

Protecting the Earth



The effects of certain negative externalities are felt equally throughout the world. Yet the benefit of creating these nuisances varies considerably. Actions that affect the climate and air we breathe are such externalities. To make a portion of the Earth less habitable is to ruin a part of the commons.

Does the benefit of releasing carbon dioxide from a power plant outweigh the environmental cost? Does the benefit of cutting down a forest for lumber and making way for development outweigh the harm to the oxygen levels in our atmosphere? The answer to these and similar questions can be resolved in a market.

The first step is a judicial one. Would a [reasonable person](#) agree the externality violates a [subjective right](#)?

The second step, should the answer to the first be “yes,” is to assess the environmental cost. The Earth is pretty good at ridding itself of toxins. At what level does the Earth become overwhelmed? This question is answered today by a world body, such as the United Nations, or possibly an [ISO](#) working group, and by a [VSG](#) after [federation](#).

The next step is to create a [trebling](#) market for the burning, dumping, chopping down, or mining that creates an externality. Whether the consumer or the refiner/distributor must treble for the right is determined based on efficiency.

The primary treble market might be for the right to emit greenhouse gases. With many ways of emission, different interfaces for coal, methane, natural gas, heating oil, gasoline, etc., would exist. The consumer, refiner, or distributor responsible for trebling these rights trebles for the right to burn so many tons of coal or cubic meters of natural gas. [LGATS](#) handles conversion into greenhouse gas emissions. Establishing the conversion tables and who must treble for the rights is left to the VSG or world body.

An electric power plant that burned coal would treble for the right to burn so many tons per year. This would increase power costs and decrease demand, motivating the creation of alternate power sources. A lumber company would treble for the

right to cut down a specified number of trees, perhaps of a particular maturity, per year.

Notice that this treble is altogether different from the trebling of the forest. One can treble the forest and still be unable to chop down the trees without trebling for the right.

Here is how trebling for rights works. Suppose it is determined that the maximum carbon dioxide gas emitted per year is 18 billion metric tons. A ton of coal produces [1.89 metric tons](#) of carbon dioxide when burned.

The minimum treble per metric ton is \$1, regardless of conversion units. A power company might treble the right to burn 5 million tons for \$5 million. If untrebled rights exist, they could be had for \$1 per ton, although the trebler can treble for a higher amount. The rent falls by 8.33% per month if it is not paid.

If there are not enough untrebled rights, the trebler will treble rights currently in the hands of others. Units are converted to greenhouse gas emissions before determining which rights are trebled. [If the treble is matched](#), the trebler must treble again for the remaining rights, if they are still wanted.

LGATS will estimate the minimum treble needed to acquire a set number of rights. It will also calculate the probability of a successful treble for a given number of tons at a given price. These estimates assume neither treble matches nor intervening trebles.

The rights won at a treble start with untrebled rights and go from the bottom up until the required number of rights are acquired. Because rights are separable, the rights owner could lose some rights to the treble but not all. Once trebled, a right will never again be untrebled.

VIP Land Management Free Service to the World

After federation, funds from rights trebling go to reserves. However, VIP Land Management will handle rights trebling as a free LGATS service as early as Phase I. Nations concerned about climate change and dwindling resources can sign a treaty requiring industries to treble for rights to emit pollutants, cut timber, fish in the oceans, etc.

Revenues will be distributed to nations per rights issued to people and entities within those nations, not on the money received from trebling for those rights. 100% of all revenue collected will be distributed.

If the revenue is used for cleaning, replanting, or repairing, it becomes possible to raise the number of rights that can be trebled.