

Introducing the Restoration Carbon Protocol: An Industry Self-Standard for Scope 3 Reporting

THE AGENCY *PLAYBOOK*

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There is no industry standard for how a restoration contractor should calculate, document, and report the carbon emissions from their work. Not from IICRC. Not from RIA. Not from any trade association or certifying body in the restoration industry.

That absence is becoming a problem. Commercial property managers are facing mandatory Scope 3 emissions disclosures — and restoration contractor activity is squarely in their value chain. Insurance carriers are building ESG criteria into preferred vendor programs. FEMA and federal contracting bodies are increasingly asking about emissions documentation for large-scale disaster response contracts.

When your clients need Scope 3 data from you and there's no standard for what that data should include or how it should be calculated, everyone loses. The property manager files an inaccurate disclosure. The contractor gets treated as a data gap. The auditor flags the methodology. Nobody benefits.

The Restoration Carbon Protocol exists to fix that.

What the Restoration Carbon Protocol Is

The Restoration Carbon Protocol (RCP) is an industry self-standard for Scope 3 emissions calculation, documentation, and reporting specific to property restoration work. It is built on the GHG Protocol Corporate Value Chain Standard — the globally accepted framework for Scope 3 accounting — and adapted to the specific job types, material categories, waste streams, and operational patterns of the restoration industry.

RCP v1.0 will cover five core restoration job types: water damage mitigation, fire and smoke restoration, mold remediation, asbestos and hazmat abatement, and biohazard cleanup. For each job type, the protocol defines:

- Which GHG Protocol Scope 3 categories are relevant
- What data points need to be captured per job
- What calculation methodology to use for each emissions source
- What emission factors apply, sourced from EPA, DEFRA, and ecoinvent databases
- What the output format looks like for client delivery

The output is a per-job carbon report — a standardized one-page document any restoration contractor can complete and provide to their commercial clients for their GRESB, CDP, or SB 253 disclosure.

Why a Self-Standard and Not a Trade Association Standard

Trade association standards take years to develop through committee processes. The 2027 deadline doesn't allow for that timeline. Commercial property

managers need something workable now — in 2025 and 2026, as they build their data collection infrastructure ahead of the first required filings.

A published, rigorous, publicly available self-standard that is built on GHG Protocol methodology and uses credible emission factors is more useful to the market right now than a committee process that might produce something better in 2028. The goal of RCP is not to be the final word — it's to be the first rigorous word, and to create the foundation that a trade association standard can build on when the bandwidth exists.

Self-published standards have established category leadership in other industries. The GHG Protocol itself started as a self-published standard by the World Resources Institute and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development before becoming the global norm. The precedent for rigorous self-published standards setting the terms of an industry conversation is well-established.

The 30-Day Build

RCP v1.0 is being built over 30 days through a structured series of knowledge nodes — each one establishing a piece of the technical framework, validated against GHG Protocol methodology, and published here on Tygart Media as it's completed.

The publication sequence runs from foundation (what Scope 3 is and why it matters for restoration) through technical framework (job-type-specific calculation methodologies) to commercial application (how to use the framework with clients and in RFP responses) to the full framework document publication.

The Restoration Golf League network of independent restoration contractors will serve as the pilot cohort — providing feedback on the calculation methodology, testing the per-job carbon report format against their actual job data, and validating that the framework is workable for contractors who are running businesses, not sustainability departments.

How to Get Involved

If you are a restoration contractor who wants to be involved in the RCP pilot, a commercial property manager looking for Scope 3 data from your restoration vendor network, an ESG consultant working with commercial real estate clients, or an insurance carrier building ESG criteria into your preferred vendor program — this standard is being built with your needs in mind.

The RCP framework will be published open-access. The knowledge nodes building toward it are published here as they're completed. Follow along, contribute feedback, and contact Tygart Media if you want to be part of the pilot cohort that validates the framework before v1.0 publication.

What is the Restoration Carbon Protocol?

An industry self-standard for calculating, documenting, and reporting Scope 3 emissions from property restoration work. Built on GHG Protocol methodology, covering five core restoration job types, producing a standardized per-job carbon report that contractors can provide to commercial clients for their ESG disclosures.

Who is building the Restoration Carbon Protocol?

Tygart Media, in collaboration with the Restoration Golf League contractor network. The framework is being developed through a 30-day structured

publication process with input from restoration contractors, commercial property managers, and ESG practitioners.

Why isn't a trade association building this standard?

Trade association standards take years through committee processes. The 2027 deadline requires something workable now. A rigorous self-published standard built on GHG Protocol methodology creates the foundation that a formal trade association process can build on.

Will the RCP be free to use?

Yes. The framework will be published open-access. The goal is adoption, not monetization of the standard itself. Value accrues to contractors who adopt it early and build it into their commercial service offering.

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CONTINUE READING

- [The 12 Data Points Every Job Ticket Needs](#)
- [The RCP Job Carbon Report: Template and Fields](#)
- [RCP v1.0 Full Framework Document](#)

SEE ALSO

- [RCP JSON Schema v1.0 — Machine-Readable Standard](#)
- [How to Become an RCP-Certified Contractor](#)
- [RCP Hub — Complete Knowledge Base](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Restoration Carbon Protocol?

The Restoration Carbon Protocol (RCP) is an industry self-standard for measuring and reporting greenhouse gas emissions from restoration work — specifically designed for water damage remediation, fire and smoke restoration, mold remediation, and environmental cleanup operations. It aligns with the GHG Protocol Corporate Standard and provides restoration-specific emission factors, calculation methodologies, and reporting templates.

Why does the restoration industry need its own emissions protocol?

Generic contractor emissions frameworks do not account for the high-energy-density equipment used in restoration — LGR dehumidifiers, air movers, negative air machines, and thermal drying systems draw power profiles that differ significantly from standard construction equipment. Without restoration-specific emission factors, contractors applying generic frameworks will produce inaccurate data that their commercial clients cannot use for regulatory compliance.

How does the Restoration Carbon Protocol relate to California SB 253?

California SB 253 requires large companies to report Scope 3 Category 1 emissions from purchased services — including restoration contractor work. Companies covered by SB 253 will need emissions data from their contractor supply chains. The Restoration Carbon Protocol gives restoration contractors the framework to produce that data in a format covered entities can use for their regulatory filings.

Is the Restoration Carbon Protocol mandatory?

No — it is a voluntary self-standard, not a regulatory requirement. However, adoption will likely be driven by commercial contracting pressure: large property management companies, REIT operators, and insurers subject to SB 253 and similar regulations may require their contractors to provide RCP-compliant emissions reports as a condition of preferred vendor status.

Who maintains the Restoration Carbon Protocol?

The RCP is proposed as an industry-maintained open standard — structured similarly to how the IICRC maintains its technical standards through a committee process. The goal is for the Restoration Industry Association (RIA) or a similar industry body to adopt maintenance of the standard, ensuring it evolves with regulatory requirements and restoration technology.

RELATED READING

- [The 2027 Deadline: What California SB 253 Means for Your Restoration Business](#)
- [What Is Scope 3 and Why Restoration Contractors Need to Care](#)
- [The GHG Protocol's 15 Scope 3 Categories: Which Ones Apply to Restoration Work](#)
- [How Commercial Property Managers Are Counting Your Emissions](#)
- [Restoration Niche Pack — IICRC Entity Injection and FAQPage Schema on 10 Posts](#)
- [Restoration Golf League Setup — B2B Networking for Trade Contractors](#)
- [Notion for the Restoration Industry: Building Content Operations That Drive Local Authority](#)