

POWER & ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE

David Quezada, CFA | 604.659.8257 | david.quezada@raymondjames.ca
Theo Genzebu, (Associate) | 604.659.8522 | theo.genzebu@raymondjames.ca

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INDUSTRY BRIEF

The CO2 Review; Monthly Carbon Tracker

As part of our ongoing monitoring of the voluntary carbon credit industry, we are publishing our inaugural Monthly Carbon Tracker providing a view of market dynamics, price trends for key carbon offset credits and commentary around companies in the sector under our coverage.

Carbon credit pricing in bilateral negotiations is holding firm despite weakness in futures.

- Among widely available prices for voluntary carbon credits, we believe the most closely followed are CBL Exchange's GEO (Global Emissions Offset) and NGENO (Nature-Based Emissions Offset) futures prices. Importantly, however, we stress that due to limited trading volumes, pricing for these futures contracts can be susceptible to speculation and, as a result, diverge materially from price trends in bilateral negotiations which represent the bulk of carbon credit transactions today.
- As detailed in Exhibit 1 and 2 below, pricing for nature-based and household device credits (which call into Category 1 & 2 respectively in Exhibit 1 below) have held up relatively well in recent weeks, as compared to pronounced weakness in the futures contracts. Specifically, we note Category 1 nature based offsets have declined ~13% from late Feb-22 highs while the NGENO futures contract has declined ~33% from its Jan-22 peak (See Exhibit 1 – RHS). Meanwhile, Category 2 credits have remained close to all time highs seen earlier this year, standing in stark contrast to the GEO contract which is down ~47% from its peak (See Exhibit 1 – LHS).
- Analysis from ClearBlue Markets indicates strong demand for forestry-based credits supported Category 1 pricing, which averaged US\$13.57/tCO₂e (ranging between \$10.12-\$22) as of 23-May-22, up modestly from US\$13.28/tCO₂e for the prior month as pricing remains well above the NGENO contract at \$10.71/tCO₂e. We further note that longer-dated NGENO futures have outperformed in recent weeks with the spread between NGENO Dec-22 and Dec-25 futures widening due to an end-buyer preference for the most recent vintage forestry credits.
- ClearBlue's Category 2 credit prices, which include a variety of underlying projects including household devices (cookstove credits), declined on average to \$7.27/tCO₂e (range: US\$4.12-\$12.25) as compared to an average of US\$7.76/tCO₂e last month. Notably, the lower average price in this category was due to increased demand (greater volumes) for the lower-end credits within this category, which primarily consist of energy efficiency projects from Asia and Latin America. The GEO futures contract, which is primarily composed of renewable projects, remained below US\$5/tCO₂e for most of the week and currently sits at US\$4.69/tCO₂e.
- Over a longer time period, each class of offset credit has moved significantly higher reflecting a wave of net zero commitments announced in 2020/2021. This has resulted in Category 1-3 prices appreciating ~90-125% as compared to this time last year.

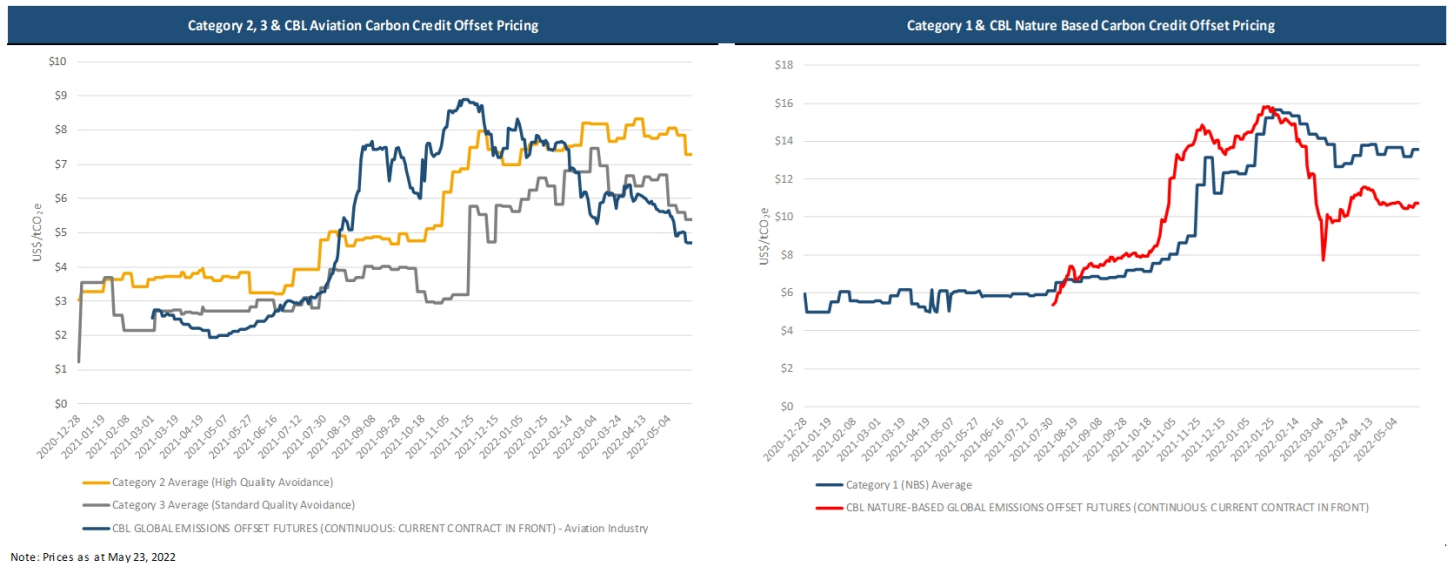
Exhibit 1: Carbon Offset Credit Market Price

Offset Category	Current Price	Prior Week Price	Prior Month Price	3 Month Price	Y/Y Price	7 Day Δ	4 Wk Δ	3 Month Δ	Y/Y Δ
EUA ETS	\$77.82	\$90.24	\$83.79	\$94.74	\$52.60	↓ -13.8%	↓ -7.1%	↓ -17.9%	↑ 47.9%
CBL California Carbon	\$30.54	\$29.78	\$30.57	\$27.22	\$19.30	↑ 2.6%	↓ -0.1%	↑ 12.2%	↑ 58.2%
CBL GEO	\$4.69	\$5.03	\$5.68	\$6.08	\$2.16	↓ -6.8%	↓ -17.4%	↓ -22.9%	↑ 117.1%
CBL NGENO	\$10.71	\$10.63	\$10.80	\$12.08	NA	→ 0.8%	↓ -0.8%	↓ -11.3%	NA
Category 1 (NBS)	\$13.57	\$13.20	\$13.28	\$14.35	\$6.03	↑ 2.8%	↑ 2.2%	↓ -5.4%	↑ 125.2%
Category 2 (High Quality)	\$7.27	\$7.85	\$7.76	\$8.20	\$3.84	↓ -7.4%	↓ -6.3%	↓ -11.4%	↑ 89.4%
Category 3 (Standard Quality)	\$5.39	\$5.60	\$6.54	\$6.76	\$2.71	↓ -3.8%	↓ -17.6%	↓ -20.4%	↑ 99.0%

Note: - Price observations from Category 1, 2 and 3 offsets are weekly averages

- Current prices are as at May 23, 2022

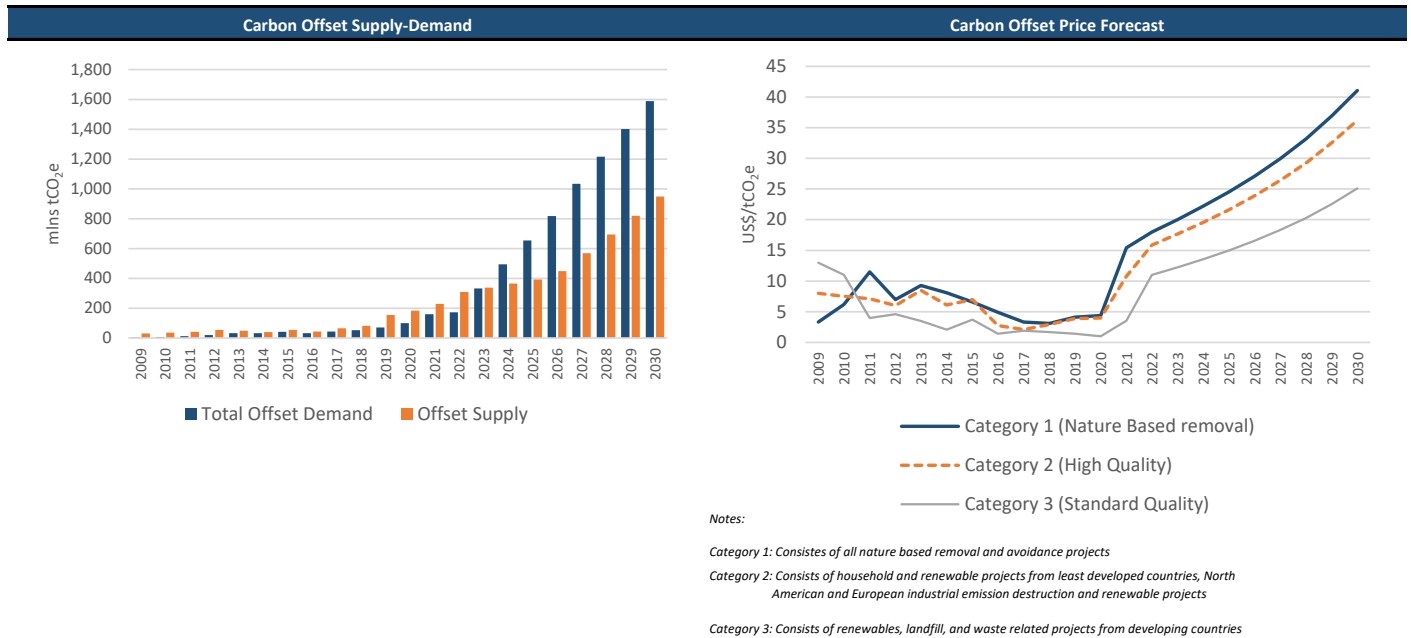
Source: ClearBlue Markets, www.tradingview.com, Raymond James Ltd.

Exhibit 2: Voluntary Market Offset Pricing

Source: ClearBlue Markets, www.tradingview.com, Raymond James Ltd.

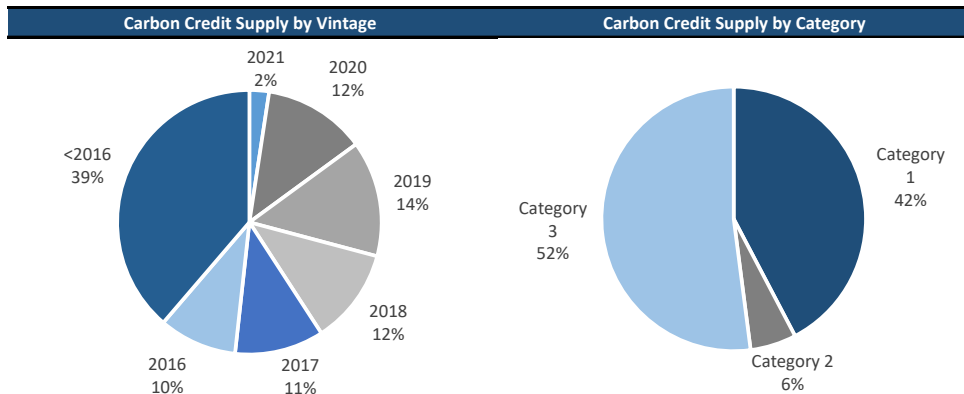
Long Term Outlook: Supply demand model suggests shortage of carbon credits approaching. As illustrated in Exhibit 3 below, analysis from ClearBlue Markets suggests a surplus of credits in 2022—giving way to a balanced market in 2023 and a widening shortage in 2024 and beyond. Beginning with the near-term forecasts, we note that while supply would appear to be outpacing demand for 2022, prices have moved meaningfully higher over the past year and generally held firm in recent weeks. These price trends would appear to be contrary to what we expect in an oversupplied market. In explaining this dynamic, our discussions with industry participants have highlighted that the significant appreciation in carbon credit prices over 2021 brought many dormant, low quality projects from pre-2016 forward, as proponents looked to capitalize on the higher price environment. Importantly, however, we understand these credits have received a lukewarm reception among end buyers—something that has resulted in higher quality, more recent vintage credits showing more stable pricing in recent weeks. We note, referring to Exhibit 4, a significant portion of credits outstanding today, approximately 39%, were issued before 2016 (older vintages typically carry lower prices) while over half of the credits available today fall under Category 3 which represents generally lower quality, lower priced credits. Longer term, we highlight ClearBlue’s forecasts suggest a widening supply shortfall beginning in 2024 and expanding out to 2030 with demand approaching 1.6 bln tCO₂e, while supply lags at below 1.0 bln tCO₂e. This widening supply-demand deficit is expected to drive substantially higher carbon offset credit pricing over the coming eight years with Category 1, 2 and 3 prices rising at an average CAGR of ~11%. We note, while we consider this to be an abundantly possible outcome, our estimates assume a more modest 5% annual carbon credit appreciation.

Exhibit 3: Carbon Offset Market Fundamentals and Price Outlook



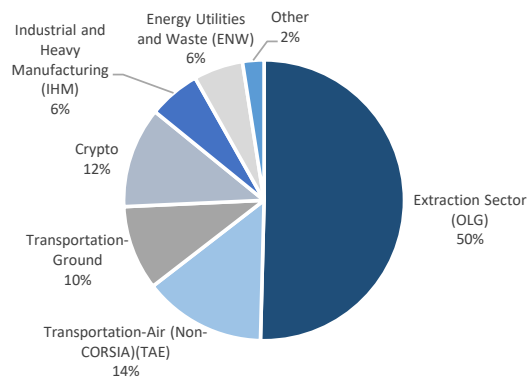
Source: ClearBlue Markets, Raymond James Ltd.

Exhibit 4: Carbon Credit Supply by Vintage and Category



Source: ClearBlue Markets, Raymond James Ltd.

From a high level, we believe weakness in carbon offset futures contracts has been largely driven by fears that Russia’s invasion of the Ukraine, and the attendant spike in energy prices, has sparked concerns of a shift in focus from energy transition, to energy independence—something that would presumably reduce the ability and motivation for corporations to purchase carbon offsets. Importantly, however, we note a significant portion of voluntary offset demand comes from the Oil and Gas sector at 50% (see Exhibit 5)—an end market that both needs to decarbonize, and has the means to do so given elevated commodity prices and rising cash flows.

Exhibit 5: Carbon Offset Demand by End Market

Source: ClearBlue Markets, Raymond James Ltd.

Carbon Streaming (NETZ-NEO, Strong Buy, \$15.50 Price Target). We maintain our Strong Buy rating on Carbon Streaming—a function of the company’s first mover status in the high growth carbon offset industry, \$1.0 bln pipeline of investment opportunities, our expectation of rising carbon credit prices, and material upcoming catalysts. While the temporary pause of carbon credits in Indonesia is a source of concern, we believe the share price reaction to this issue, exacerbated by challenging market sentiment, is overdone. Carbon Streaming has recently announced two new streaming investments including a \$20 mln investment in a cookstove/water purification project across five countries in Africa, as well as a \$1.35 mln investment in a biochar project in the US. Announced last week, the investment in clean cookstoves and water purification in the African countries of Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia, has a 15-year term over which NETZ anticipates 50 mln credits will be generated with the company receiving its typical proportion of project revenues (historically ~10-20%). While the pace of Carbon Streaming’s investments has progressed somewhat more slowly than anticipated, we are encouraged by these recent announcements and note NETZ maintains 4+ projects in advanced development (suggesting additional announcements may be imminent) and another \$1.0 bln worth of investments in its longer-term pipeline.

Base Carbon (BCBN-NEO, Strong, Buy, \$2.00 Price Target). Beyond our expectation of long term appreciation of carbon credits as well as robust industry-wide growth, our Strong Buy rating on Base is underpinned by the company’s team of seasoned carbon industry veterans and capital allocators, a significant \$400+ mln pipeline of quality, high-return carbon offset investments and a business model that leverages Base’s deep relationships across the carbon credit value chain. While volatile market conditions have disproportionately weighed on earlier stage, smaller cap names, we stress that we have not seen any meaningful change or impairment in Base’s ability to source and sell carbon credits consistent with the strategy outlined at the time of the company’s IPO. As discussed earlier in this note, voluntary carbon offset pricing in bilateral negotiations has held relatively firm when compared to benchmark futures contracts. At the same time, we believe challenging market sentiment has sent shares of BCBN into no-brainer territory. In fact, we highlight that as of yesterday’s close, BCBN’s market cap of ~C\$65 mln is only modestly more than the company’s balance of cash and prepaid expenses which currently sits at C\$56.5 mln (US\$43.8 mln). Viewed another way, this implies an EV of just \$8.5 mln which we believe is less than the NAV associated with the US\$3.45 mln the company has deployed in its Rwanda cookstove carbon offset project to date. Accordingly, we consider current levels to represent exceptional value and reaffirm our Strong Buy rating.

Appendix I: Recent Industry Developments and Research

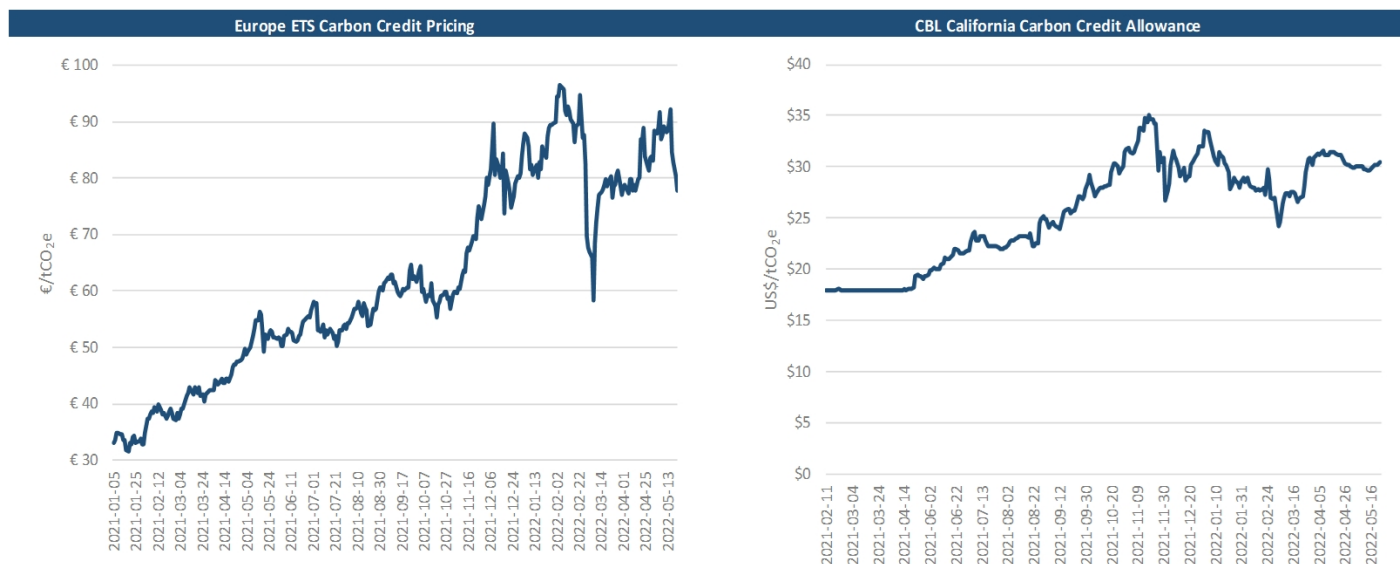
Recent Industry Developments

- A Startup Backed by Adam Neumann Wants to Put Carbon Credits on the Blockchain [Link](#)
- Berlin Pushes for a €60 Minimum Price on EU Carbon Markets [Link](#)
- New Restrictions Could Cut Carbon Offsets from Major Rainforests [Link](#)
- What Pachama's Latest Funding Says About Carbon Offset Verification [Link](#)
- Brazil to Quicken Carbon Market Launch by Decree [Link](#)
- EU Carbon Market Must Lead to Faster Emissions Cuts to Tackle Climate Crisis, New Research Shows [Link](#)
- ICE Launches New Nature-Based Solutions Futures Contract, Rivals CME [Link](#)

Recent Company Notes & Industry Research

- May-17-22: [NETZ | 3Q22 Results Not Material; Pace of Investments Picking Up](#)
- May-17-22: [BCBN | 1Q22 A Non-Event; Valuation in No-Brainer Territory](#)
- Apr-28-22: [Diversified & Utilities | 1Q22 Preview; Highlighting Top Picks Amidst Market Volatility](#)
- Apr-05-22: [BCBN | Pedigree, Pipeline, and Purpose; A Top Carbon Player Emerges](#)
- Jan-24-22: [NETZ | This Carbon Stream Could Turn Into a Rushing River](#)

Appendix II: European ETS and CBL California Carbon Credit Spot Prices



Note: Prices as at May 23, 2022

Source: www.tradingview.com, Raymond James Ltd.

Company Citations

Company Name	Ticker	Exchange	Closing Price	RJ Rating	RJ Entity
Base Carbon Inc.	BCBN.GD	NEO	C\$0.51	SB1	Raymond James Ltd.
Carbon Streaming Corporation	NETZ.GD	NEO	\$3.86	SB1	Raymond James Ltd.

Prices are as of the most recent close on the indicated exchange. See Disclosure section for rating definitions. Stocks that do not trade on a U.S. national exchange may not be registered for sale in all U.S. states. NC=not covered.

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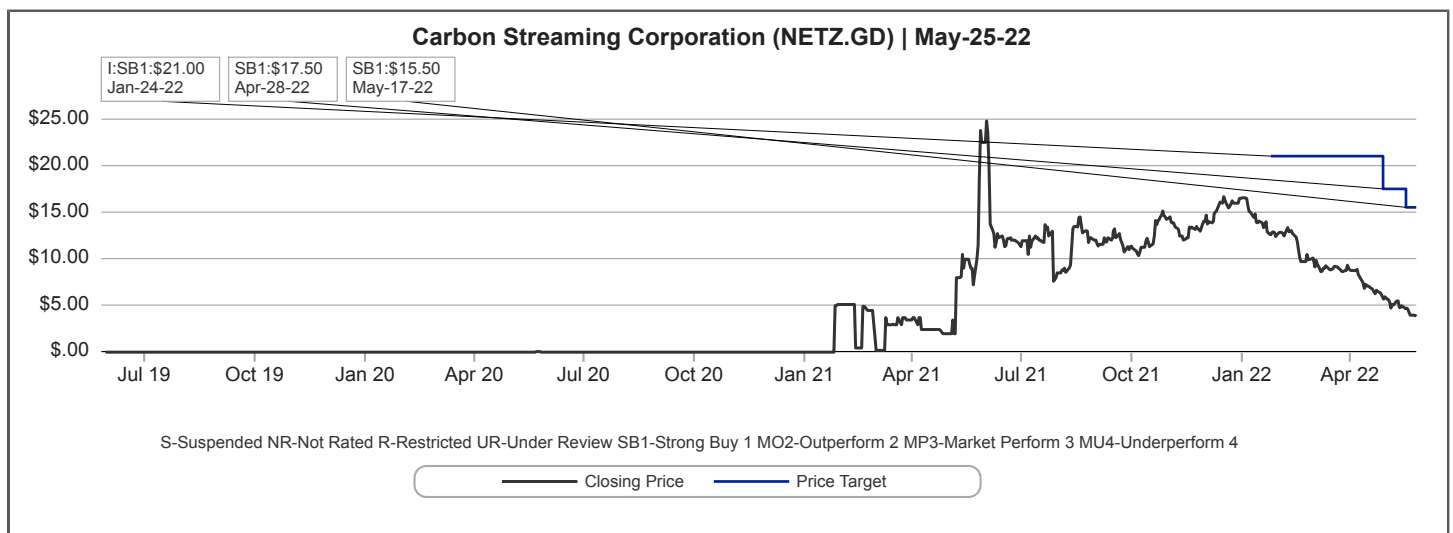
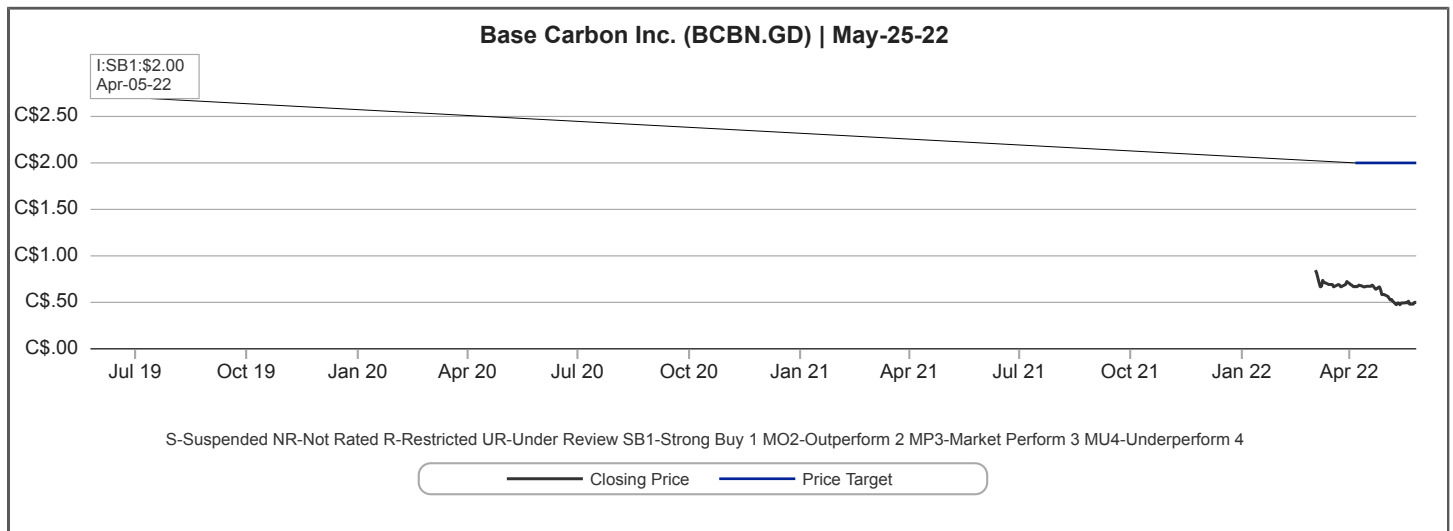
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Target Prices: The information below indicates Raymond James' target price and rating changes for any subject companies over the past three years.



Valuation Methodology

Base Carbon Inc.

We value Base Carbon Inc. using a discounted cash flow analysis over a 30-year time horizon.

Carbon Streaming Corporation

We value Carbon Streaming Corp. using a discounted cash flow analysis over a 30 year time horizon.

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Company Specific Risk Factors

Base Carbon Inc.

- Fluctuating demand for carbon credits--demand for carbon credits is vulnerable to any number of factors including the implementation of lower emission infrastructure, a general increase in the number of credits available through a higher volume of projects generating offsets, new inventions, or an increase in alternative fuels. Demand depends on social and political will to reduce GHG emissions globally. There is no assurance that carbon pricing initiatives or compliance or voluntary carbon markets will continue to exist.

- Carbon credit price fluctuations--the market price for credits is subject to general market trends. Factors such as regulatory changes and general economic, political or regulatory conditions will affect the pricing of carbon credits. The nature of compliance and voluntary markets trading causes the price of carbon credits to vary not only by market conditions, but also its location, vintage, accreditation and additional ESG attributes.
- Demand for carbon credits are dependent on climate change initiatives--government policies around climate change will drive carbon credit supply and demand. Changes in policies could be diminished, terminated, or may not be renewed upon their expiration.
- Carbon credit validation, registration, verification and cancellation risks--the company's goal is to acquire and invest in projects that generate carbon credits that are validated through a compliance or carbon credits standards body in the voluntary carbon market. Any changes to these international carbon standards or verification requirements can cause adverse effects to the price of the carbon credits generated by the projects acquired by the company, which will directly affect its profitability.
- Market volatility and liquidity--carbon markets (notably in voluntary markets) are evolving, meaning that there are no assurances that credits purchased by the company or generated by the company will find a market. This ambiguity implies that the company may not be able to purchase/sell the volume of credits in a timely manner or at favorable prices.
- Joint ventures and partnerships--further to the Base Carbon Capital Partners Corp. joint venture between Base Carbon and HCBL, Base Carbon may enter into partnerships with other parties in order to benefit its business operations. The split ownership nature of such partnerships may require unanimous approval from all parties and allow for veto rights which can cause certain fundamental decisions to come to a standstill, abating certain investments or ventures.
- Acquisition related risks--Base Carbon's growth as a company revolves around management's ability to identify new M&A opportunities in order to grow their portfolio while at the same time maintaining effective cost control. In deal making, the company could fail to identify or select appropriate investment targets, or negotiate acceptable arrangements.
- Increased Competition in voluntary markets is expected--there are many organizations and governments that are participating in buying and selling carbon credits. Base Carbon may be at a competitive disadvantage as many of these entities are much larger and more established.
- New technological advances may arise reducing need for carbon credit markets--carbon credit prices are determined by the cost of reducing emissions levels. It can be more economical for companies to develop or invest in lower emission technologies if carbon credit prices become too high. As such, some companies in the voluntary market may not rely on or find a need for carbon offsets.
- Foreign operations and political risk--Base Carbon may invest in countries and regions of the world that have historically been susceptible to adverse market, political, regulatory, and geographical events. A significant portion of the company's short and medium-term opportunities are located outside of North America, creating a possibility of unfavorable political and foreign regulatory risks.
- Funding needs--as a company in the early stages of growth, Base Carbon will likely look to fund growth issuing equity to raise capital for projects, or other growth related activities. Share dilution is expected.
- Natural Disasters--many of the projects the company invests in are subject to natural disasters that could cause temporary or irreparable damage to the projects reducing/ending their ability to reduce GHG, and thus, produce carbon credits.

Carbon Streaming Corporation

- **New technological advances may arise reducing need for carbon credit markets** - carbon credit prices are determined by the cost of reducing emissions levels. It can be more economical for companies to develop or invest in lower emission technologies if carbon credit prices become too high. As such, some companies in the voluntary market may not rely on or find a need for carbon offsets.
- **Fluctuating demand for carbon credits** - demand for carbon credits is vulnerable to any number of factors including the implementation of lower emission infrastructure, a general increase in the number of credits available through a higher volume of projects generating offsets, new inventions, or an increase in alternative fuels. Demand depends on social and political will to reduce GHG emissions globally.
- **Demand for carbon credits are dependent on climate change initiatives** - government policies around climate change will drive carbon credit supply and demand. Changes in policies could be diminished, terminated, or may not be renewed upon their expiration.

- **Carbon credit price fluctuations** – the market price for credits is subject to general market trends. Factors such as regulatory changes and general economic, political or regulatory conditions will affect the pricing of carbon credits. The nature of compliance and voluntary markets trading causes the price of carbon credits to vary not only by market conditions, but also its location, vintage, accreditation and additional ESG attributes.
- **Market volatility and liquidity** – carbon markets (notably in voluntary markets) are evolving, meaning that there are no assurances that credits purchased by the company or generated by the company will find a market. This ambiguity implies that the company may not be able to purchase/sell the volume of credits in a timely manner or at favorable price.
- **Foreign operations and political risk** – Carbon Streaming is investing in countries and regions of the world that have historically been susceptible to adverse market, political, regulatory, and geographical events. Most of the company's short and medium-term opportunities are located outside of North America, creating a possibility of unfavorable political and foreign regulatory risks.
- **Increased Competition in voluntary markets is expected** – there are many organizations and governments that are participating in buying and selling carbon credits. Carbon Streaming may be at a competitive disadvantage as many of these entities are much larger and more established.
- **Dependency on key management and network** – Carbon Streaming relies on its ability to retain and attract management who have experience in streaming, financing and other corporate finance and M&A related activities. Carbon Streaming's success in acquiring new projects depends on management's ability to leverage their network and experience in the royalty and streaming industry. Losing key management could negatively affect business operations.
- **Acquisition related risks** – Carbon Streaming's growth as a company revolves around management's ability to identify new M&A opportunities in order to grow their portfolio while at the same time maintaining effective cost control. In deal making, the company could fail to identify or select appropriate investment targets, or negotiate acceptable arrangements.
- **Third party risk through dependency on project developer, operator or owner** – carbon credits are received from projects which are owned, operated and/or developed by third parties. Project operators/developers are ultimately in control of determining the manner in which the properties are developed, operated and managed. This includes decisions that could reduce or increase the number of credits available from a given asset. Further, Carbon Streaming relies on the ability of third party entities to comply with government and regulatory rules. The failure to do so by third parties could adversely affect Carbon Streaming's operations.
- **Funding needs** – as a company in the early stages of growth, Carbon Streaming will likely look to fund growth issuing equity to raise capital for projects, or other growth related activities.

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	Coverage Universe Rating Distribution*				Investment Banking Relationships			
	RJA		RJL		RJA		RJL	
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Market Perform (Hold)	333	36%	47	18%	38	11%	4	9%
Underperform (Sell)	19	2%	3	1%	3	16%	0	0%
Total Number of Companies	938	100%	254	100%	190		56	

* Columns may not add to 100% due to rounding.

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