members/ Leaders undertake CL before or at the same time as more junior co-workers. Where the application is being made on behalf of a sub-unit within a larger organisation, the organisational leader must be at the most senior tier of leadership within that sub-unit.

SILVER: Action



Silver CLO accreditation, demonstrates that the organisation has taken practical action to reduce its environmental impact.

Silver CLOs will:

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Commitment to CL:	Evidenced by:	Notes:	
1. Have met and evidenced each commitment for the Bronze accreditation.	See Bronze accreditation section.	An organisation does not need to have applied for or achieved Bronze accreditation prior to Silver, but needs to demonstrate that they currently meet all the requirements of the Bronze accreditation as part of their evidence for the Silver accreditation.	
Have a substantial percentage of the workforce certified as Carbon Literate.	Your organisation must declare how many employees or workforce contributors it has, and provide a list of current Carbon Literate employees, including unique certification numbers for each.	Your organisation needs to demonstrate that a substantial percentage of your workforce must be certified as Carbon Literate. The matrix below demonstrates the minimum numbers required for Silver CLO accreditation. Note that not all these individuals have to have been trained within or on behalf of the applicant organisation, but may be recruited as Carbon Literate. "Workforce contributors" covers voluntary workers or subcontracted staff for organisations that are staffed it this way. Your Organisational Minimum No. CL Staff:	
		Workforce: 3 workers 4-10 workers 11-25 workers 26-99 workers 100+ workers	1 CL worker 2 CL workers 25% CL workers 20% CL workers 15% CL workers
3. Have integrated Carbon Literacy into the performance management and assessment systems of the organisation.	Your organisation will be able to demonstrate commitment to Carbon Literacy and the actions being taken by your people as a consequence of their Carbon Literacy training in the organisational objectives and performance assessments systems of the organisation.	This is likely to include the appearance of Carbon Literacy and its consequent actions in Organisational, Team and Individual Objectives, but also of the support being offered within the organisation for individuals and teams delivering results as a consequence of the action requirements of training, eg; organisational support for actions within individual and organisational KPIs, discussion within team meetings, initiatives supported, invested in, and carried out.	
4. Have demonstrated a visual promotion of your organisation's Carbon Literacy: e.g. CL listed as a preference on job adverts, CLO logo on main (or local presence page) of website etc.	Evidence for this may include screenshots, web links or other relevant documents. Visible promotion or commitment may be evidenced in alternative ways particularly for national organisations with restrictions on local branding. If you are unsure how to evidence this section then please contact the Project.	Your organisation must show noticeable visual promotion of Carbon Literacy – this means a commitment that is visible to staff, customers, suppliers, stakeholders, learners and other organisations and/or audiences. You must be able to evidence this visual commitment.	
5. Publication of a one-page case study.	Evidence for this may include screenshots, web links or other relevant documents. If you are unsure how to evidence this section then please contact the CL Project.	this in a way that creates a organisation to use for wid	what the organisation has as received, and to evidence a resource for the

GOLD: Achievement



Gold accreditation is given to organisations that have made progress, formalised their environmental systems and can verify real results from their improvements.

Gold CLOs will:

Commitment to CL:	Evidenced by:	Notes:
Have met and evidenced each commitment for the Silver accreditation.	See Silver accreditation section.	An organisation does not need to have applied for a Bronze or Silver accreditation prior to Gold, but needs to demonstrate that they cover all the requirements of the Bronze and Silver accreditations as part of their evidence for the Gold accreditation.
Have the majority of the workforce certified as Carbon Literate.	Your organisation must declare how many employees or workforce contributors it has, and provide a list of current Carbon Literate employees, including their unique certification numbers.	The requirement is for more than 50% of the workforce to be Carbon Literate, irrespective of organisational size. For organisations with more than 250 staff or operating from multiple locations it may be possible for separate business units to achieve this criterion independently. Note that not all these individuals have to have been trained within or on behalf of the applicant organisation, but may be recruited as Carbon Literate.
3. Plus any two of the following requirements:		
 a. The organisation has networked with another CL organisation and worked cooperatively on delivering CL; b. The organisation has directly delivered CL 	The organisation must provide basic information or evidence of networking and co-operation with another organisation on CL, indicating its role in CL delivery.	These actions are all alternatives. Achievement of any two meets the requirement for Gold accreditation.
training to members of another organisation;	b. Evidence the trainer evaluation / learner names and organisation for/to whom the training has been	If you are unsure how to evidence any of the requirements within
c. The organisation has developed CL materials or resources with another CL organisation for use outside the two organisations involved;	delivered.	this section, then please contact the Project.
 d. The organisation can demonstrate active advocacy for the CL Project either to sectoral audiences or within the media; 	d. Evidence the Advocacy that has taken place.	
e. The organisation can demonstrate sponsorship of CL delivery, either through staffing, resourcing or financial support to another CL organisation;	e. Evidence the Sponsorship that has taken place.	
f. Development of and contribution to the CL evidence base through a detailed quantitative cost/benefit case study within the organisation or sector.	f. Submit the cost/benefit Case study.	

PLATINUM: Exemplar

Platinum is the highest level of CLO accreditation.

Platinum CLOs will:



Commitment to CL:	Evidenced by:	Notes:
1. Have met and evidenced sufficient commitment to meet the Gold accreditation.	See Gold accreditation section.	An organisation needs not to have applied for Bronze, Silver or Gold accreditation prior to Platinum, but needs to demonstrate that they cover all the requirements of the Bronze, Silver and Gold accreditations as part of their evidence for the Platinum accreditation.
Have over 80% of the workforce certified as Carbon Literate.	The organisation must declare how many employees or workforce contributors it has, and provide a list of current Carbon Literate employees, including their unique certification numbers.	Over 80% of your workforce must be certified as Carbon Literate, irrespective of organisational size. For organisations with more than 250 staff or operating from multiple locations it may be possible for separate business units to achieve this criterion independently. Note that not all these individuals have to have been trained within or on behalf of the applicant organisation, but may be recruited as Carbon Literate.
3. Two further actions from the Gold List above, to make a total of 4 actions from Gold level delivered.	See Gold accreditation section.	See Gold accreditation section.







The documents used to support the process are all made available to you in advance, once you apply for the accreditation process.

Document	Purpose	Document Name
CLO Application Form	Enables you to apply for CLO accreditation and confirm your achievement against each requirement area as you progress through the process.	CLO Application Form
CLO Case Study Template	A structured format to assist any organisation in preparing a case study for Silver level and above	CLO Case Study Template

Benefits of Accreditation:



Although very competitively priced as an organisational award, there is obviously a financial investment involved in accrediting as a Carbon Literate Organisation.

The Carbon Literacy Project is a registered charity, and relies on sponsorship, certification work and generous donations and grants to deliver its work. Obviously if you would like to donate more, the Project would be delighted, but the amounts indicated reflect the time commitment from the Project in accrediting an organisation, and also help to ensures that the CLO accreditation remains a distinctive badge, and its quality is upheld.

We believe the direct benefits of accreditation to any organisation will far outweigh the financial and resource investment.

Benefits of Carbon Literate Organisation accreditation include:

The benefits to your organisation of Carbon Literacy are significant, however the specific benefits of being accredited as a Carbon Literate Organisation include:

- A personalised Carbon Literate Organisation award (made from recycled wood), for public display, with the option of either a trophy for each level of award, or a single award with plagues for each of Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum levels.
- A personalised Carbon Literate Organisation certificate for display (one for each of Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum levels) with a unique certificate number.
- Rights for the usage of the exclusive Carbon Literate Organisation logo and branding on materials relating to the Organisation and its status;
- A pre-prepared press-release and marketing materials to support your marketing of your new award.
- Promotional support and publicity from The Carbon Literacy Project via social media, journalism and events;
- Assistance with recruitment of Carbon Literate staff via The Carbon Literacy Project website
- Priority notification of and access to funding opportunities to support organisational Carbon Literacy training;
- Visible alignment to public and Government policy on climate change
- Access to exclusive Carbon Literate Organisation resources and events, and the growing informal network of Carbon Literate Organisations
- Evidenced action to meet procurement framework requirements, support tender responses and the awarding of other international standards eg ISO 14001, ISO20121, BREEAM and others.
- Synergy and pre-qualification for the growing range of business and organisational schemes and qualifications with which Carbon Literacy is partnered

Costs of Accreditation:



Organisational Turnover £/Year	£5M+	£250k - £5M	£50k - £250k	<£50k
Bronze	£500	£400	£300	£250
Silver	£1000	£750	£500	£400
Gold	£1500	£1250	£750	£500
Platinum	£2500	£1500	£1000	£600

- The prices shown here reflect the Project's overheads in delivering the Project and this
 accreditation. Pricing has been deliberately arranged to support SME's and low or nofunded initiatives and organisations, and ask for a higher level of commitment from larger
 and better funded organisations.
- Each organisational certificate is uniquely numbered, is valid for at least three years from
 date of issue, and organisational details are securely stored to allow current certificates to
 be validated and reissued if necessary. Certificates will be individually dated and coded to
 reflect the version of the CLO Standard that the organisation has been accredited against.
 It is likely that over time the requirements for CLO accreditation and reaccreditation will
 increase to reflect the increasing levels of achievement by Carbon Literate Organisations.
- CLO Trophies for each CLO category (Bronze, Silver etc.) are personalised for the organisation accredited and for the category reached.
- The CLO trophy is made from recycled post-manufacture waste wood, with a plaque attached showing your organisational name and the level of accreditation reached. It is assumed that most organisations will wish to receive and display a trophy for each level of accreditation, as it is reached. However, to offer the option of reduced resource use and cost, the trophy has been specifically designed so that a single trophy can simultaneously display the plaques for all four levels of accreditation. If you would like to take advantage of this option, reduce the cost shown at any level above Bronze by £100, and indicate your preference (plaque only) on the application form.
- At the point at which your organisation upgrades from one award to the next, deduct the cumulative cost paid for the previous award(s) from the amount shown for the award and level of organisation being applied for, to arrive at an "upgrade" price.
- If you have any further questions about any aspect of CLO accreditation, please contact the Project at info@carbonliteracy.com.

Carbon Literacy Certification and Accreditation Schemes:



One of the key aspects of The Carbon Literacy Project has always been that involvement would enable any successful participant to receive a certificate to evidence their Carbon Literacy. This is currently being done on behalf of The Carbon Literacy Trust (registered charity number: 1156722), by the Project's co-ordinating organisation Cooler Projects CIC. The Trust was established to oversee the dissemination of Carbon Literacy across Greater Manchester and beyond.

The Carbon Literacy Project also offers the following Certification/Accreditation schemes: -

Carbon Literacy Certificate (CL)

Successful participation in a Carbon Literacy initiative by an individual will result in the award of a Carbon Literacy Certificate (CL). Each certificate is uniquely numbered and participant details will be held on a secure database by the co-ordinating organisation to allow later verification by employers or other external bodies.

Carbon Literacy Facilitator (CLF)

This certification is designed to accredit experienced freelance or organisational administrators or facilitators who have advocated, overseen, organised and managed the delivery of Carbon Literacy Training, to groups of learners in a community, workplace or educational setting.

Carbon Literacy Trainer (CLT)

Much of Carbon Literacy training delivered so far has been delivered by non-professional trainers who belong to the peer groups of the participants. This is exactly as intended and is likely to remain the case, however some organisations identify particular staff or seek the support of a professional trainer in developing and customising their own training and in some cases in delivering it. This certification scheme has been developed to identify experienced and capable trainers internally and externally, and enable them to evidence this experience and ability.

Carbon Literacy Consultant (CLC)

A Carbon Literacy Consultant is our highest rank of Trainer qualification, which highlights and awards individuals who have a depth of experience in Carbon Literacy training design and delivery, with a range of organisations, and are experienced in training individuals to be Carbon Literacy Trainers.

Carbon Literate Organisation (CLO)

The Carbon Literate Organisation (CLO) accreditation is the visible 'badge' that showcases an organisation as (i) committed to Carbon Literacy (CL), (ii) having a substantial number of staff as CL trained, and (iii) having a commitment to maintain this capacity. An organisation uses this status to better interact with its communities – whether they are customers, neighbours, learners or suppliers.

Carbon Literacy Training Organisation (CLTO)

We are also interested in hearing from organisations that wish to be certified as Carbon Literacy Training Organisations (CLTO)'s. These are organisations, business units or departments delivering CL training to internal or external customers. This accreditation will be launched following the implementation of all of the accreditations above.



Frequently Asked Questions:

"What is Carbon Literacy?"

The Carbon Literacy Project delivers awareness of the Carbon Dioxide costs and impacts of everyday activities, and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions, on an individual community and organisational basis. It also communicates and demonstrates why it's important that we all take these steps and that the actions of individuals communities and organisations can and do make a difference. It's also completely unique.

"How long does an individual's Carbon Literacy Certificate last?"

Certificates awarded to individuals will not expire, but the core elements of the content will continue to evolve over time, as standards and expectations rise. When subsequent "upgraded" versions of the certificate become available, individuals may choose to refresh their skills to ensure they retain the latest version. This is particularly likely to be the case if these certificates are used to support the Carbon Literacy Organisation certificate (CLO) which is also likely to develop over time.

"How long does a Carbon Literate Organisation Certificate last?"

Certificates awarded to organisations are dated with the year of issue and intended to be valid for 3 years, thus will actually be valid for between 3 and 4 years depending on the date of issue.

"If my organisation qualifies to enter the scheme directly at Silver level or above, do we need to pay for each of the levels below that we have "skipped"?

No, an organisation can enter the scheme at any level. As each level builds on the previous level, you will find that you still need to meet the criteria of all previous levels, however we don't charge for any level you pass over. Your first award trophy can either display every level you have passed or just the highest, or you can purchase individual trophies at a small additional cost for each level separately, should you so wish.

"My organisation is large and or made up of separate departments or locations. Can I accredit a department, location or "sub-unit", without accrediting my whole organisation?"

Yes, as long as a "sub-unit" is clearly identifiable, you can accredit it, applying the same criteria and pricing as if it was an organisation in its own right, but usage of the term Carbon Literate Organisation, and use of the logo and branding will also be restricted to that sub-unit.

"Who is organising all this? Who owns it?"

The Carbon Literacy Project is owned by The Carbon Literacy Trust (registered charity number: 1156722), established to oversee the dissemination of Carbon Literacy across the North-West and beyond. The Project was created by Cooler Projects CIC for the public good, and Cooler currently acts as the Project's coordinating organisation on behalf of the Trust.

"How is The Carbon Literacy Project funded?"

The delivery of Carbon Literacy is paid for from a wide range of sources within organisations themselves, but mainly from existing training and education budgets, as the delivery of Carbon Literacy is down to the individuals and organisations of the audiences involved. However, the Trust funds the co-ordination and development of the Project through a mixture of income, generated through certification of courses, individuals, trainers and organisations, specific grants and donations, and commercial sponsorship.



The Authors:

Cooler Projects CIC (Cooler) is a Manchester-based Community Interest Company that delivers projects and advocacy to create low carbon futures. Its founders and associates have wide and substantial experience in community engagement, coaching, project delivery and advocacy.

The Carbon Literacy Project (CLP) was created and founded by Cooler in 2011 and was launched publicly in November 2012.

Amongst other awards, Cooler was awarded a Best Community Initiative Award at the national Climate Week Awards in 2013, Social Enterprise Award for Environmental Achievement in the 2014 North West Green Hero Awards, and the Project was awarded Transformative Action Project (TAP) status by ICLEI at the UN climate-change negotiations (COP21) in Paris in December 2015.

Dave Coleman: Director

Co-author and Cooler co-founder, began his career with Deloitte, continued as a director of an award winning IT company, and then founded and spent ten years as a management trainer and coach in his own practice in the commercial sector. Having spent six years on the boards of Friends of the Earth and chairing its Engagement, Fundraising and Communications committee, he chaired the "Energy" writing group of "Manchester: A Certain Future", sits on the advisory boards of a number of EU funded projects, and is a director of Manchester 's Climate Change Agency.

Phil Korbel: Director

Co-author and Cooler co-founder, is an experienced social entrepreneur, founder/director of the award-winning community development charity Radio Regen, and occasional advisor to DCLG and DCMS. He sits on the Manchester Leaders Forum. He chaired the "Buildings" writing group of "Manchester: A Certain Future", and helped found the 100 Months Club.

The Carbon Literacy Trust

In 2013 Cooler established The Carbon Literacy Trust (registered charity number: 1156722) and transferred all project assets to the charity, so that it's trustees could oversee the dissemination of Carbon Literacy across the North-West and beyond, for the public good. Cooler now acts as the Project's co-ordinating organisation, on behalf of the Trust.

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