

...like  
barcodes for  
product  
CO<sub>2</sub>e  
declarations

# Carbon-ML

CARBON REPORTING MARKUP LANGUAGE

# Carbon-ML About Us

The Carbon-ML project is developing an open-source ecosystem to provide declarations of measurements for embodied carbon in any product or service.

Carbon-ML is incubated by [Carbon Finance Labs](#) in partnership with [Oxy Low Carbon Ventures](#) with a goal to evolve into an independently governed project.



Carbon Finance Labs

- A finance and technology incubator creating climate change solutions. Our impact comes from a global network of resources and knowledge built over decades spent in the carbon, finance and technology sectors.



L<sup>OW</sup> CARBON  
VENTURES

- Oxy Low Carbon Ventures, LLC (OLCV), a subsidiary of Occidental, Petroleum



CARBON  
ML

**The Problem:  
Measuring,  
Reporting,  
Tracking  
Embodied  
Carbon in  
Products is a  
mess.**

Numerous measurements, policies, mandates, systems, etc. all designed to measure carbon emissions – but lack consistency between them

Carbon focus today is mainly at the Company, not the individual Product level

Currently, carbon embodied in making products remains hidden across supply chains

# Problem: embodied CO2e Data = No Context

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**What you said:**  
“<Chips> have  
20g of CO2e/Kg”



**What they heard:**  
“<Chips> have  
20g of CO2e/Kg.”

<Chips?>

Which chips?  
How Calculated?  
How verified?  
Who said that?  
When was it said?



**Telephone  
game problem:**

Message intent  
& context is lost  
at each hand-off

Manufacturer



Distributor



Customs Agent



Retailer

# Today Context gets re-mapped at each handoff: structured data w/context could help

Manufacturer



Distributor



Customs Agent



Retailer

<Key, Value> pair can provide context for what is being tagged

<Foodchips,potato5667>  
<Producer,Frito Lay>  
<CO2e/KG,20 g>  
<LCA Method,Cradle:gate 5074>  
<Verified by,Auditco llc>  
<....,....>



# The Vision



**Carbon data flowing between all product related system interactions while maintaining context.**

**Solution: an open-source global ecosystem:  
An extensible schema using existing product taxonomies, enabling trusted and visible declarations of embodied carbon in every product at all points & actors across supply chains.**

# **The Goal: Make Embodied Carbon Data Sharing Easy**

- An evolving ecosystem using an extensible schema to reference existing product taxonomies to declare measured embodied carbon (CO<sub>2</sub>e) that is trusted and visible, open-source, adaptable for easy implementation, and technology agnostic.
- Empowered private and public sector actors producing and/or consuming trackable declarations of the embodied carbon for any product across supply chains.
- Embodied carbon information shown on product labels so that companies, consumers, suppliers, governments, etc. make better choices.

# The Outcomes

## Major Actor changes:

- Corporate purchasing
- Customer pressure
- Government policy

## Products & Economic impact:

- New goods & services
- Growth in voluntary carbon market

## New behaviors:

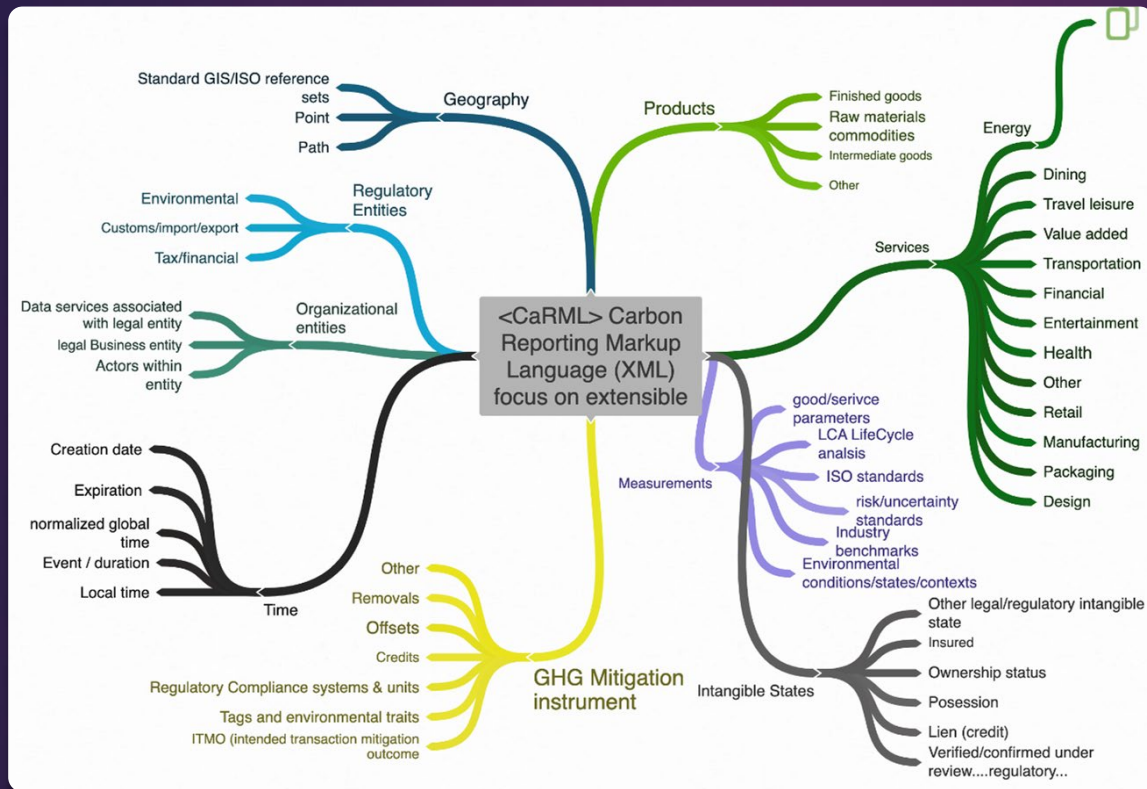
- Better Understanding of embodied carbon
- Conversations & trust
- New Choices made



# Carbon-ML Guiding Principles



- Carbon-ML combines declaring, measuring, tracking and tracing embodied carbon within any product with the development of an ecosystem using
  - an extensible schema and
  - underlying related taxonomies
  - open-source technical code;
  - Using principles from climate, product, sustainability, and technology taxonomies.
- A primary principle is ecosystem adaptability for local, regional, and country based norms.
  - And, for the evolving ecosystem's schema and taxonomies, as related ecosystems, products, supply chains evolve. Basically tracking and tracing embodied carbon at each branching point....for each tree as each branch changes.
- Other principles include non-proprietary (technology agnostic), language commonality, active collaboration with corporate / govts, standardized measure and metric use, and open and robust governance.



# Carbon-ML <CarML>

## Ecosystem: Schema & Taxonomies

# Schema = intelligent context

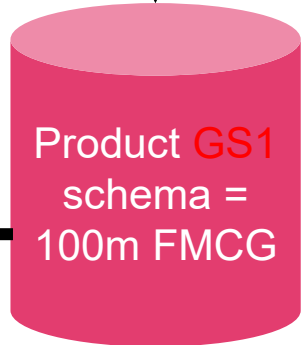
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- Re-use data from other systems leading to faster integrations
- Repurpose existing schemas and data contexts
- Data retains value/context and is exchangeable between systems
- CO2e Data objects with context are shared and utilized to automate forms submissions & reporting
- Continual machine learning about changes in CO2e flows with contextual inference

# Context = tag & taxonomy

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<context,specific>  
what we are “talking”  
about.



- XML **TAG** (eXtensible Markup Language)
  - Machine readable <Key, Value> pair associated with an attribute.
  - <GS1\_food, twix\_candy\_bar123123987908>
- **Taxonomy** (structure, context)
  - Meta data tags to define things
  - Approved / recognized formally or informally. example GS1\* = 100m FMCG barcodes
  - Provides external context for “what” is being tagged.
  - <GS1\_food, xxxx>, <GS1\_soap, xxxx>, <GS1\_beer, xxxx>

\*GS1 is non-profit industry group maintaining product codes for 100 million FMCG (fast moving consumer goods)

# What is Carbon Reporting Markup Language <CarML>

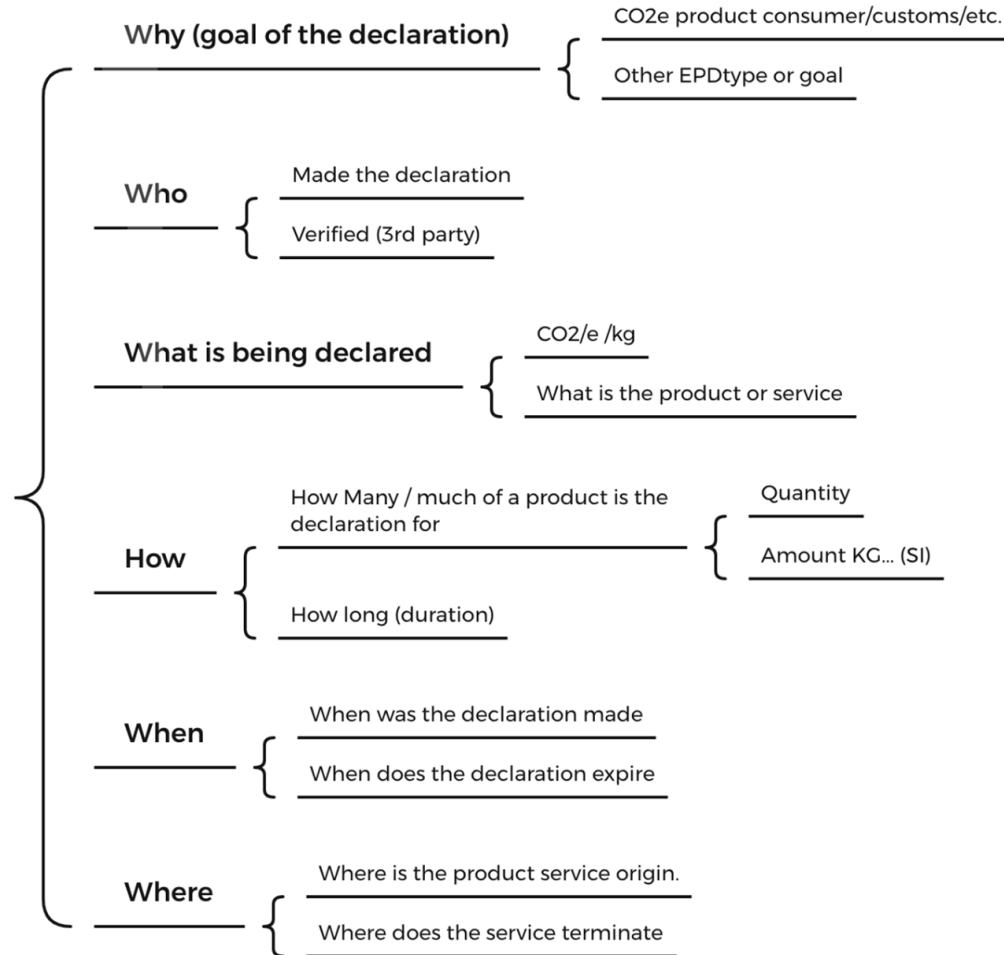
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- CarML enables shared context for reporting embodied carbon data objects.
- CarML is open-source XML: standard for how product / service information about CO2e is created, processed, distributed, declared and shared.
- Useful for many product / service handoffs

	Business	Government	Machine	Consumer	Other
Business	B to B	B to G	B to M	B to C	B to Other
Government	G to B	G to G	G to M	G to C	G to Other
Machine	M to B	M to G	M to M	M to C	M to Other
Consumer	C to B	C to G	C to M	C to C	C to Other
Other	Other to B	Other to G	Other to M	Other to C	Other to Other

- <CarML> creates interactive / intelligent CO2e data
- Essentially a “Bar Code” for Embodied Carbon information for products/services

# Carbon-ML Ecosystem: Root Schema points to/uses Unique Taxonomies



# Carbon-ML Ecosystem - Why declaration or state is made/updated

- Why the event (change in CO2e) happened (process description)
- Why carbon was added / altered
- Why a good or service was updated or changed
- Can include non-carbon add events:
  - Legal state changes/assignments
  - Logical changes/assignements
  - Examples: Duty paid, package certified, audit completed, auditor verified etc.

# Carbon-ML Ecosystem - Who (entity said / did a thing)

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## Declaring Carbon Related Fact(s)

- ▶ Corporations
- ▶ Commodity producers
- ▶ Governments
- ▶ Regulators
- ▶ NGO's IGO
- ▶ Researchers
- ▶ Verifiers such as auditors

## Ecosystem Roles

- ▶ Owners of a product or service
- ▶ Consumer of a product or service
- ▶ Procurement agents
- ▶ Carbon registrar or issuer
- ▶ Verifier or reviewer (entity)
- ▶ Product innovators
- ▶ Individual viewer or observer



# Carbon-ML Ecosystem - What impacts a CO<sub>2</sub>e declaration

What products and services are being referenced, identification schema may include:

ISO Codes

GS1 (barcodes)

SIC or standard descriptors of  
service definitions

LCA references

What type of activity or process is being conducted

What is the CO<sub>2</sub>e impact on the goods or services

# Carbon-ML Ecosystem - How was this fact about CO<sub>2</sub>e assessed / derived



HOW DID A CARBON  
FACTOR CHANGE



WHAT WAS THE CO<sub>2</sub>e  
AMOUNT & LCA TYPE  
METHODOLOGY USED



MAY INCLUDE  
ASSIGNMENT OF  
OFFSETS/REMOVAL  
INSTRUMENTS TO  
PRODUCTS

# Carbon-ML Ecosystem -

## When a CO<sub>2</sub>e fact occurs or is declared



### Point in Time event:

ISO standard time convention



### Relative elapsed time:

Relative to the location where something occurred,

As an absolute reference to an event.



### Examples:

1. Process start, end, completion
2. Product event
3. Time of system and data entry update
4. Service initiation, completion
5. Product or process expiration
6. Credit remediation expiration

# Carbon-ML Ecosystem - Where did the activity occur



Point or Service Route



A point along the supply chain



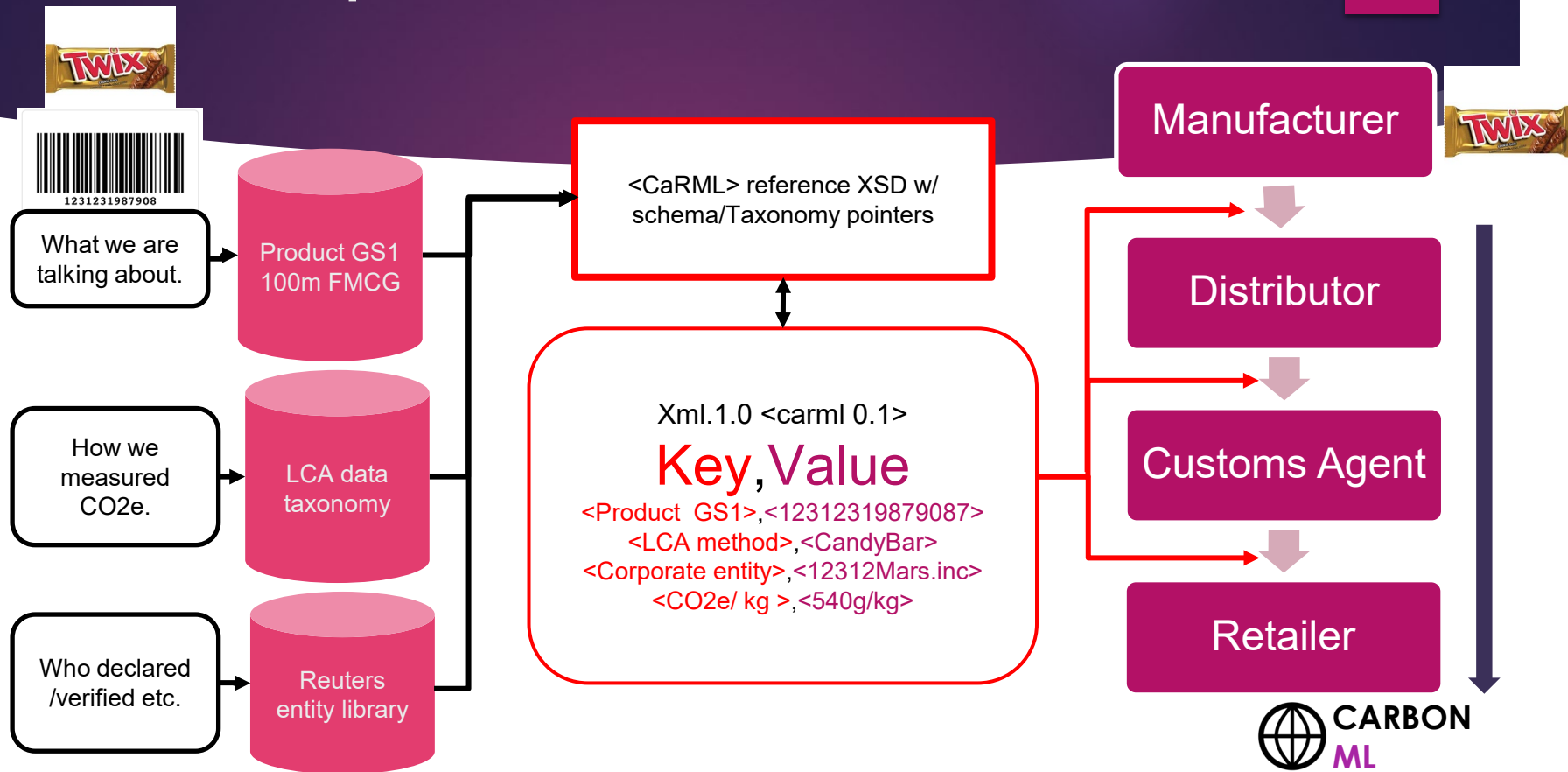
GIS/ISO standards for maps / geo locations

<CarML>

## Examples and Use Cases

# Barcodes for product CO2e declarations

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# XML = Open Extensible Schema: any taxonomy

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<taxonomy> What we are talking about.

Widgets=Steel, chemicals, **travel** hydrogen, cheese.....

Product Any widget industry taxonomy

How we measured CO2e.

LCA data base

Who declared /verified etc.

Reuters entity library

<CaRML> reference XSD w/ Taxonomy pointers

Xml.1.0 <carml0.1>

**Key, Value**

<Product Any>,<widget9087>

<LCA method>,<widget>

<Corporate entity>,<12312Acme.inc>

<CO2e/ kg >,<540g/kg>

Manufacturer

Widget

Distributor

Customs Agent

Retailer



# Declared/Shared CO2e content needs Context(s)

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<Root\_Schema, Taxonomy, Key, Value>

Root declaration	Schema(s) context	Key	Value data
<b>What</b> we are talking about	<GS1_FMCG_database>, <Fuels_industry_schema>, <plastics_industry>,<Metals_association>	<GS1_Food_item>	<Twix_bar_1023>
<b>Who</b> made the declaration, verification, attestation	<Reuters_entity>,<govt_XYX_lookup>, <insert_favorite>	<UK entity>	<Mars co. 502934>
<b>How</b> was CO2e measured LCA, LCI method	<Open_LCA>,<EU_regulatory_LCI>, <new_schema_metric_tool>	<food 10244 method>	<Cradle 2 gate>
<b>How</b> much CO2e was reports	<CaRML>,<other_reporting_EPC>, <ISO_schema>	<CO2e KG>	<0.015>
<b>When</b> did this occur	<ISO_Time_conventions>	<GMT>	<15:02:32>
<b>Where</b> did this occur	<ISO_GPS_location_convention>	<long,Lat>	<34.092,-118.328>
????	<Extensible_open_schema>		



# Carbon-ML Use Cases

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## FMCG Labeling with GS1

Carbon-ML supporting GS1 would allow for the "labelling" of approximately 100 million consumer products out of the box and be integrated w/ many inventory/supply chain systems.

Processing managers can compare based on Carbon quality  
Consumers can make more informed decisions

## International Trade / Customs & Border Agents

Carbon-ML supporting international trade/customs and border agents, policies such as the EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)

More accurate and standardized assessment of reporting of embodied carbon in products in line with customs carbon border policies

## Materials / Supplies Purchasing Decisions

Carbon-ML supporting measurement & labeling of embodied carbon within a product or service at every point along the supply chain

Purchasing managers can make more informed procurement decisions  
Goods and services can be compared based on embodied carbon

## Financial Markets / Investment Decisions

Carbon-ML supporting financial markets investment decision making by providing more accurate tracing and tracking, and comparable representations of embodied carbon within products and services by companies.

Asset managers can make more informed decisions relating to portfolio carbon footprint  
Shareholders have greater understanding of corporate impact profile

## Government and State Regulators

Carbon-ML supporting Government and State regulators understanding of carbon related data, standardized data allows for better comparability and tracking of embodied carbon within products and services.

Better assessment of procurement processes and service provider selections  
Better assessment of legislation, regulations, and enforcement

# Get Involved!

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- To learn more about the Carbon-ML project, contact us at [info@carbon-ml.org](mailto:info@carbon-ml.org), and share:
  - Your interest:
    - Participate as Industry advisor
    - Participate from standards/taxonomy organization
    - Participate providing governance oversight
    - Participate providing technology expertise
    - Mailing list only
  - If you would like to participate, how would you like to contribute to Carbon-ML, what areas of expertise do you have, have you worked on a standards or taxonomy project before
  - What carbon data problem you would like to see solved

# Carbon-ML Core Team

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**Thank you!**

# Carbon-ML <CarML> Schema & Ecosystem Summary

- <CarML>: An open extensible markup language supporting a collection of new or **ideally existing schema** to ease structured machine communications and declarations about the carbon CO2e associated with all economic activities at the individual product and/or service level.
- The <CarML> extensible schema evolves by **using existing product taxonomies**, not being fully proscriptive of any one solution or interpretation.
- **<CarML> is transparent** providing machine readable CO2e data. This accelerates reporting across supply chains, creating awareness of carbon and enables efforts to reduce CO2e to create new higher valued products and services.
- There is no <CarML> schema terminal solution. <CarML> is extensible and designed for usability and extension such that **only part of the tool or tags needs implementation to get benefits**.
- Early <CarML> schemas will **be shaped from key industry and policy stakeholders** building on schemas and taxonomies in use by other industries and software solutions.
- **Non-proprietary.** No one should own a language.